



Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities

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*"To ensure the opportunity to make choices regarding participation in society
and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities"*

Testimony on SB 194

March 12, 2013

I am Steve Gieber, the Executive Director of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities. The Council is made up of self-advocates, family members, state agencies, and our partners identified in the Federal Developmental Disabilities Act.

Federal and state laws created the Council to advise policymakers on issues that impact people with disabilities and their families. The Council is providing neutral testimony because we are unsure what this is really about. This bill seems to be about addressing the potential conflict of interest of having the same business do the assessment and then provide the service. The words "eligibility determination" is struck and the term "functional assessment" is the new term. Why the change?

Does this mean that the CDDO no longer determines eligibility? Who is this yet unnamed entity? What standards do they follow?

If the intent is to eliminate the potential for accusations of conflict of interest it appears that it would be easier to just say that. The way this is worded concerns us that it could lead to changes in the system that has the potential to cause harm to people with disabilities.

The Council is concerned that this could change the tool that is being used to determine eligibility and could in fact remove some people from services. The whole system is at risk with the change to a capitated for-profit managed care system.

We haven't addressed the issues of waiting list, or the fear people have of losing services and the changes that managed care is forcing upon them. Promises made are not being kept and we are only seeing the beginning of major changes to the system.

SB 194 just leaves us with unanswered questions.