

October 11, 2023

Members of the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight, thank you for all your hard work and the opportunity to submit my testimony regarding the I/DD Waitlist issue in our state.

A brief overview- our 22-year-old daughter Sheridan has I/DD , has been approved for I/DD Waiver services and has been on the waitlist since August 2013 when she was 12. She has aged out of high school and requires attending day service while we continue to work full time.

According to the KDADS HCBS Monthly Summary reports as of February 22, 2022, there were 9,044 people getting I/DD Waiver services and 4,485 on the waitlist.

As of January 17, 2023, there were still 9,044 people getting I/DD Waiver services and the waitlist number grew to 4,818.

The latest report as of August 2023 shows only 8,880 getting waiver services and 5,096 on the waitlist.

Why do these numbers continue to trend in this direction? When KanCare was introduced, the waitlist was supposed to be reduced from the claimed savings. All indications show this has been a failure.

We do know that in our County of Shawnee the CDDO has told us they have had only one person come off the waitlist to get I/DD Waiver services in the past year. Sheridan has 15 people ahead of her in Shawnee County. As of August of this year Sheridan is 160th on the list for the entire state. I see this as possibly 15 more years on the waitlist. Unacceptable.

All parents and guardians of children with I/DD need to be aware of this prolonged wait and prepare now for an over 10 years wait unless this gets fixed soon.

Do the MCO's in coordination with KDADS move people off the waitlist when someone drops off? Or are the MCO's keeping money that should be spent on new people when someone drops off waivers?

We recently met with our case manager and have found that the waitlist time, barring a successful exception request is now 11 years, probably longer.

A new Community Support Waiver is in the works but will offer little assistance in our situation and reportedly will not be in place until 2026.

I would ask this committee to work with the MCO's to explore any possible options to help families that have been waiting several years on the waitlist. A monthly stipend to help pay for the services we currently pay out of pocket would be one suggestion.

Of course, reducing the waitlist and the unreasonable wait times still needs to be a priority.

One last thing I'd like to mention, KDADS does not consider homelessness to be a reason for a crisis exception. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year in Topeka a 5-year-old girl, living in a homeless camp was raped and murdered. The local news reports that her situation was reported several times to DCF. How can

anyone with any sense of compassion agree with this policy no matter what department is involved,  
whether it's DCF or KDADS?

Kansas must do better!

Thank you for your time.

Rick and Anna Elskamp

Sheridan Elskamp