



Legislative Platform 2022

Invisible Kansans Advocacy Campaign:

A unified strategy to promote the need to develop IDD provider capacity as well as eliminate the IDD waiting list.

The strategy will stress capacity stabilization first, followed by the building of new capacity to serve individuals on the waiting list.

- Illustrate negative impacts to provider capacity including damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Address critical workforce shortages of DSPs and other essential employees via increases to provider rates
- Promote a multi-year strategy to eliminate the State's waiting list of more than 4,000 adults and children
- Engage in the legislative "IDD Modernization Task Force"
- Further develop the highly specialized supports needed to serve complex needs populations

Workforce Emergency:

Collect local and national data trends, investigate other state successes, research funding options and explore potential partnerships.

- Utilize national and local data regarding the IDD workforce crisis to illustrate the severity of this issue
- Illustrate causes of workforce shortages, including COVID-19 impacts
- Explore the use of enabling technologies that can assist in addressing DSP shortages
- Partner with state agencies, community stakeholders and MCOs in increasing the DSP workforce pool
- Promote development of an education-based pipeline for recruitment of DSPs
- Partner in development of training, certification and apprenticeship in order to professionalize the DSP role

Improve KanCare:

Coordinate with State agencies, define and recommend preferred models.

- Prepare for future changes in KanCare
 - Explore preferred managed care models for long term services and supports
 - Explore opportunities to improve oversight and accountability of KanCare contractors
 - Provide recommendations to the administration on improvements to KanCare
- Collect and provide data on specialized services gaps

Case Management:

Protect and maintain the elements of TCM that are of value to persons served.

- Maintain local control of case management
- Work in partnership with the State to address CMS conflict of interest concerns
- Promote practical and financially sustainable alternative models of case management

Critical Needs for IDD System Stability:

- Promote approaches to the HCBS Final Settings Rule that protect and enhance services for Kansans with IDD
- Protect and enhance the spectrum of employment supports for Kansans with IDD
- Restoration and enhancement of state aid and SGF funds to address the needs of persons with IDD who do not receive services through the HCBS waiver
- Enhance CDDO Administration funds
- Promote needed changes to the HCBS waiver to ensure the viability of services such as personal care services
- Enhance funding for the tiny-k network of providers who support children with IDD ages birth to three

Reduce Regulatory Barriers:

Work with the administration and legislators to reduce or eliminate unnecessary overregulation.

- Advocate for HCBS Final Settings Rule-related regulatory changes that protect the existing provider network
- Continue to educate and push for person-centered and pragmatic approaches to State Fire Marshal-led inspections
- Retain pandemic-related relaxation of policies, such as those related to background checks
- Continue to promote pragmatic and collaborative approaches to provider licensure
- Identify and reduce overregulation as well as encourage the State to apply licensure and oversight consistently
- Eliminate duplicative processes that place unnecessary additional burdens and costs on providers