



February 10, 2017

Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of Senate Public Health and Welfare,

Thank you for the opportunity for Kansas Advocates for Better Care (KABC) to provide testimony today in strong support of SB 153 and Targeted Case Management for Older Kansans.

Who needs Targeted Case Management (TCM)

Older adults dealing with multiple chronic conditions, mental health issues, dementia, stroke or brain injury, hearing or sight loss, and/or declining physical function. Increasingly case management is also important for older adults who are unfamiliar with or unskilled in using the internet as the primary means to access, coordinate, or schedule services appointments.

Targeted Case Management is a key service and one that is critical in order for older Kansans to remain at home. Targeted Case Management comes into play for older adults who need one or more of these:

- An Assessment,
- A Plan for in-Home Care and Services,
- Referrals, Coordination, and Scheduling of supportive and health services,
- Monitoring of elder’s status – safety and well-being over time.

Any of you who have acted in the role of family caregiver will find these components of care familiar and you will know that an older adult can be harmed by the lack or absence of any one of these components.

Why Targeted Case Management is important for older adults

Older adults often:

- Deal with Multiple Chronic Conditions,
- Have declining physical function and need assistance with activities of daily living – dressing, bathing, mobility
- Experience mental health issues, across a lifetime, or episodically due to loss/grief,
- Are impacted by Dementia, Stroke or Brain Injury, Hearing or Sight Loss,
- Live alone and without the support of family close by.

At our best as adults, identifying, evaluating, and navigating service systems and public assistance programs can be confusing, frustrating, and overwhelming. Add to that any of the challenges bulleted above, and imagine what the experience is for an older adult trying to do so without assistance such as from a targeted case manager.

The loss of this service from the Home and Community Based Frail Elder Waiver has impacted older adults.

- A variety of older adult needs go unmet as Care Coordinators do not fill TCM functions
- Lower cost, more effective and appropriate services are not used
- Higher cost and more restrictive facility care services are used when these could be avoided or delayed by adding good targeted case management.

Date 2.13.17

Senate Public Health and Welfare

Attachment 31

Since the roll out of KanCare, KABC increasingly has taken calls from older adults and family caregivers struggling to piece together what they need to remain at home. They have turned to our organization and others for the case management help which they had access to prior KanCare. Although they continue to need targeted case management, they are unable to access it through KanCare at present. We are asking that you support SB 153 and make Targeted Case Management available as one of the services elders have under the HCBS Frail Elder Waiver.

Mitzi E. McFatrigh

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Members and Volunteers

KABC is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of long-term care for elders in all settings – nursing and assisted facilities and in-home. KABC is not a provider of government funded services. For 41 years KABC's role has been as a resource and advocate for older adults and families and as a resource to policy makers on aging and quality care issues. KABC provides consumer education information. KABC tracks and reports on older adult quality care performance issues.

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