

**Robert G. Bethell and KanCare Oversight Committee
Testimony from the Area Agencies on Aging
October 2023**

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, the Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities represents the network of eleven Area Agencies on Aging serving older adults and caregivers in all 105 Kansas counties. For 50 years, AAA programs have been helping older Kansans and their caregivers.

As a designated local planning and service area (PSA), an Area Agency on Aging is mandated by the Older Americans Act to “serve as the advocate and focal point for older individuals within the community (in cooperation with agencies, organizations, and individuals participating in activities under the plan) by monitoring, evaluating, and commenting upon all policies, programs, hearings, levies, and community actions which will affect older individuals” (42 U.S.C. 3001; § 306(a)(6)(B)). Each AAA coordinates services to meet the specialized needs of older adults and simultaneously contracts with KDADS for the Administrative Case Management (ACM), CARE Level I Assessments, and the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) for options counseling, BI, FE, PD Waiver and PACE assessments, and a statewide call center to support long-term supports and services as Kansans desire to age in place.

Administrative Case Management – Unlike Targeted Case Management, the ACM is exclusively for individuals functionally eligible for the BI, FE, PD waivers and PACE and need assistance navigating the financial eligibility process.

Fiscal Year of Service	Consumers Served	Hours of Service
FY 2020 (May - soft rollout)	1511	3623
FY 2021	3628	8771
FY 2022	3855	8258
FY 2023 (Jan-June)	3680	4921

Administrative case managers help complete initial and renewal Medicaid applications; collect documentation to accompany crisis exception and waiver applications; ensure supporting documentation is accurately completed and submitted; and provide significant follow-up with the KDHE Clearinghouse. The ACM is assisting BI, FE, PD waiver beneficiaries and PACE participants with redeterminations to ensure timely application and reduce frustration with a complicated process.

Client Assessment, Referral and Evaluation (CARE) was created by the Kansas Legislature K.S.A. 39-931a (amended) and K.S.A. 39-968; K.A.R. 26-9-1 and K.A.R. 120-1-2 with the purpose of data collection and individual assessment and referral to community-based services and appropriate placement in long-term care facilities.” The CARE Level I assessment includes key information required by the federally mandated Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) program prior to a nursing home stay. The AAAs are the statutory contractors for Level I Assessments, except in circumstances wherein statute allows trained hospital staff to perform assessments, which can reduce PASRR-specific reimbursements. Federal regulations give states the authority to claim 75% Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for administrative activities, including “any other costs necessary to carry out the PASRR program,” according to the PASRR Technical Assistance Center.

Since SFY12, the provider rate remained unchanged until SFY24 when KDADS set a statewide rate of \$188 per assessment. The average 24% increase is insignificant based on twelve (12) years of service at the same rate (one AAA received a 7-cent (\$0.07) increase). The AAAs appreciate the increase, although a more equitable rate will stabilize the AAAs’ financial future to continue providing excellent customer care, compensating program staff proportional with a 4 year degree in gerontology, social work, counseling, human development, health, or other related area, or is a registered nurse licensed to practice in the state of Kansas, and have 1 year of related experience and ensuring the appropriate setting in which the customer receives specialized services.

Additionally, the program requires administrative duties, including completion of an intake, review of medical records, inquiries using the state's management information system (KAMIS), coordination and communication with the nursing facility, customer and collateral contacts, including a guardian, if applicable, travel to complete the assessment, and data entry into KAMIS. To reasonably compensate the AAAs, *k4ad asks for a realistic rate of \$300 per assessment and appropriating the state's match (25%).*

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) – The ADRC assesses roughly 14,000 beneficiaries each year on the BI, FE, PD Waivers, and PACE program. KDADS' FY24 projected budget included 565 monthly contacts, while the ADRC statewide call center averaged 2,047 contacts per month – 262% more.

Senior Care Act – In recognition that a majority of older adults wanted to remain at home, yet could not afford to private pay for services, the 1989 legislature enacted the Senior Care Act, which also diverted older adults from an institution or costlier services provided through Medicaid waivers. In SFY22, the legislature appropriated an additional \$3 million to the base funding. However, K.A.R. 26-8-7(a) stipulates “the maximum monthly expenditure for services per customer shall be \$1,445.00 . . . [not including] expenditures for assessment, case management, and any one-time service.” The amount has not been amended since 1996 according to the final program evaluation conducted by Kansas State University School of Family Studies and Human Services. The AAAs appreciate legislators increasing the base funding to adjust provider rates for higher operating costs, including compensation packages to recruit and retain qualified employees. Unfortunately, unless the maximum monthly expenditure allowance is amended, higher costs will consume the majority of funds per customer, and fewer in-home services can be authorized. To continue diverting older Kansans from premature nursing home stays or costlier services, *k4ad asks for your support to amend regulations allowing the secretary of KDADS to modify the rate, not less than the FY23 rate, and to annually adjust for inflation.*

Core Funding for Area Agencies on Aging – Core funding provides the highest quality, flexibility, and efficient way to provide substantive leadership and advance innovation in meeting organizational goals and pooling “real dollars” to enhance services delivered by an Area Agency on Aging. Since 2001, Older Americans Act funding to cover indirect costs has not increased; requiring AAAs to use severely limited resources to cover administrative costs under state contracts, recruit and retain quality staff, and maintain operations. To keep the organization funding independent of any unrestricted dollars related to discretionary programs, *k4ad asks for your support to appropriate core funding of \$10 million to a dedicated fund used solely by the Department for Aging and Disability Services to enhance senior services provided by an Area Agency on Aging in Kansas.*

Case Management for Frail Elderly Waiver and Physical Disability Waiver Beneficiaries – A cost effective model of case management results in an individual achieving optimal health. Through the managed care contract renewals, the legislature has an opportunity to measure accountability and ensure beneficiaries have consistent access to services without a layer of complication. It is important for an individual to age in place, and *k4ad supports the request from Kansas Advocates for Better Care for Kansas to implement a person-centric model of case management that is responsive to the daily needs of an individual choosing to remain in the community.*

Thank you for your commitment to aging services as they significantly impact long-term services and supports. We appreciate your interest in how AAAs can strengthen home and community based services and provide value to the coordinate care system in the state.

Leslie A. Anderson
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