



Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and
KanCare Oversight
October 11, 2023

My name is Dr. Janet Williams and I am a board member of the Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City. I have owned two community-based agencies in Kansas, Minds Matter LLC and communityworks inc., for the past 32 years. We provide services to assist people to live full lives in the community. I am here to talk about four things in three minutes.

To the KanCare Oversight committee, I am here to talk about things in three minutes:

1. We must avoid a waiting list on the brain injury waiver and that includes a wait for therapy. There has been no meaningful rate increase for waiver therapies since prior to the inception of KanCare. There needs to be a significant increase if agencies are to stay competitive with hiring therapists who specialize in brain injury and want to travel many miles across Kansas. Agencies employing therapists are only reimbursed for hours that can actually be billed which only includes face to face time. Agencies cannot be reimbursed for drive time, mileage, cancellations, benefits, the many state and federal regulations, mandated training and more. I would like to request a rate study by KDADs and KDHE to look at comparable reimbursement rates.
2. Thank you for keeping families being be paid as caregivers beyond the pandemic. We must now make sure families are not being forced to be paid caregivers because they cannot hire other people at the current rates. The direct care professional crisis continues. I appreciate the MCOs providing single case agreements for people who are not able to find help and it would be great if that became standard operating procedure instead of the exception.
3. All 3 MCOs have a different process for people to obtain equipment on the brain injury waiver. It is unclear, difficult and takes a long time. It can take up to a year to get a piece of specialized equipment only because of the broken process. For example, families are often told to get their own 3 bids on equipment when they don't know who the vendors are or how to go about the process. All 3 MCOs need to get together with KDADs and come up with a process that is efficient, streamline and quick.
4. All 3 MCOs have a different process for completing home modifications on the brain injury waiver. Like durable medical equipment, families are put in charge of the bids and oversight without the tools to do so. All 3 MCOs need to get together with KDADs and come up with a process that is efficient, streamline and quick.

Janet M. Williams, MSW, PhD Founder and President communityworks inc

Minds Matter, LLC www.mindsmatterllc.com 1-866-429-6757 x 101

