

2012 InterHab Legislative Platform

Assisting persons with developmental disabilities in increasing their independence, productivity, integration and inclusion into the community.

Medicaid Managed Care:

Long-term care services for Kansans with I/DD should be removed from the Administration's Medicaid managed care proposal. Forcing DD long-term care services into managed care will cause significant changes in how persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities receive services. Nationally, there is no comparable managed care model for the provision of long-term care for persons with developmental disabilities that the Administration can point to as evidence that KanCare will yield positive outcomes. Only four states (Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin and Vermont) have included I/DD long-term care services in their managed care plans. None of those states' efforts on managed care and DD long-term care are directly comparable to Kansas.

The rush to incorporate managed care in Kansas has occurred with too little deliberation. InterHab **strongly urges** the Governor and Legislature not to rush into such a massive social experiment with so little evidence to indicate that persons with developmental disabilities won't be harmfully impacted.

Quality-Based Community Expansion:

Expansion of service numbers requires expanded community capacity. Serving more persons requires a quality-based expansion of service capacity, in terms of program enhancements and human resource infrastructure. InterHab Urges the Governor and Legislature to commit to a multi-year funding strategy to raise provider reimbursement rates to a level that is adequate and reasonable in order to develop much-needed community service capacity. Additionally, the loss of state-only funds for the support of persons not on the HCBS Waiver represents a serious challenge to maintaining a quality system of supports for all Kansans with I/DD. Those funds must be restored.

Improved waiting list management will better enable planning to meet waiting list needs of thousands of "Invisible Kansans". We must do a better job of assessing the needs of persons waiting for services, and presenting those needs to legislators, of both those who are under-served as well as those who are un-served. InterHab applauds the legislature's addition of funds in FY 2012 to help reduce the numbers of children and adults on the State's waiting lists, and calls for the Legislature to adopt a multi-year funding strategy to eliminate these lists entirely.

Responsive Programming and Services:

Children's needs must be addressed with meaningful financial resources applied to meaningful services, to maximize the long-term benefits of early intervention for children, and the long term savings for taxpayers. We will seek new funds for programs serving infants and toddlers with disabilities, advocate for protocols ensuring the rights of children with disabilities in foster care, and to assure that the needs of children with disabilities are included in all early childhood initiatives.

Programs to create employment opportunities must be nurtured. We must assure an expanded effort to promote employment and employment-related training for persons with I/DD. InterHab supports efforts to expand the work-based opportunities of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including continuing to work with the Kansas State Employment First Commission, and CDDO contract-created workgroup, to expand community-based jobs, as well as assisting efforts to continue the expansion of employment opportunities through the Kansas State Use Program, and welcomes the focus of the Administration on this issue.

Family services must be designed/funded in a fashion that reflects unique family needs. We must develop family services that address basic family needs. Families are sometimes diverted into the most available funding stream (the current HCBS DD Waiver) but would be better assisted by more effective models, such as a new Family Support Waiver. InterHab will continue to assist State efforts to develop and implement a Family Support Waiver in Kansas.

Persons with challenging diagnostic profiles – including those with dangerous behaviors and emerging age-related medical conditions – require an immediate response from the State. InterHab calls on the State of Kansas to lead efforts that will build increased collaboration between the mental health and developmental disability service systems in order to better support these individuals.

System Management that Meets the Needs of Individuals:

I/DD Services must better meet the mandates of the DD Reform Act. A comprehensive review must be undertaken to assess the proficiencies of current service providers. The expansion of services, growth of non-licensed providers, and lack of adherence to core standards cause concern that standards for safeguarding consumers have been sacrificed in order to compensate for resource shortages. Quality-based standards must be established and maintained, and reimbursement rate structures must reflect a commitment to such standards.

Decisions regarding current institutional resources must be made within a context of how to allocate all resources to best meet the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities wherever they live in the State. Specialized and technical supports and/or the resources invested in such supports must be considered as a part of the larger resource base for the Kansas system, and must not be lost in any move to consolidate or close institutional programs.

