



better elder care, no matter where

Dan Goodman, Executive Director

Kansas Advocates News

Frail Elderly Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver

Kansas is creating a waitlist for the Frail Elderly (FE) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid waiver beginning July 6, 2026. This is not because the need has disappeared—it's because the need has grown faster than the state's willingness to fund it.

These services help older Kansans remain safely and independently in their homes rather than being forced into institutional care. We estimate that about 600 older adults could be affected initially, potentially growing to 1,700 by the end of SFY 2027, based on the last FE waitlist in 2003.

For families already stretched thin caring for aging loved ones, waiting can mean going without help with bathing, meals, medications, and other basic needs. And because **HCBS generally costs about one-third as much as nursing facility care, supporting people at home can also be a more cost-effective use of taxpayer dollars.**

Yet legislators declined the approximately \$31 million needed to prevent the waitlist while approving a \$200 million nursing facility rate increase in 2025.

The question is simple: **Is this about what Kansas can afford—or what Kansas chooses to prioritize?**

Older Kansans should not have to wait for the services that allow them to live safely, independently, and with dignity.



Inside this issue

Frail Elderly Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver.....	1
Annual Fundraiser.....	2
Wichita Community Event.....	3
DCCCA Good News.....	4
Practical Solutions for Older Kansans.....	4
Kansas Aging Resource Guide.....	5
KABC Office Staff Updates.....	6
Consumer Assistance.....	6
Caregiver Training and Membership Meeting.....	7

About KABC

Kansas Advocates for Better Care was founded in 1975 by citizens who were concerned about the poor care and undignified living situations in nursing homes. KABC incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We do not receive funding from any state or federal agency, and depend entirely on membership dues, contributions and grants for special purposes to keep our doors open so we can help Kansans in their search for quality long-term care choices for loved ones.

Annual Fundraiser Event 2026



Trivia Night with KABC is our NEW **fundraiser event to raise the funds needed to improve care for older Kansans.**

Join KABC on Tuesday Evening, October 20th from 5pm-7pm at Fields & Ivy Brewery to support older adults, honor their resilience, and advocate for a future of better care that we know is possible.

For this years event we are holding a trivia night with questions about KABC, Long-term Care, history of Lawrence, Eldercare and more! The night will begin with introductions of the event as well as our guest speaker, Haely Ordoyne, from the Kansas State Long-term Care Ombudsmen office. Haely will give us a short presentation about her current work and educate the community on what they do. Following this will be the trivia event where everyone can learn and play along, winning prizes during rounds, enjoying food and drinks while mingling. The prizes have been donated from local businesses supporting KABC! We want to thank them for their generosity and will include them in our flyer's and other promotions of the event.

Want to sponsor or donate to the event?

Please make checks payable to: **Kansas Advocates for Better Care**
536 Fireside Ct., Suite B, Lawrence, KS 66049
or donate online at www.kabc.org/trivia-night



Wichita Community Event – July 2026

KABC and the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature hosted “Caring for Older Kansans: How Are You Doing?” on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at the Rockwell Branch Library in Wichita. The event focused on long-term care, aging services, planning for the future, and the rights of older adults.

Former Kansas Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Camille Russell, and elder law attorney, Molly Wood, of Stevens & Brand LLP led the discussion and answered questions from attendees.



Attendees shared concerns about the new Frail Elderly (FE) Home and Community Based Services waiver waitlist, the need for stronger family councils in long-term care facilities, delays and timeliness of the surveys from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, long-term care insurance, and access to quality in-home care. These conversations help ensure that the voices of older Kansans, caregivers, and advocates continue to shape our work and legislative priorities.

We appreciate everyone who attended and shared their experiences. Your input is invaluable as we continue advocating for better long-term care and aging services throughout Kansas.



DCCCA Good News Show

This June, DCCCA CEO, Lori Alvarado, interviewed Libby Hastings, communication and public relations coordinator for Kansas Advocates for Better Care for their Good News radio program. Libby discussed her journey into long-term care advocacy, KABC's services, and the new Kansas Aging Resource Guides. The interview was broadcast on 101.7 FM and 1320 AM KLWN.



Practical Solutions for Older Kansans

Kansas can do better for older Kansans. KABC is focused on three practical issues.

Long-term care oversight: Kansas has 839 long-term care facilities, but KDADS currently has only 32 of 47 authorized surveyor positions filled. KABC is not asking for more regulation here. We are asking KDADS to fulfill its existing responsibility. Kansas should use a multidisciplinary approach to address chronic nurse surveyor vacancies and improve their timely oversight.

Frail Elderly waiver: As of September 28, 366 older Kansans were waiting for services that can help them remain safely at home. Historically, home-based care has cost roughly one-third of nursing facility care. Kansas should fund the waiver or explore immediate supports that can help older persons to avoid institutional care.

Pharmacy choice: Facility residents should not face additional administration fees of up to \$750 per month simply for choosing their own pharmacy. KABC supports legislation protecting residents from these unnecessary financial fees assessed by institutions.

Our bottom line is simple: **fulfill existing oversight responsibilities, keep older Kansans safely at home whenever possible, and protect their right to choose.**

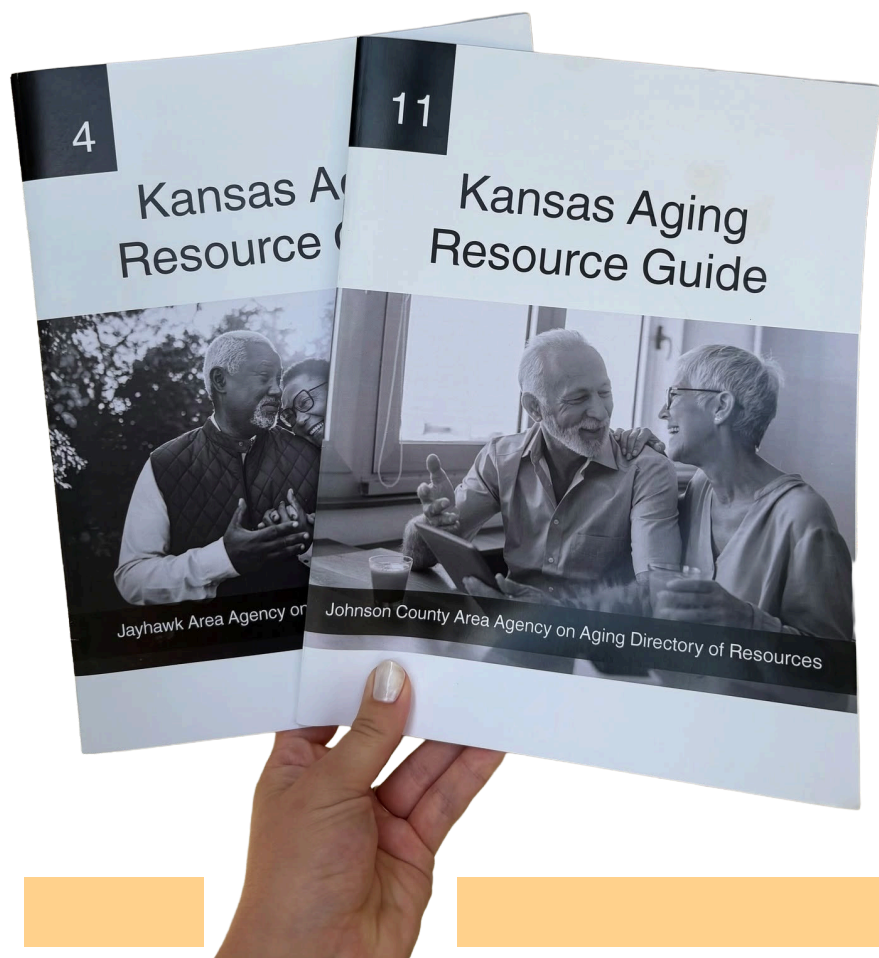
Kansas Aging Resource Guide

One of KABC's biggest projects this year has been one that we believe can make a real difference for older adults, caregivers, and families across Kansas: bringing back a printed resource directory for older adult services, previously called the Explore Your Options guide.

This has been a big project and a big opportunity for KABC. We are incredibly proud to have helped bring this valuable resource back to communities across the state and to make it easier for Kansans to find the services and support available to them.

With support from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, KABC has been working alongside the state's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and other community partners to produce updated resource guides for each region of Kansas. In total, nearly 35,000 printed copies have been produced for distribution throughout the state.

The guides are available through your local AAA. You can find your local AAA at www.k4ad.org/aaa-statewide-map.



All 11 resource guides will soon be available online through KDADS and are currently being added to KABC's website at www.kabc.org/aging-resource-guides.

Often, the challenge isn't that there are no resources available. The challenge is knowing what exists, who provides it, whether you qualify, and how to get connected. That's why access to clear, local information matters.

A resource guide can't solve every problem, but it can give someone a place to start, and sometimes, finding that first phone number or organization is the first step toward getting the help someone needs.

KABC Office Staff Updates

Welcome Sarah and Jeanne!

In April, we brought on our new office assistants, Sarah Riley and Jeanne Ayala-Pagan. They'll be the friendly voices and helpful guides you'll connect with when reaching out to us!

We're so excited to have them on board as they help us continue supporting older Kansans, their families, and caregivers across the state. Be sure to say hello when you call or email. We're lucky to have them!

Sarah

I was born and raised in Lawrence and love being a part of this community!

I have eight years of experience in administrative support. I am passionate about non-profit organizations who are making a difference in the world.



Jeanne

I was born and raised in Lawrence! I still live here currently with my little family.



I have 7 years of combined experience in mental health and substance use services and treatment. I have worked with people of all ages but have always been more concerned with aging and the resources and services for the people who need it. I attended courses at KU and the pursued real-life experiences to further my education and professional expertise.

Consumer Assistance

To report abuse, neglect and exploitation occurring in adult care homes, contact the KDADS hotline: **800-842-0078**

Adult Abuse in the community
APS hotline: **800-922-5330** (24/7)
(Also for reporting care home abuse/neglect after hours)

KanCare Ombudsman **855-643-8180**
KanCare.Ombudsman@ks.gov

Aging & Disability Resource Centers
855-200-2372

Kansas Attorney General
Consumer Protection Division
800-432-2310
Medicaid Fraud **866-551-6328**

For assistance with concerns/problems with adult care homes, call the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman **877-662-8362**
<https://ombudsman.ks.gov>

Elder Law Hotline **888-353-5337**

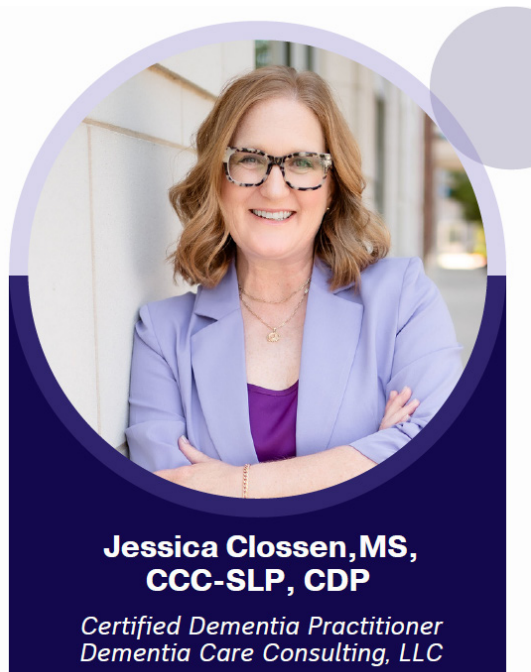
Report suspected Medicare fraud:
800-447-8477

For no-cost mediation regarding problems with Medicare Providers, contact Commence Health **888-755-5580**
<https://www.commencehealthqio.cms.gov/en/States/Kansas>

Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services Care Compare (CMS)
<https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/?providerType=NursingHome>

For one-stop long-term care information:
Kansas Advocates for Better Care
Toll-free: **800-525-1782** Email: info@kabc.org Website: www.kabc.org

Annual Caregiver Training & Membership Meeting



On Thursday, September 10th, KABC hosted our annual caregiver training, with speaker Jessica Clossen, and membership meeting. Over 30 people attended!

The meeting began with a brief introduction to KABC by Libby Hastings, Communications and PR coordinator. Afterward, Karen Weber, KABC Board Vice President, led the membership meeting.

During the membership and business meeting, Karen Weber (Vice President), Dave Ranney (Secretary), Rachel Stahle, Dustin Baker, and Deborah Merrill were unanimously voted to retain their current board positions.

During the caregiver training portion, Navigation Memory Care: Knowing When It Is Time & How To Choose,

Jessica Clossen discussed important tips for navigating memory care, including:

The hidden cost of waiting too long and caregiver burnout

- Defining memory care
- Memory care transition guidance
- What to look for in a memory care setting
- Staffing and training
- Culture and activities
- Dining and daily routines



We are so incredibly thankful to Jessica for sharing her time and expertise with our attendees.

If you'd like to connect with Jessica Clossen, email her at jclossen@dementia-care-consulting.com or call 913-585-5178.

To view the recording of our 2026 caregiver training and membership meeting, please visit our YouTube page. A copy of the presentation slides is available on our website.



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Newsletter Produced by KABC Staff Members

***Join other KABC friends who believe older adults deserve safe and compassionate care.
Protect those you love now and ensure a better future for all of us.***

You've read about the urgent issues facing older Kansans in this newsletter and you can make a difference today. Please complete the form below and return by mail or make your gift online by clicking the [DONATE](http://www.kabc.org) button on the top of the screen at www.kabc.org

Note: A gift of \$100 will deliver immediate guidance and support to five families in search of quality care.

I want to make a difference with my gift today:

___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 Other amount \$ ___

- ☐ **** My Gift is in Honor or Memory** of a loved-one (see below)
- ☐ Please use my gift where needed most
- ☐ Harriet Nehring Education Fund (*provides training & resources for caregivers across Kansas*)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

**** In Honor/Memory of:** _____

All gifts make a difference ~ Thank You!

*Make checks payable to KABC & Mail to:
536 Fireside Ct., Ste. B, Lawrence, KS 66049*