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Date: June 16, 2024 at 2:22:37 PM CST
Subject: Iraida Orr

The “Kancare Experiment” has not worked for Kansans. But this profiteering program does work for the 3 MCOs and the state of Kansas. According to the Kancare website, 88% of the federal funds that are sent to Kansas are allocated to the MCOs. The Medicaid program cannot be run off of 12% of the federal funds given to Kansas by the Federal Government. The programs are starved to the bare bones. Before privatization, the Medicaid administration costs were 2 to 4 %. Yes that means at least 95% of the federal funds went back into the programs. Missouri in a non privatized state and that’s what their administrative costs are. That is pure waste and cruel & brutal avarice. And Kansans are dying from the lack of health care. Finn Buellers, former Star writer, was one of those casualties. And so was my brother Mike Distefano. . Our health care system is the worst of any industrialized nation in the world. Add privatization on top of that, and it’s unadulterated disaster for the insured. In addition to these profits, Kansans on the waiver program also pay a monthly health care premium like the rest of us. That premium is called the “client obligation”. Under the Brownback administration, those client obligations skyrocketed. To qualify for Medicaid, a potential recipient could not have a monthly income of over \$727 a month. If the person made \$2000 a month on SSDI, then the client obligation was \$1273 a month. My brother Mike suffered through that for years. When Gov Kelly changed the monthly income, it eliminated the high monthly premiums. . But everyone still had a monthly client obligation. I have written Star writers, legislators, Gov Kelly, heads of departments about this, with no response from anyone. One Star reporter, I believe Rick Montgomery, I would have to go thru my emails to be sure, contacted me about Kancare. . He disputed the client obligation. There is what is called a “medical necessity.” These are medical items the recipient pays for and can be used to offset the client obligation. But the atrocity is that the MCOs can and so terminate the medical necessity at any time. This is illegal The Kansas state legislature passes the articles for the waiver under the Federal Olmstead Act. Only the legislature can enact these articles and only the legislature can alter the articles. But the MCOs break this enacted law routinely . The first time it happened to my brother, Mike, I filed for a Fair Hearing. Of course I won bc United does nor have the authority to change the waiver laws. Or any laws. With this standing decision, years later Aetna, terminated the medical necessities for Mike. With services being terminated, we needed all of Mike’s SSDI to care for him. Of course Aetna did not care and continued to victimize him until it killed him. Everyone I have ever written and Informed them of these facts must be so uninformed and uneducated about Kancare that I never heard from anyone. . And any articles written about Kancare plainly show how uninformed the authors are. My question is where does all that client obligation go. It doesn’t go back into the programs bc they are continually being cut for the insured. And between the client obligations and the 88%, of the federal funds, how much will ever be enough for these profit mongering corporations and state bureaucrats ? Kansas is the only state that has all Medicaid programs

privatized. That's how greedy Kansas and their corporate monsters are. There was a 5 day expose' in the Star on Kancare transparency in Nov 2017. My brother Mike was Thursdays feature recipient. It was an excellent expose'. I was informed that it would help all the Kansans unfortunate enough to suffer the consequences of being on Kancare if I relayed Mike's story of the Kancare horrors . It didn't help. But the Star won many awards for the expose'. Probably more the goal. Nothing changed and the cuts increased. That's why my brother, Mike, died. I sent out Christmas cards in 2015 with Mike on the card, to all state Republican legislators. Including my state senator and rep. It said, "Kancare is killing Mike Distefano. Repeal it." I never heard from any of the reps. Not even my rep. . Except John Doll. He said the Reps were lied to about Kancare. He said he was misinformed & that's why he voted for it. He said his constituents were unhappy and complaining. Kancare will never be repealed bc it's a multi billion dollar profit maker. Even though is lethal for its insured. Lastly, the committee that was formed when privatization was forced onto Kansans is called the Bob Bethel committee. They meet every few months for all these years and I ask what have they accomplished?. Could it be that the committee functions as a therapist where people can air their grievances? . For 3 minutes anyway. But MCOs , can speak as long as they want. And they are the least informed of the Kancare system & horror stories. I advised at one Committee meeting that MCOs take 88% of the profits and that's why it's the worst for the insured. No one knew that. Like I said, many uneducated people out there, including our reps. One state senator asked not to be identified to me but wanted proof of that. And to send proof to the head of the Bob Bethel committee, who could send it on to him. Which I did so he could get it from her. But nothing ever came of that. Since then I have never received notice to get on the agenda to speak at the Bob Bethel committee meetings. Until June 6, 2024 That's over 2 years for the last time I was notified . . I've resigned myself to the fact that I just write these letters for my own cathartic experience of organizing my thoughts and putting them to paper. Knowing that 88% of the Medicaid expansion will go to the MCOs and the state, u see that little 12% of the crumbs left over will not do much for Kansans. I bet if the 70% of Kansans that want to expand Medicaid knew that, they wouldn't want to expand Medicaid. So I end with a conclusion of an opinion I read in the KC Star, "the victory is only meaningful, though, if Kansans actually benefit."

The victory being the Kancare expansion. Making that statement so very accurate.

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Adamantly Protecting Kansans from Kancare; A Michael John Distefano Fund

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