



Feb. 11, 2021

Chairwoman McGinn and members of the Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health; thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the KDADS FY 2022 budget.

Our recommendations today are directed to KDADS adult care home survey programs which address the specific needs of older Kansans in long-term care facilities. We urge this issue as a priority because of the injuries and loss of life that have occurred in long term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**We ask the committee to provide increased funding to KDADS to allow it to fulfill its federally and state mandated oversight functions and required inspection time frames for adult care facilities. This oversight and enforcement function is intended to encourage best practices, prevent abuse and neglect of residents and address quality of care issues such as pre-and during pandemic understaffing and infection control policies and practices, among others.**

KDADS is responsible for the program of specially trained nurses who inspect health and safety conditions in licensed adult care facilities. KDADS nursing facility survey unit is under contract to the federal government to do these inspection. Prior to the pandemic, inspector vacancies ranged from 22-18 were consistent and were on-going.

The COVID-19 pandemic has compromised the survey system for obvious reasons. Surveys have been focused on infection control and complaint investigations, and reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Other routine surveys may be more limited than in the past. Ongoing issues of resident-family visitation must be addressed for the health and safety of residents, and for their quality of life. We expect this will place an increased burden on complaint surveys.

KDADS also inspects the 400+ state licensed only adult care facilities (assisted, residential health care, and home plus). KDADS continues to be greatly delayed in completing these inspections up to and over two years, well beyond the 12 months mandated. Many older adults with dementia and high care needs live in these facilities. The rate of deficiencies has grown in these facilities during the years that survey timeframes have grown longer. KDADS does not have the resources to fully staff this unit.

Our collective goal should be the health and safety of our adult care home residents. Providing KDADS with resources for adequate staffing of its oversight commission will help that goal be realized.

Margaret Farley, Executive Director - On behalf of Board of Directors and Members

KABC is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of long-term care for elders in all settings – nursing and assisted facilities and in-home. KABC is not a provider of government funded services. For over 45 years KABC's role has been as a resource and advocate for older adults and families and as a resource to policy makers on aging and quality care issues. KABC provides consumer education information and tracks and reports on quality care performance issues.