

For Immediate Release

November 25, 2013

For more information, contact:

Angela de Rocha
Director of Communications
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
785-806-7482

KDADS Outlines Efforts to Educate Consumers About Incorporating HCBS for Individuals with I/DD into KanCare

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) has announced detailed plans for continuing consumer outreach, communication and training efforts in preparation for incorporating long-term services and supports (Home and Community Based Services, or HCBS) for individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) into KanCare. An outline of these efforts was unveiled Monday at a meeting of the KanCare Legislative Oversight Committee.

“We remain committed to providing KanCare’s I/DD consumers with as much information as possible before their HCBS services are included in KanCare,” Secretary Sullivan said. “We realize that anticipation of this change has caused anxiety for some individuals with I/DD and we are working to make it as seamless and stress-free as possible, and to provide reassurance that their services will continue to be provided to them without interruption.”

Individuals on the I/DD waiver have been receiving their medical and behavioral health care through KanCare since January of this year. Their HCBS will be provided through KanCare beginning January 1, 2014.

Upcoming outreach activities include an Educational and Training Tour for consumers with I/DD and their families. Tours are scheduled for December 2 through December 5, with sessions in Garden City, Dodge City, Newton, Winfield, Great Bend, Hays, Lawrence and Overland Park. The creation of a consumer-outreach brochure for individuals with I/DD and their families and caregivers is also planned.

Beginning in December, KDADS will conduct weekly “Lunch and Learn Rapid Response” calls for individuals and providers. Those conference calls will occur at noon on Wednesdays for consumers and at 11 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays for providers. Consumers should contact the KanCare Ombudsman,

Kancare.Ombudsman@kdads.ks.gov, to submit questions or concerns, and to register for the weekly Lunch and Learn Rapid Response calls, or they may go to http://www.kdads.ks.gov/CSP/IDD/KanCare_Imp/IDD_Info.html.

Providers may register at http://www.aging.ks.gov/Registrations/All_Trainings_Index.html.

In November, the agency launched a monthly series of HCBS Forums, which include specific discussions of how HCBS will continue to be implemented for I/DD consumers, giving providing consumers and providers another venue in which they can ask questions and discuss their concerns with agency staff. The next HCBS Forum will be Tuesday, December 17.

KDADS mailed a letter to all I/DD waiver participants on October 15 detailing how their HCBS will continue to be provided through KanCare. This includes assistive services, day supports, Medical Alert rental, Financial Management Services, overnight respite, personal assistant services, residential supports, sleep cycle support, supported employment and other personalized services.

I/DD consumers will continue to be able to access services through their Community Developmental Disability Organizations (CDDOs). Their CDDOs will continue to do the eligibility assessments for the I/DD waiver program every year, and these consumers will keep their targeted case managers (TCMs) and service providers of their choice. TCMs will continue to review I/DD consumers' plans of care and update them as consumers' needs change. If an I/DD consumer likes their plan of care, they can keep it.

The letter can be viewed at this link: http://www.kdads.ks.gov/CSP/IDD/KanCare_Imp/IDD_Waiver_Consumers_Letter_10_15_13.pdf.

KDADS continues to operate the KanCare Pilot Project for persons with I/DD after its launch in late spring. About 500 individuals are on the I/DD waiver and approximately 25 of their service providers are enrolled in the KanCare I/DD Pilot Project.

The three main elements of the KanCare I/DD Pilot Project, as developed by the blue-ribbon panel of I/DD stakeholders, are:

- Relationship building between MCOs and I/DD system
- Defining how services/service delivery will look under KanCare
- Developing/Testing billing processes for January 1, 2014 inclusion

“The KanCare I/DD pilot has provided us with a wealth of usable information, procedural lessons and insights into how to make this change work smoothly for consumers with I/DD,” Secretary Sullivan said. “Having direct input from the individuals who will be affected by this conversion has proved to be a very valuable implementation asset as we move forward.”

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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.