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New KanCare Ombudsman, New Director of Managed Care Named

TOPEKA – Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Secretary Shawn Sullivan Friday announced the appointment of James Bart as the agency’s new Director of Managed Care and the appointment of Kerrie Bacon as the new KanCare Ombudsman during a meeting of the Kansas Legislature’s Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on HCBS and KanCare Oversight.

Ms. Bacon is a quality management specialist in KDADS’ Community Services and Programs Commission, overseeing the federal Money Follows the Person program. Before joining the state last year, she served as interim Executive Director of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities from 2011-2012 and as state coordinator, research analyst and liaison at the Kansas Commission on Disability from 2003 through 2011. She has also served as a consultant to the American Association for People with Disabilities in Washington, DC.

She holds a BS in Sociology from Baker University and is a graduate of the University of Kansas’ Certified Public Manager program.

“Ms. Bacon brings to the position of KanCare Ombudsman a great deal of experience and a profound understanding of the challenges facing individuals with disabilities. She is familiar with all of our state waiver services programs and will serve as a skilled, compassionate guide for consumers and their families who need support and assistance in navigating KanCare and the state system to get their problems solved,” Secretary Sullivan said.

“Kerrie is energetic and thorough,” the Secretary said.

Mr. Bart has served as the state's KanCare Ombudsman since December, 2012. In his new role, he will continue to assist KanCare consumers to receive the care and services they need under the state's innovative program that manages Medicaid.

"James has worked tirelessly for KanCare consumers and their families as our KanCare Ombudsman," Secretary Sullivan said. "I know he is going to continue to bring the same effectiveness and empathy to his new duties."

Mr. Bart, a graduate of Creighton University School of Law, also holds a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management from the University of Iowa. He has broad experience in advocacy and non-profit work. He has served on the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities as a parent representative, is a past vice-chair of the Council and was previously leader of the Council's executive committee.

Mr. Bart will be filling the position vacated by long-time SRS and KDADS manager Kim Brown, who left the agency to work in the private sector.

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The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services mission is to foster an environment that promotes security, dignity and independence for all Kansans.