

Mental Illness in the State of Kansas

KanCare Oversight Committee

November 18, 2016

Topeka, Kansas

Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony before all of you today.

My name is Cynthia A. Gardner. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Technology from the University of Central Missouri and a Master of Arts degree in Communication from Wichita State University. I have been on both sides of the desk as a mental health client as well as providing respite and attendant care to children with severe and persistent mental illnesses. I have done intakes, non-violent crisis prevention intervention training, and compiling the billing hours for the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas.

First, we are not consumers. We are mental health client's or mental health patient's depending on the setting. I have been going to private providers since 1988 and have yet to be referred to as a consumer or sign any paperwork with the word consumer listed. The Community Mental Health Centers and State of Kansas that serve the poor and uninsured refer to them as consumers. It is a vague term that is meant to separate and suppress them. How would you like to be referred to something based on the color of your skin, being bald, short, or some other physical trait that you cannot change? How cool would it be if the governor or some other high ranking state official publicly announced that people with mental illnesses will no longer be referred to as consumers. Can you imagine the improved moral among the mentally ill, their families, and their friends? This would send a strong message that all of you are listening and have compassion.

Second, There was money to renovate the capital. There was money available to give certain classes of individuals tax breaks and financial incentives. There was a solution figured out, so Kansas public schools could open this fall. Yet, why is there no money to build a new state psychiatric hospital closer to Wichita, Kansas? Approximately 450 patients annually are transported for a three-hour one-way ride from Wichita, Kansas to Osawatomie, Kansas in restraints. Their crimes are having a mental illness. My husband was one of many transported from Wichita, Kansas, to Osawatomie, Kansas with his hands cuffed behind his back for three hours. I am asking for your compassion. Asking that you consider building a new state psychiatric hospital closer to Wichita, Kansas. Many of the patients at Osawatomie State Hospital are poor and uninsured, which means that families and friends have limited financial resources available to make the six-hour round trip from Wichita, Kansas to Osawatomie, Kansas to pay for fuel, to pay for food, to pay for the turnpike toll, and to pay for a motel or hotel. We owe it to the 450 mental health patients annually that are subjected to this treatment to do better. The State of Kansas continues to renovate a dead horse known as Osawatomie State Hospital. A state is judged on how it takes care of its disabled and mentally ill. Do not do it for me. Do it because it is the right thing to do. Do it for them.

In the meantime, why not provide a van or bus that goes up to Osawatomie State Hospital from Wichita once a week for family and friends to visit their loved ones? Many state hospital patient's never receive a letter much less a visitor.

COMCARE is able to spend \$250,000 annually to transport patient's in restraints. The Sedgwick County Commissioners gave the Patient Transportation Company an increase from \$175,000 to \$250,000. The Patient Transportation Company was rewarded financially for putting patient's in handcuffs, leg irons, and shackles for at least three years. The Executive Director of COMCARE of Sedgwick County was personally responsible for hundreds of patients that were subjected to this treatment over at least three years, if not longer. The Executive Director of COMCARE has been in her position since 2002. The purpose in mentioning this is that the county could have been providing a service that supported the emotional well being of "consumer's," instead of them being transported in law enforcement type restraints. It took myself and a private attorney to get the contract changed.


Patients are signing legal and binding documents while they are incapacitated during the intake process at private and state psychiatric hospitals. Patients are signing everything from HIPPA releases to consent for treatment forms.

Security cameras are not in private hospitals, why are they even being used in state hospitals? If the state were doing its job, this practice would not be required.

Another example of substandard care of the poor and uninsured is the use of putting technology over what is in the best interest of our most vulnerable population, the mentally ill. Using FaceTime to access a patient for admittance to a Kansas State Hospital is unethical. Yes, "consumer's" medical cards are being billed for this service.

Why are patient's and families receiving any kind of bill for State Hospital services? We were charged for three months worth of treatment, when my husband received less than two months worth of treatment. The amount was based on our previous year's income. After he was discharged, our income was considerably less because he lost his job. No one from Osawatomie State Hospital ever informed us that we would receive a bill for services. Tax dollars are supposed to support state hospitals.

I appreciate your time and consideration concerning these important issues.


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Mental Health Advocate

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ITEMS REQUIRING BOCC APPROVAL
3 Items

1. PATIENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES -- COMCARE
FUNDING -- COMCARE
(Request sent to 15 vendors)
RFP #12-0048

Patient Transportation Services	Security Transport Services, Inc.	Apple Bus Company	G4S Secure Solutions	G4S Secure Solutions	ISSA Kihambike
Rates for Transport of One (1) or More Patients Per Trip Not Requiring Restraints					Alternative Pricing
Trip from Wichita to Osawatamie State Hospital, 500 State Hospital Drive, Osawatamie, KS 66064-00500	\$386.58*	\$375.25	\$664.90	<i>Labor Only:</i> \$25.41/hr per FTE <i>One Transport Team (2 Officers)</i> 80 hours per week \$105,705.60 per year	\$350.00
Trip from Wichita to Larned State Hospital, RT 3, Box 89, Larned, KS 67550	\$501.84*	\$348.10	\$664.90		\$230.00
Per mile rate for as needed transportation service other than to or from above hospital	\$1.02*	\$2.15	N/A**		\$1.90
Rates for Transport of One (1) Patient Per Trip Requiring Restraints					
Trip from Wichita to Osawatamie State Hospital, 500 State Hospital Drive, Osawatamie, KS 66064-00500	\$386.58*	\$335.80	\$664.90	<i>Two (2) Transport Team (4 Officers)</i> 80 hours per week \$211,411.20 per year <i>Vehicles and fuel to be supplied by Sedgwick County</i>	\$350.00
Trip from Wichita to Larned State Hospital, RT 3, Box 89, Larned, KS 67550	\$501.84*	\$320.25	\$664.90		\$230.00
Per mile rate for as needed transportation service other than to or from above hospital	\$1.02*	\$2.15	N/A**		\$1.90
Per mile rate for as needed transportation service other than to or from above hospital	\$1.02*	\$2.15	N/A**		\$1.90
No Bids	Newton Fire/EMS	LifeTeam	First Class Transportation, Inc.	Medicine Lodge Memorial Hospital	

*Gasoline Surcharge of \$.02 per mile will be added to the base price of the prisoner transport if the average price of fuel goes to \$3.25 a gallon. There will be an additional \$.02 for each \$.025 increase thereafter (Based on U.S. Dept. of Energy Report EIA-888 National Avg.)
 **Mileage estimates are included in price

On the recommendation of Brandy McCune, on behalf of COMCARE, Tim Kaufinan moved to accept the overall low proposal from Apple Bus Company for the prices listed above and establish contract pricing for one year with four (4) one-year options to renew. Jennifer Dombaugh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

This service provides a safe and efficient transportation for COMCARE patients that require transportation to or from the local psychiatric hospitals and service provider locations to state hospitals for continued treatment. In 2011, COMCARE had a total of 506 transports; 449 were to Osawatamie State Hospital, 25 to Kaw Valley, and 11 to Larned State Hospital. The remaining transports were to various service providers around the state.

A review committee comprised of Crystal Deselms, Nancy Patterson-COMCARE, Lt. David Hein, Lt. James Convey, Col. Richard Powell-Sheriff Office, Jennifer Magana-Legal, and Brandy McCune-Purchasing reviewed and evaluated all proposals based on the ability to meet or exceed requirements and scope of work, proven ability to provide high-quality service, qualifications and expertise, and the most advantageous and prudent methodology and costs for the County. The committee unanimously agreed that Apple Bus Company will best serve the County's needs.

Issa Kihambike's proposal was considered non-responsive due to the fact that they did not provide any supporting documentation with their proposal. Security Transport Services did not meet the requirements to comply with the video monitoring or vehicle partitions. The committee discussed G4S Secure Solutions' alternate pricing, and all agreed that it would not be feasible at this time because one team would not be able to handle the quantity of transports with a limit of 40 hours a week to meet the time requirements. In addition, the cost of the vehicles and fuel would add to the overall cost per year.

In 2011, the County spent approximately \$175,000.00 for these services. Apple Bus Company has been the provider for these services for the past three (3) years. This new contract will represent a 17% increase for the unrestrained patients while the price for the restrained patients is lower than the previous contract price of \$357.49 to Osawatomic and \$331.59 to Larned State Hospital. The contractors are only allowed to transport one (1) restrained patient at a time; they can transport more than one unrestrained patient at a time. The contractor is billed per trip, not per patient.

Question was asked about how the per mileage rate was factored into the price. The majority of the transports are to Osawatomic State Hospital and Larned State Hospital, therefore, the per mileage rate is not a big factor in the overall cost of the service.

4400000085	RENTAL UNIFORMS AND MATS	ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES	5/18/2011	6/30/2017	\$50,000.00	KRISTEN MCGOVERN	BMIN06122014
4400000080	ACTUARIAL VALUATION-FINANCE INC	LEWIS AND ELLIS INC	5/18/2011	5/31/2017	\$25,000.00	KARA KINGSLEY	080_BidBoardRecommendation
4400000029	HANGAR/ RAMP LEASE	MIDWEST CORPORATE AVIATION INC	1/1/2008	12/31/2020	\$200,000.00	KRISTEN MCGOVERN	029_LegalContract 029_Addendum
4400000027	TRANSMISSION SERVICES	FISHERS TRANSMISSION INC	10/16/2012	11/19/2016	\$20,000.00	BRITT ROSENCUTTER	027_PurchRecommendation 027_ContractRenewal
4400000021	Transportation Services	APPLE BUS COMPANY	7/13/2012	6/30/2017	\$250,000.00	BRITT ROSENCUTTER	021_LegalContract 021_ContractRenewal
4400000018	TEMPORARY BOARDING SERVICES	HOPE IN THE VALLEY EQUINE RESCUE AND	11/29/2010	11/29/2016	\$10,000.00	BRITT ROSENCUTTER	018_RESPONSEFORM
4400000016	On-Call Laboratory Services-Variou	AFFILIATED MEDICAL SERVICES INC	8/26/2012	8/26/2017	\$1,000,000.00	KARA KINGSLEY	016_LegalContract 016_ContractRenewal 16_ContractRenewal
4400000014	Pest Control Services	LAZZELLE SEAN DBA	10/21/2009	2/28/2017	\$50,000.00	BRITT ROSENCUTTER	014_LegalContract
44-4812-10	INMATE TELEPHONE AND VIDEO CONFENCING	SECURUS TECHNOLOGIES, INC	2/11/2014	1/31/2019	\$0.00	KIMBERLY EVANS	SECURUS TECHNOLOGIES - SHERIFF 14 SECURUS TECHNOLOGIES AMMEND - SHERIFF 14
	PARKING GARAGE	PARKING COMPANY				KARA	4419-9_LEGALCONTRACT

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