



KHA's Capitol Comments
January 18, 2024

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Hears Update on IDD Waiver Lists

Today, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, chaired by Senator Beverly Gossage (R-Eudora), heard from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services regarding the Intellectual / Developmental Disability Waiver Program list. The committee heard about the work the agency has done on the waiver for the home- and community-based services process. The committee learned the IDD waiver is the largest of seven programs administered by KDADS. They reported while the waiver currently serves more than 8,800 Kansans, there are 5,187 currently on the waiver waiting list for home- and community-based services. The agency emphasized the work and recommendations of the legislative interim committee.

The estimates provided to the committee include the standard 60/40 federal/state split and are estimated to be between \$72 million and \$129 million of all funds. The estimates include a monthly \$20,000 cap in services. The agency described the most recent changes and work implemented by KDADS to assist those receiving waiver services.

The committee inquired as to why the CMS waivers application has taken so long and if a consultant is truly needed. The committee learned the Missouri IDD waiting has decreased, and staff indicated more services could be offered through Medicaid expansion. The agency highlighted 70 percent of those on the list are already on Medicaid. The committee asked what the wages are for those working (\$10-\$15/hour on average. The wages include some Federal Medical Assistance Percentage and hiring bonuses). The committee also asked how many direct care service workers are needed to assist those on the waiting lists.

Cancer Day at the Capitol

Today, guests recognized for the survival and investments in cancer prevention and recovery in Kansas visited the statehouse and chamber floors. Visitors and legislators had access to screening services and informational resources focused on cancer care. Many committees, including the House and Senate Commerce Committees, heard from Doug Girod, MD, FACS, and Ron Chien, MD, MPH, K.U. Cancer Center.

The House Health and Human Services Committee also heard from industry experts about cancer care in the state. The committee heard from Megan Word with American Cancer Society – Kansas Chapter. Word gave the committee an outlook on cancer diagnosis and projects in Kansas, noting that 5,660 Kansans are likely to die from cancer in 2024. She highlighted socio-economic factors, cancer rates and other risk factors that contribute to cancer, as well as the treatments and tools now available to detect cancer earlier. Roy Jensen, MD, the University of Kansas Cancer Center, discussed the National Cancer Institute Comprehensive designation.

The committee asked conferees about the following topics:

- Prior authorization and if it impedes access for cancer patients
- Medicaid expansion and if it is important for cancer patients
- Artificial intelligence and data privacy
- Proton therapy
- Cellular and gene therapy
- Physician and nurse shortages
- Third-party payment system is trying to defuse the high costs, what public policy can deal with that
- The percentage of patients covered by Medicaid and private pay

House and Senate Send First Bill of 2024 to the Governor

The tax compromise bill contained in House Bill 2284 is the compromise tax plan worked on early in session between House and Senate Tax Committee leaders. The bill now contains provisions held over from the tax plan from 2023, including the single rate for state income tax and the standard deduction indexing. The plan also includes:

- Additional provisions such as exempting social security income from state income tax
- Expediting the elimination of the food ingredient sales tax
- Including residential property tax exemptions up to \$100k from the state portion of the property taxes.

The legislation passed the Senate yesterday on a vote of [25-11](#), and passed the House today on a vote of [81-37](#). The bill will now go to the governor in the coming days.