



WICHITA STATE
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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
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Feedback Summary

for

Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services

HCBS Settings Final Rule Public Comment Meetings

June 10-17, 2016

Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services

CMS HCBS Settings Final Rule

Public Comment Meetings

Summary

The Kansas Department for Aging & Disability Services (KDADS) is making plans to comply with Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements known as the HCBS Settings Final Rule, or Final Rule. The rule sets required characteristics of settings where Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) are provided. Kansas is in the process of revising its Statewide Transition Plan, required by CMS to detail the state's plan to comply with these new requirements by March of 2019. A series of public comment meetings were held to educate stakeholders about the Final Rule and allow them to provide comment to KDADS as it moves forward. Meetings were held with target groups expected to be most impacted by the Final Rule: Community Developmental Disability Organizations (CDDOs) representing providers serving people intellectual or developmental disabilities and Adult Care Homes representing providers serving people who are considered frail/elderly. Following these meetings, eight public comment meetings were held in four cities throughout the state.

These meetings allowed waiver participants, providers, advocates, and stakeholders asked questions and provided feedback for the State to consider as it moves forward with planning and implementation of the Final Rule requirements. A brief presentation, followed by a question and answer session was held before attendees engaged in table discussion. To encourage discussion and feedback, attendees were asked to respond with what they “hope for” as a result of the requirements and what they “like” about the Final Rule. They were also asked to share their greatest concerns and comments related to the implementation and outcomes of the Final Rule. Notes were recorded by each table on flip-charts and collected by meeting facilitators at the conclusion of the meeting. Attendees “called-out” their responses which were also recorded. They were also offered an opportunity to provide feedback on a paper survey available during the meetings and online. Attendees were also told they could comment via email to a special KDADS address.

Feedback Received

This summary is based on 135 individual comments collected during the public comment meetings and 41 completed surveys. Provided here are identified themes of the feedback responses from stakeholders. Raw feedback from the public comment meetings is also being provided to KDADS as a supplement to this summary. Since they followed similar themes, responses to what people hope for and like about the requirements are reported together, as are concerns and other comments.

What do you “like” about the requirements and “hope for” as a result of implementation?

Comments related to both “hopes for” the outcome of the final rule and what people “like” about it were closely related. Three clear themes emerged:

- Attendees liked that services will be more person centered.

- Attendees liked the intent for people receiving services more integrated in their communities.
- Attendees hope that a more person centered approach and greater integration will be the true outcome when the rule is implemented.

What are your concerns?

The most reported concerns were:

- Inadequacy of reimbursement rates to support requirements.
- Cost of implementation.
- Changes will cause providers to close.
- Sheltered workshops may no longer be available coupled with limited availability of integrated employment resulting in less vocational opportunity.
- The above listed concerns will in an unintended result of less choice and reduced inclusion.

Other Comments

Common themes for comments offered by attendees included:

- More clarification and more information about the final rule.
- More involvement and voice for stakeholders;
- Concerns about situations where the person served choice is in conflict with requirements. What happens when a client wants to continue at the sheltered workshop or in a setting that does not meet all requirements?

Questions

Questions centered around implementation and planning for the Final Rule, including what the timeline is, when the state will know what changes need made, and where they can get more information. A primary area of questions related to daytime services (day supports, sheltered workshops, employment). These questions focused on how and if sheltered workshops can comply with the rule and how integrated employment can be expanded.

Overall Summary

Overall, feedback indicates that while stakeholders support the ideals of the Final Rule and are hopeful that it will result people receiving HCBS services in more integrated community settings, there remain strong concerns about resources available to support this change and consequences especially related to availability of day services and settings.