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**February 24, 2016
12:00 pm-1:00 pm
Lunch and Learn Call for HCBS Consumers
(19 Participants on the call)**

*** Ombudsman Lunch and Learn Conference Call Series***

A Farewell Message on Advocacy

Speaker: Tom Laing, Executive Director of InterHab

I have been at INTERHAB since Oct 1993 and prior I had served as speaker of the house, I have done so many other things including planting trees and teaching elementary school.

I will be interested to see where Interhab goes from here.

The focus is advocacy. When they rallied around the waiver and the passage of legislation.

Tom spoke of the passage of legislation regarding the win to allow group homes to be in the community.

What might I say on my way out the door?

Two choices we get to make; to be active or to be inactive.

Nothing gets done by being inactive.

We need to take responsibility for what our government does.

The disability movement works when we unite and speak with a unified voice.

“Hang together or we will hang separately.”

The voice of the human service advocate needs to be loud enough to be heard.

Line open for questions:

Q. It starts with advocating for yourself on a daily basis. You must advocate on a personal level- can you speak to that?

A. Yes, whether or not you have a disability. Trouble in the workplace or with a roommate or a doctor? Ask a friend. Practice saying what you want to say. Learn the language.



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Q. What will you do when you retire?

A. Well, I will continue to work. I will advocate. I will probably teach. I hope to fish and golf.

Q. What is happening in the legislative front? Freeze on shared living?

A. A subcommittee hearing is scheduled to keep this going. We are happy about that. We are speaking Wednesday at 1:30 on the integrated waiver. I have a 2:30 call on the shared living today. They feel they need to be able to regulate this and so do we. There are 2 bills that will speak to that. KDADS is looking at it closely. HB 2315.

SB 341 allows for the state and MCO to require step therapy for prescriptions. Start with generic and progresses to name brand. We feel this interferes with the physician's ability to make the call.

Q. Unable to capture question regarding closing of KNI.

Q. Subcommittee meeting will be in 546 South. Did you know about it before?

A. I knew about it yesterday. The committee Secretaries are helpful and nice, get to know them.

Go Emporia State Hornets.....

***Facilitated by Kerrie Bacon, Kancare Ombudsman**
