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Lee A. Norman, M.D., Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

## **KanCare Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2021**

### **Council Members Attending Via Zoom:**

Walt Hill  
Mark Hinde  
Allen Schmidt  
Njeri Shomari

### **Council Members Absent:**

Susan ConCannon  
Jerry Henry  
Dr. Michael Kennedy  
Lora Key  
Larry Martin, Chairman  
Ed Nicholas  
Mary Pilcher-Cook  
Beth Simpson

### **Council Member Candidates Attending Via Zoom:**

Dr. Rebecca Reddy

### **Council Member Candidates Absent:**

James Bart  
Jay Rowh

### **Other Participants:**

Dr. Lee Norman, Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment.  
Sarah Fertig, Medicaid Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment.  
Chris Swartz, Director of Operations/COO, Deputy Medicaid Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Amy Penrod, Commissioner, Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services  
Kerrie Bacon, Ombudsman, KanCare Ombudsman Office  
Lisa Baird, Aetna Better Health of Kansas  
Kevin Sparks, United Healthcare Community Plan  
Stephanie Rasmussen, Sunflower State Health Plan

**Welcome – Sarah Fertig.** Sarah Fertig welcomed Council members and public attendees, took roll, and briefed council members on the requirements of K.A.R. 16-20-1.

### **Review and Approval of Minutes from Council meeting December 8, 2020**

Dr. Lee Norman briefly spoke on the updates of COVID-19. Dr. Norman thanked KDHE staff, Sarah and Chris for continuing their guidance with COVID-19. He also thanked KDADS, DCF and MCO's who required innovation and creativity for a better way of stepping up for the beneficiaries that are being taken care of and that are dependent.

Sarah Fertig mentioned a quorum is not present and to table the approval of the December 8, 2020 KanCare Advisory Council Meeting Minutes.

### **Old Business – KanCare Advisory Council**

#### **Define the capable person policy in regard to the care of our disabled kids and adults in need of care per their personal care plans – Ed Nicholas**

This business item has been tabled for the next KanCare Advisory meeting. Topic will remain on old business.

### **New Business – KanCare Advisory Council**

#### **What are we doing to minimize the occurrence of these things happening to our most vulnerable population – Ed Nicholas <https://www.today.com/health/how-pandemic-has-hurt-medically-fragile-families-t210915>**

This business item has been tabled for the next KanCare Advisory meeting. Topic will remain on old business.

#### **Why can't businesses that deal with the public provide a changing table for our special needs' kids and or adults that require assistance for this task – Ed Nicholas**

This business item has been tabled for the next KanCare Advisory meeting. Topic will remain on old business.

### **KDHE Update – Sarah Fertig, Medicaid Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Chris Swartz, Director of Operations/COO, Deputy Medicaid Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment**

Sarah Fertig stated several bills are being tracked from the Medicaid viewpoint. The Medicaid expansion Senate Bill 287 has been introduced in the legislative session in hopes for a hearing. Sarah stated House Bill 2249 is being introduced that would increase the protected income limit to 150% of SSI. The legislators discussed increasing the PIL to 300% of SSI with a cost associated to this increase. KDHE's regulation codifying the PIL 150% of SSI took effect in January, which has the same effect of laws the state statute ensures. Also, Senate Bill 227 would require Medicaid to provide adult dental benefits. Sarah stated one bill has been successful this session which would create a rural emergency clinic to provide services for rural hospitals and outpatient clinics. Sarah mentioned a bill that would create Community Behavioral Health Clinics within the state. This bill has passed on the Senate side and is awaiting approval in the House. The COVID-19 relief bill would allow the state to obtain an extra 10% towards FMAP between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022 to enhance HCBS. The relief bill also allows Kansas to draw down 100% of federal matching funds for the COVID-19 vaccine administration beginning, April 1. Sarah mentioned the legislators are interested in investing \$175 million in new Medicaid spending over the next two fiscal years.

Chris Swartz stated KDHE is consistent with 150 to 200 applications that will be past the 45-day limit, which includes long term care applications. The Federal market open enrollment ended at the end of December and KDHE received 16,800 applications. Chris mentioned CMS has open enrollment at the market level which will start January 15 and go through May 15. KDHE has only had an uptake of 350 applications this February compared to last year. Chris stated the new contractor Conduent came on board and started processing the family medical applications and other work associated to eligibility. KDHE and Conduent meet weekly to provide updates. KDHE is continuing to process the long-term care elderly and disabled applications.

**KDADS Update – Amy Penrod, Commissioner, Community Services and Programs Commission, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services**

Amy Penrod gave an update on IDD waiver and PD waiver wait lists. As of January, there are 4,493 individuals on the wait list for the IDD waiver and 2,064 individuals on the wait list for the PD waiver. KDADS has spoken with some of the stakeholders to discuss how we can partner together to assess the needs of individuals on the wait list. KDADS is helping individuals with acquired brain injuries from birth on up along with traumatic brain injuries. KDADS has a good volunteer group of brain injury waiver stakeholders that have been meeting to discuss and implement policies. Amy stated the governor introduced a budget for the brain injury waiver to cover the additional cost for Fiscal Year 2021 ending June 30 and Fiscal Year 2022 beginning July 1. Concerns were expressed from Dr Rebecca Reddy and Allen Schmidt. Dr Reddy and Amy are going to remain in contact for discussion on this subject.

**Update from KanCare Ombudsman – Kerrie Bacon, KanCare Ombudsman Office**

Kerrie Bacon provided a brief update. Document emailed prior to meeting.

**Updates on KanCare with Q&A**

***Aetna Better Health of Kansas – Lisa Baird***

Lisa Baird provided a brief update. Document emailed prior to meeting.

***Sunflower State Health Plan – Stephanie Rasmussen***

Stephanie Rasmussen provided a brief update. Document emailed prior to meeting.

***United Healthcare Community Plan – Kevin Sparks***

Kevin Sparks provided a brief update. Document emailed prior to meeting.

**Next Meeting: KanCare Advisory Council – June 24, 2021, 2:00-4:00 pm via Zoom.**