



## **JOHNSON COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING** **2021 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

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Janeé Hanzlick

### **Area Agency on Aging**

Dan Goodman, Director

### **Area Agency on Aging**

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**The Johnson County Commission on Aging supports the following:**

- 1. Full funding of the Senior Care Act (SCA) for Area Agencies on Aging.** These services are essential to keep the aging population out of the Medicaid Nursing Home Program and are cost effective for the state and federal funding sources that support the frail and elderly population.
- 2. Medicaid expansion through KanCare in Kansas.** The County is required to have a public health department and provide mental health services and the decision to limit Medicaid expansion has an impact on the citizens of Johnson County. Absent the state's participation in Medicaid expansion, county taxpayers are required to pay for these services that would otherwise be covered by Medicaid. Through local tax revenue, Johnson County provides charitable care for mental health services and uncompensated care for emergency medical care through Medical Action (MED-ACT) that could be significantly reduced by Medicaid expansion.
- 3. The evaluation of the success of HCBS waiver programs within KanCare to determine if the KanCare program is well suited for continued oversight of HCBS waiver programs.** No integration of HCBS waivers should be considered at least until all HCBS waiver programs have stabilized and quality concerns are sufficiently addressed, regardless of whether the HCBS waivers reside in or out of the KanCare program.
- 4. The gradual, incremental reduction in state sales tax on food and pharmaceuticals.**
- 5. Expanding the eligibility of the Homestead Act and SAFESR – Kansas Property Tax Relief for Low Income Seniors to provide property tax relief for those on fixed incomes.**

Approved by COA Board July 8, 2020