

Timothy Keck, Interim Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
From: Kelli Ludlum, Assistant Secretary
Date: February 16, 2016
Subject: SB 445, Client assessment, referral and evaluation program amendments

Interim Chairman O'Donnell and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 445, legislation which will amend the Client Assessment Referral and Evaluation (CARE) statute to reflect the appropriate agency name and operations of the CARE program.

The CARE program is operated within KDADS under the Commission on Aging. The CARE program is responsible for diverting seniors from the nursing home and into the community where desired and possible. CARE has the responsibility for managing the statewide screening of applicants for nursing home services and providing information and referral for other optional community based services. The CARE program meets the federal requirements for the Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR).

The intent of KDADS is that the CARE program will serve as an assessment to provide customers individualized information on long-term care options, determine appropriate placements in long-term care communities and collect data regarding individuals being assessed for possible nursing home placement.

This amendment to statute by SB 445 cleans up language in the statute to fix the names of state agencies responsible for the CARE program. The amendment also reflects current operations in which the CARE Level I assessments are conducted, the Aging and Disability Resource Centers. The Aging and Disability Resources Centers through contract with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services have been performing CARE assessments for the last three years.

Thank you for the Committee's time and consideration. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have about this bill.