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**May 6th, 2015
12:00 pm-1:00 pm
Lunch and Learn Call for HCBS Consumers
(17 Participants on the call)**

Facilitated by Kerrie Bacon

- **Introductions Kancare bi-weekly conference calls.**
 - **Speaker and Topic: Working Healthy with Steve Curtis and Mary Ellen Wright.**

Steve Curtis, Working Healthy is a Medicaid buy-in program, so people who are unemployed can purchase Medicaid. To qualify for this program, a person must:

**Have a disability determined by Social Security;
Be no younger than 16 and no older than 64;
Be employed (earning more than \$65 per month, federal minimum wage or better, FICA withholding from wages or pay SECA if self-employed);
Have total countable income of less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level;
Not be receiving Home and Community Based Services;
Not be an SSI recipient;
Not be living in a nursing facility; and
Have countable resources that are less than \$15,000.**

Benefits Specialists are available to discuss *Working Healthy* and provide benefits planning and analysis regarding the effects of earnings on cash (Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income) and medical benefits (Medicare and Medicaid).

There are sub-programs such as *Working Healthy* and the *WORK* program. You must be able to provide a doctors proof of need.

There are 6 benefit specialists across the state that will let them know how working will affect their Medicaid.

If someone loses their job, they can apply for 4 month unemployment.

We have a sub-program, *WORK* has no waiting list, and you must be employed and meet the HCBS level of care. Most come from the waiver or the waiting list. They can



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also be screened to see if they are eligible. There are PAS, independent living counseling, WORK enrollees have a budget and the money is sent at the beginning of the month. Prior to starting the service they have to have a budget. Assistive technology and home modification is allowed if pre authorized. Cost effectiveness is looked at. If a person loses employment, they can return to the waiting list, since there is a screening in this program so there is no risk. People on the waiver don't have a client obligation or a spend down. People who are continuously enrolled have found to have a 37-39% decrease in their medical expenditures. Many other positive They are asking for CMS to set the minimum requirement of 40 hours at minimum wage per month.

Open for Questions:

Q. How do we get in contact with you?

A. mwright@kdheks.gov www.kdheks.gov/hcf/workinghealthy is the website; health care finance- working

Q. Question about a grant. Kerrie asked that the conversation be taken off line.

A. Universities will charge, and you need to contact them.

Q. How many people are enrolled?

A. 1225 people.

Q. Are you worried that you have too many?

A. Never.

Q. What is the number that are likely eligible for the program?

A. About the double the amount we serve.

Q. Can you talk to the MCO's to see how many are on that list?

A. We haven't but that is a great idea. We can try to get a list and take a look.

Q. (Kerrie) Mary Ellen, can you keep me in the loop on this?

A. Yes.



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- **Next Lunch and Learn will be; Housing Resource Commission with Ryan Renner, Deputy Dir. or Dennis Mesa, Dir. Ryan Gonzales, SED Waiver Proposed renewal changes.**