

HOPE

To: Bethell Joint Committee on HCBS and KanCare Oversight

From: Melissa Johnson, Executive Director of Ascension Living HOPE

Date: November 3, 2022

Re: Ascension Living HOPE overview and Medicaid Rate

Thank you for the opportunity to share an overview of Ascension Living HOPE (HOPE), a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and the impact the Medicaid Rate has on our program. Ascension Living HOPE is a non-profit ministry of Ascension Living, a subsidiary of Ascension. HOPE is the first PACE provider in Kansas established September 1, 2002. We celebrated our 20th year anniversary September 2022. We serve seniors 55 and up in Sedgwick County. HOPE has served 1222 seniors over the past 20 years. Our aim is to provide care for seniors in Sedgwick County to age in place. The seniors in our program want to live in the community as they age. Only 4% of our seniors are in a long-term care facility, 11% live in assisted living while the other 85% live in the community either alone, with family/caregiver or roommate.

Currently 318 Sedgwick County residents participate in the HOPE program. HOPE penetrates 13% of the PACE eligible senior population in Sedgwick County, 64% female and 36% male. The average age of a HOPE participant is 70 years of age. The average age of a participant with Medicaid only is 64 years of age. We have 22% of our seniors funded solely from Medicaid.

We thank you for the increase in the Medicaid rates that went into effect July 1, 2022. The National PACE Association reports the top five most common chronic conditions of PACE participants 1) vascular disease 2) diabetes with chronic complications 3) major depressive, bipolar and paranoid disorders 4) polyneuropathy and 5) congestive heart failure. Major depressive, bipolar and

paranoid disorders were recently added to the top 5 chronic conditions. Many of HOPE's participants with Medicaid only funding fall into this category. They require very expensive medications, routine psychiatric care from psychiatrists and mental health counselors and additional support to assist with medication compliance. Mental health is not the only factor to consider when it comes to the increase in cost to care for our seniors. The cost to care for seniors continues to rise in skilled nursing care, hospitalizations, staff wages, medications and the overall care to allow seniors to continue to live as independently as possible in their community. The Medicaid rate is important to the success of our program and the other PACE programs in Kansas.

Again we are grateful for your support for the PACE model of care.