

TESTIMONY for BETHEL COMMITTEE 4/21/23 @945 am

Outline:

1. Who is **Kansas Behavior Supports** - home-based services agency providing ABA therapy throughout the state of Kansas. Most of our services are serving clients in rural areas.
(www.kansasbehavior.com)

2. **The 2021 Autism Task Team January 28, 2022**– Report to the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services – confirms the challenges and some of the recommendations needed for services.
***2022-2023 Immediate Action:** Incentivize Providers and Increase Rates

3. Challenges faced in providing these services –
 - a. travel and mileage associated for technicians to travel to and between clients
 - b. ongoing resources and training for technicians and supervisory staff
 - c. ability to hire higher education staff that are between technician and supervisory educational level
 - d. the efforts and work involved behind the scenes (i.e. case management/scheduling/follow up) that is not billable due to not being present with the client

4. Challenges faced by families –
 - a. Wait lists for the Autism Waiver and the I/DD Waiver (Intellectual /Developmental Disability)
 - b. Wait lists to have ABA across Kansas

5. Reimbursement Rates for ABA Codes - How Kansas ranks compared to Midwest states:
 - a. **Kansas Medicaid pays 97153 \$11.75/unit (\$47.00/hour)**
 - b. **Nebraska Medicaid 97153 pays \$35.06/unit (\$140.24/hour)**
 - c. **Iowa Medicaid 97153 pays \$16.34/unit (\$65.36/hour)**
 - d. **Oklahoma Medicaid 97153 pays \$17.35 (\$69.40/hour)**
 - e. **Missouri Medicaid 97153 pays \$16.12/unit (\$64.48/hour)**