

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Gary Daniels, Secretary

Legislative Budget Committee

August 7, 2006

HCBS Waiver/ Physical Disabilities Waiting List Reduction

Health Care Policy
Gary Daniels, Secretary

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Chairman Umbarger and members of the Committee, I am Gary Daniels, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). Thank you for the opportunity to discuss waiting list reductions for the Physical Disabilities waiver.

The 2006 Legislature requested, through the following proviso, that SRS provide information to the legislative budget committee regarding the use of funds that were allocated to the home and community based services waiver for persons with physical disabilities (HCBS/PD).

Provided, that, of the moneys appropriated in the community based services account for fiscal year 2007 by the 2006 Senate Bill No. 480 or by this or other appropriation act of the 2006 regular session of the legislature, which are related to the home and community based services for persons with physical disabilities waiver the secretary of social and rehabilitation services shall determine the portion of such funding to be used for reducing the waiting list for such waiver and the portion of such funding to be used for increasing compensation for persons caring for individuals receiving services under such waiver; Provided further, that the department of social and rehabilitation services shall report the decision regarding this issue to the legislative budget committee on or before August 31, 2006.

This request was specifically related to the portion of funds that would be used for reducing the waiting list and the portion that would be used for increasing compensation for persons providing services. The additional funding budgeted for the HCBS/PD waiver for FY 2007 was \$4,252,820 SGF (\$10,742,031 AF).

At the conclusion of the 2006 legislative session, SRS held a meeting with key stakeholders, such as providers and advocates, to discuss the directive to look at the use of the new funding. Projections were, and continue to be, that the entire allocation would be needed to maintain no waiting list. It was the consensus of stakeholders that there be no waiting list, and that reimbursement rates remain unchanged. With this information, SRS made the decision that reimbursement rates for the HCBS/PD waiver would remain unchanged and that the program strive to maintain no waiting list during the year.

On July 1, 2006, SRS offered waiver services to 262 individuals who were waiting for services through the HCBS/PD waiver. The waiver is now serving more than 6,000 individuals. At this time, individuals requesting services and have been found eligible for services may begin

services immediately, there is no waiting list. With the additional funding, SRS projects that for FY 2007, SRS should be able to maintain the program at zero or near zero persons waiting for access to services. To maintain the program without a waiting list, the entire \$10,742,031 AF will be utilized. This does not allow for an increase in the compensation to care providers. If reimbursement rates would be increased, there would be the need for the implementation of a waiting list during the year.

This concludes SRS's testimony regarding funding for the HCBS/PD waiver. Thank you for the opportunity to present this information. I will be happy to stand for questions.