Introductions & Member Updates
Kim Perry with JCDS shared information on Community Employment. There will be informational sessions about End-Dependence Kansas, a five year initiative to increase the employment of Kansans with disabilities. A flyer and brochure will be sent with the minutes.

Information about the Kansas Able Saving Plan will also be attached. Tom Treacy is the Director of the Able Savings Program. 785-296-6251 tom@treasurer.ks.gov Their website is www.kansasstatetreasurer.com

Openings:
Happy Sun Care 913-499-8693

Affiliate Award
The Affiliate of the Month Award for March was presented to the Community Behavioral Health Team (JCDS/JCMHC). Steven Haack nominated the entire team: Carla Sadler, Jill Haack, and Thomas Pool as provider of the month for their ongoing support to assist individuals with significant behavioral challenges in Johnson County. Thank you to this team for their expertise, patience, and skills to handle crisis and sometimes adversarial conditions.

Guest Presenter
- Viki Schmidt, Community Development Coordinator, and Dawn Powers, Assistant Grants Manager shared information about the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). There is an application workshop April 18th at 1:30 at the Sunset Drive Building, 11811 S. Sunset Drive Suite 1300, Olathe, KS 66061. Grant applications are due by May 26, 2017.
- Visit their website for more information: http://jocogov.org/dept/community-development/home.
- If you want to sign up to receive emails about grants contact Vicki Schmidt at 913-715-8991.
- Johnson County One Assist Line 913.715.8989 is designed to give people in need a simple first stop on the way to finding help. Johnson County officials hope it will simplify things for people who don’t know where to turn. Calls will be answered by a social worker who can sort out which agencies to ask for help. The number will be answered during business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Advocacy Update
- Jody Hanson, JCDS Community Relations provided a Kansas Legislative Update. Please see attached notes.

CDDO Updates
- Johnson County CDDO is participating in the pilot for the new eligibility tool and is hosting a MFEI Briefing for Affiliates – 3.28.17 from 10-10:55 AM, KU Edwards Campus, Room 255.
- I/DD Provider Spring Summit on 4/13 – Registration is OPEN. 47 registrations have been received to date. Capacity is 100 attendees. Registration deadline is April 7th.
- The CDDO is also hosting a KanCare Ombudsman Medicaid Training – 5.17.17 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, JCDS Elmore Center. This would be most beneficial for new staff who want to better understand Medicaid benefits and processes. Training outline:
  - 9-9:50 am: KanCare and HCBS Waiver Programs Overview
  - 10-10:50 am: How to Assist with Medicaid Applications
  - 11-11:50 am: Medicaid and Medicaid Related Resources & Support
- The CDDO Team has been working on service definitions updates so all terms will be consistent with terms used for I/DD Waiver Services by KDADS, the MCOs and the CDDO.
  - This will include revised forms, choice lists, the CDDO website, and BCI. Affiliates will be notified as changes occur.

State Updates/Workgroups/Policies
- Public comment period open for KanCare Extension - February 16, 2017 to March 24, 2017 – email or snail mail comments to KDHE
  - Public meetings on 3/20 (Wichita) and 3/21 (Topeka) from 3-5 pm and 3/27 (Topeka) from 2:00-3:30 pm. Meetings have also been requested by the Kansas Legislature for Johnson County and western Kansas.

Guest Presenter
- Marsha Connor, Executive Director Strategic Programs/Dual Special Needs Population, Becky Smith, Senior Clinical Program Manager, and Justin Maddux, Agent Manager with United Health Care, shared information about the Dual Special Needs Population pilot in Johnson, Wyandotte and Sedgwick County. If you are a Kansas resident and have both Medicare and Medicaid you may be eligible for the United Healthcare Dual Complete plan. It combines doctor, hospital and prescription drug coverage into one plan. Plus, it provides more benefits than original Medicare for a $0 plan premium. This includes $2,000 toward dental services, up to $720 in credits annually for products (Health Products Catalog) that include: dental, eye and ear care items, pain relievers, cold remedies, vitamins, thermometers, blood pressure monitors and more. There is also some hearing and vision coverage. This plan has an open enrollment and may be dropped at any time. You can contact Marsha at 913-333-4245 or Justin at 913-333-4033 for more information. The presentation materials will be sent out to the network as soon as UHC sends them to the affiliate network.
Upcoming CDDO Meetings/Trainings – RSVP to Gail Lauri gail.lauri@jocogov.org

- 3.28.17 – MFEI Briefing for Affiliates, 10-10:55 AM, KU Edwards Campus, Room 255.
- 4.13.17 I/DD Provider Spring Summit, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, KU Edwards Campus, Best Conference Center, Room 120
- 4.20.17 CDDO/KDADS Quarterly Calls, JCDS Elmore Center, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
- 5.17.17 KanCare Ombudsman Medicaid Training, JCDS Elmore Center, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- 2017 BASIS Training Dates – Overview provided by CDDO BASIS team.
  - 6.27.17, 10.5.17 from 10:00-11:30, Room 111 at the Elmore Center.

Next Johnson County Affiliates Meeting – May 11, 2017
KU Edwards Campus
Regnier Hall Room #255
Who We Are

About Us
Johnson County Developmental Supports employment professionals have been partnering with businesses to match qualified candidates to employers needs since 1972.

We Can Reduce Your Hiring and Training Costs!

- JCDS provides recruiting services that match reliable and qualified applicants with your workforce needs.
- There is no charge to the employer for consultation on the services and supports we provide.

Connect With Us
JCDS is always looking for new business partnerships in the community. Current employers we partner include the Dillard's Distribution Center, the Johnson County Sheriff's Department, and Sunflower Health Plan, among many others.
Let us show you how a partnership with us can benefit your business by connecting you with dedicated, capable workers. Our goal is competitive employment for those we support.

Contact Us
COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT
Kim Perry - Team Leader
Phone: 913.826.2340
Email: kim.perry@jocogov.org
Web: jocogov.org/jcgs

Johnson County Developmental Supports
913.826.2626
End-Dependence

End-Dependence Kansas is a five year initiative to increase the employment of Kansans with disabilities. JCDS is implementing the Vermont Progressive Employment Model, one of three evidence based employment models being implemented through this program.

This model has a business focused approach and offers a continuum of placement and job readiness training options geared to the skills and interests of the individual and the level of engagement negotiated with the business.

Opportunities for engagement between job seekers and prospective employers include:

- Company Tours
- Informational Interviews
- Job Shadowing
- Short Term Work Experiences

**Hiring workers with intellectual and developmental disabilities is not a charitable act...it's just good business.**

End-Dependence Kansas is funded through Title I - Vocational Rehabilitation of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Title IV of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act). Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Education (CFDA 84.126A). A total of 78.7% of the project funds are federal dollars referenced above. There are no non-government sources of funds. This program is provided by the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is an education and employment program which focuses on internships and an education component for adults with an intellectual/developmental disability.

Johnson County Developmental Supports implemented the first adult model of Project SEARCH in August of 2014.

Interns spend their time immersed in a host business site completing three internship rotations designed to teach them marketable, transferable work skills.

Project SEARCH is a proven successful model with the Johnson County program having a 100% successful employment rate in their first program year.

Community Employment at JCDS

For over 40 years Johnson County businesses have counted on the quality of our recruitment services and the capabilities of our employees.

We can help employers reduce hiring costs by putting the right person in the right job.

* Our employment team can match your needs with interested and qualified candidates.

* We provide on-site training and support to ensure the employee has the opportunity to succeed in their job.

Employers who hire individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities rate these employees favorably as productive, dedicated, and responsible employees who have a positive effect on the businesses that hire them.
Join us to learn more about the End-Dependence Kansas program and the benefits of progressive employment aimed at securing competitive employment for job seekers.

Informational Sessions
Tuesday, April 4th, 2017
2:30 PM & 6:00 PM
Johnson County Administration Bldg.
111 S. Cherry St.
Olathe, KS 66061

End-Dependence Kansas is a five year initiative to increase the employment of Kansans with disabilities.

JCDS is implementing the Vermont Progressive Employment Model, one of three evidence based employment models being implemented through this program.

Opportunities for engagement between job seekers and prospective employers include:
Company Tours
Informational Interviews
Job Shadowing
Short term Work Experiences
Legislative update for JoCo Affiliate meeting  
Mar. 9, 2017

Requested information:

Members of Senate Ways and Means (held hearing on SB 173)

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Members of Bob Bethell oversight committee

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Overall current main issues/talking points

1) Our state’s I/DD system is at a crisis point right now. We haven’t had a rate increase in nearly a decade. SB 173 starts to get us back on the right path with 5% rate increases in FY 2018, 2019 and 2020.

2) KanCare has been a struggle for I/DD system. Work on a bill to modernize the DDRA is underway. The primary objective is to remove I/DD long-term supports from KanCare.

3) Another bill being worked on would require legislative approval of any changes to the Medicaid program as protection from potential block grants.

4) KanCare extension: InterHab is not opposed to the extension KanCare because we don’t want the KanCare 2.0 RFP to be rushed.

Bills we are watching

SB 173  Rate Bill
Department of health and environment-division of health care finance, appropriations for fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020 for 5% rate increase for providers under the home and community based services Medicaid waivers

Status: Committee on Ways and Means, hearing Tuesday, March 7 went very well. Committee appears receptive to a rate adjustment.
Desired next steps: Have it pass favorably out for W&M, get it on the Senate floor for debate.

SB 69 KanCare process and contract requirements (establishes new rules for the MCO’s.)
Summary: Bill contains several rules for MCO’s to follow:
- Provide accurate client data and education on billing and reimbursements to providers
- Respond to a provider request for patient encounter information within 30 days
- Develop uniform processes and forms for credentialing providers, documentation on denials, and appeals.
- Caps on administrative spending for MCOs
- Sending letters and documentation to providers when a final decision is made on an appeal and a penalty of up to $1,000 when a letter is not sent
- Rules on how a provider can request and independent third party review.

Status: Sent to an exempt committee, put back on Senate General Orders

HB 2047 Transfer of the inspector general to the office of the attorney general
Summary: Inspector General Position resides in KDHE but has been dormant since 2014. Moving it to AG office would give it some teeth. Derek Schmidt testified he’d be fine with the move as long as it came with funding.

Status: Referred to exempt committee (Appropriations)

SB 153 Requiring targeted case management for recipients of home and community based services.
Summary: Would add back targeted case management to all of the HCBS waivers.

SB 160, HB 2299 Establishing an independent home and community based services ombudsman.
Summary: An outside contractor would provide the services of KanCare ombudsman. Currently resides in KDHE.
Status: Sent to an exempt committee, put back on Senate General Orders. House bill has a hearing in Health and Human Services on 3.13

HB2148 Autism Awareness license plate.
Status: Hearing on 3.9 in Senate Transportation. Already passed the House.

Budget and taxes

- Senate Ways and Means to look at a rescission bill on Monday to deal with budget shortfall for FY 2017 (ends June 30.)
- On Tuesday, Senate destroyed the Governor’s tax bill
- New school finance formula needed by June 30

Bob Bethell oversight committee hearing on Feb. 24:

- Testimony both pro- and con-KanCare
- There was some discussion throughout the day about the difference between MCO care coordinators and Targeted Case Manager. Sen. Bollier wanted to know that if the legislature did not pass the TCM bill, could the state insist on TCM for all waivers in the RFP. Mike Randol from KDHE said he was willing to make that part of the discussion.
- KDHE’s presentation stated $1.4 billion in savings, or cost avoidance, and several committee members wanted to know why that savings hasn’t gone towards taking people off the I/DD waiting list.
- Are the state agencies and MCO’s tracking the number of providers that are accepting/not accepting Medicaid patients? Has capacity for Medicaid decreased after the 4% cuts?
- Progress made since CMS letters and denial of extending KanCare past December 2017.
- Concerns that MCOS made $40 million in profit. Could that money help pay for an inspector general or getting people off the waiting lists?
- Next meeting April 19 or 26.

CMS/KanCare extension request

- CMS was in Kansas City for on-site review in October, denied the state’s request to extend KanCare past Dec. 31, 2017.
- Update to House Social Services Budget committee this week: Continue to dispute findings from CMS.
- Public meetings about the proposed extension will take place on March 20 in Topeka and March 21 in Wichita. Rep. Clayton is asking for a meeting in Johnson County. Check the KDADS web site: http://www.kancare.ks.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/notice-of-opportunity-to-review-and-comment---kancare-extension---02-08-16---final.pdf?sfvrsn=0

American Health Care Act: Bill that would restructure Medicaid and reform the Affordable Care Act. House is working on the bills this week. ANCOR has issued an Action Alert and shared some talking points.

- It is ill-advised for the various committees to move forward with this legislation absent a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) "score." The score is intended to inform Members of Congress of the budgetary and coverage consequences of enacting legislation.
- The reduction of the 6 percent increase the Community First Choice Option (CFCO), is misguided and could lead to greater institutionalization of vulnerable Medicaid populations.
- Repealing the requirement of state Medicaid programs to provide the same essential health benefits as plans offered on the exchanges could decrease access to services for people with disabilities.
- We need greater information regarding the calculation of the per-capita cap going forward, noting that the uncertainty behind the payment could lead states to reducing coverage to optional services and populations.
- We are concerned over how states will comply with the requirement to re-determine Medicaid eligibility every sixth months for the expansion population.
There are two ways you can share these points with Members of Congress:

1. **Call their offices!** Calling is a more personal effort and thus is taken into greater consideration by Congressional offices. You will find a revised script, calling instruction and a tool to call your nearest Congressional office [here](#).

2. **Email their offices directly** through our [newly revised email action tool](#), which lays out ways in which Congress must do better. You will be asked to fill out a form so our action tool can identify your Member of Congress and meet requirements for emails sent directly to Congressional offices.

Below is a way to monitor activity at the federal level from our national association, ANCOR. First link is the main page. Second link is registration to their distribution list.

[http://amplifier.ancor.org/ancor/saveourservices](http://amplifier.ancor.org/ancor/saveourservices)

[http://amplifier.ancor.org/ancor/app/register?3&m=46872](http://amplifier.ancor.org/ancor/app/register?3&m=46872)

**Suggestions on how to monitor the legislature:**
The [Kansas Legislature web site](#) has a host of information including calendars, legislator contact information and committee assignments, and links to live audio broadcasts. You can also track bills online.

The Senate standing committees you may want to watch are [Ways and Means](#) and [Public Health and Welfare](#). On the House side, [Appropriations](#), [Social Services Budget](#) and [Health & Human Services](#) are ones to monitor.

An important joint committee to watch is the [Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight](#).

The Kansas State Library has a toll-free legislative hotline with reference librarians available to answer legislative questions. The phone number is 1-800-432-3924 or you can text questions to 785-256-0733 (charges may apply.)

News outlets are another information resource and below are direct links to statehouse or politics sections for news outlets we monitor.

[Kansas City Star](#)
[Kansas News Service](#) (formerly KHI News Service, now a part of KCUR)
[Topeka Capital-Journal](#)
[Wichita Eagle](#)

Finally, if you are a Twitter user, many tweets about happenings at the statehouse include the hashtag #ksleg so that’s a good one to search. You can also follow legislators, as well as journalists who cover the statehouse.

JCDS provides information via a weekly email. Please send an email to [jody.hanson@jocogov.org](mailto:jody.hanson@jocogov.org) if you’d like to be added. We also share information on Facebook and Twitter:

[https://www.facebook.com/jocejcds/](https://www.facebook.com/jocejcds/)
[https://twitter.com/JoCoJCDS](https://twitter.com/JoCoJCDS)
Who’s eligible?

You can open the account for yourself, or an authorized individual can open one on your behalf, if:

• You are entitled to SSI or SSDI because of your disability; and
• your disability was present before age 26.

(The account owner or authorized individual must certify the disability. See Plan Disclosure Documents for details.)

What are Qualified Disability Expenses?

These are ANY expenses that are incurred as a result of living with a disability and are intended to improve your quality of life. Qualified expenses include, but are not limited to:

• Education
• Health and wellness
• Housing
• Transportation
• Legal fees
• Financial management
• Employment training and support
• Assistive technology
• Personal support services
• Oversight and monitoring
• Funeral and burial expenses.

(Withdrawals for non-qualified expenses will be taxed at the account owner’s tax rate, and will be subject to a 10% federal tax penalty and applicable state taxes.)

Investment options to fit your needs.

From aggressive options seeking higher returns to conservative investments that place preservation over growth, the Kansas ABLE Savings Plan has choices for every investor. Visit ks.savewithable.com for the six portfolio options available.

To get started:

Visit ks.savewithable.com to open an account.

For more information:

Call us at 1-888-609-8919, or email us at ks.clientservice@savewithable.com.
Making saving easier helps make life better.

There's no limit to what individuals with disabilities can do. Now, that includes saving, too.
The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) of 2014 allows those with disabilities and their families to save for many daily, disability-related expenses on a tax-deferred basis – without limiting their ability to benefit from supplemental security income (SSI), Medicaid, and other federal programs.

Plan highlights

Special tax advantages
- Earnings may compound federally tax-deferred, maximizing the return on your return.
- Withdrawals are tax-free, if used for qualified disability expenses.¹

No impact on current benefits
- Balances under $100,000 are excluded from the SSI resource limit.²
- You'll continue to be eligible for Medicaid, regardless of your account balance.³

User-friendly
- Open an account online with as little as $25.
- Access your account 24/7 from a PC, tablet, or mobile device.
- Access by phone or online.

¹Earnings on non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal income tax and a 10% federal penalty tax, as well as applicable state and local income taxes.
²Please see the Plan Disclosure Documents for complete details on SSI suspension and any requirements on when you use the funds to prevent suspension of benefits.
³Upon the death of the account owner, the state Medicaid agency shall be a creditor for the total medical assistance paid under the State's Medicaid program or on behalf of the account owner after the establishment of the account, upon filing of a claim for payment by such state.

For more information about the Kansas ABLE Savings Plan (the "Member Plan"), call 1-888-609-8919, or visit ks.savewithable.com to obtain Plan Disclosure Documents, which include investment objectives, risks, charges, expenses, and other important information; read and consider it carefully before investing.

Investors should consider before investing whether their home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investments in such state's qualified ABLE program and should consult their legal, tax advisor and/or other advisor regarding their specific legal, investment or tax situation.

The Member Plan is sponsored by the state of Kansas and administered by the Kansas State Treasurer's Office. The Member Plan is one of the qualified ABLE plans issued by the Ascensus ABLE Consortium Trust. Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC, the Program Manager, and its affiliates have overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations, including investment advisory, recordkeeping and administrative services. The Member Plan offers a series of investments: options within the Ascensus ABLE Consortium Trust. The Member Plan is intended to operate as a qualified ABLE plan to be used only to save for Qualified Disability Expenses, pursuant to the Section 529A of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

To all your abilities, now add the ability to save.

The National ABLE Alliance is a partnership of States dedicated to providing the disability community with an ABLE investment product that offers multiple financial options at low cost.