

Melinda K. Miner DDS, AEGD

Owner, Dentist, Kansas Medicaid provider for 16 years

The Dentist PA, 1010 Downing Avenue #10, Hays, Kansas

thedentistmelinda@gmail.com

Testimony for the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight Committee

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Chair Hawkins and members of the committee,

Almost 7,000 children in western Kansas need a new dentist, and there will likely be more in this situation. Why? **After the reimbursement rate cut was announced, at least four dentists in western Kansas and two more in eastern Kansas cancelled their KanCare contracts due to the lack of funding, appreciation, and value put on the dental care they provide.** I am one of those providers. Since I opened my practice in 2000, I have seen costs increase for staffing, building, utilities, and supplies. KanCare reimbursement rates have simply not kept pace with the costs of doing business. Could you pay your staff, rent, supplies, equipment and the electricity bill if you only received 36% of what you need to pay those bills? It's not possible. Even though I have built my practice on the philosophy that every child should be able to get the oral health care they need and served thousands of Kansas Medicaid children for over 16 years, I cannot continue to donate 64% of my work to the state to participate in KanCare and keep my practice open.

Due to underfunding, KanCare does not have nearly enough dental providers to serve the number of children who need dental care. I've seen firsthand how difficult it is for families to find a dentist who will accept KanCare. Over the past year, I saw patients from almost all of the counties in Western Kansas who drove to my office in Hays to find treatment. This is a serious problem that is only getting worse:

- **In Ellis County**, where I live and work, 3,200 people were enrolled in KanCare in 2011 (the most recent data available on KDHE's website). Today there are four general dentists who accept KanCare in Ellis County, and two of those four dentists have given notice to be removed from the program. That leaves two general dentists in the county.
- **Several surrounding counties do not have a single dentist who accepts KanCare.** These include Decatur, Smith, Sherman, Thomas, Mitchell, Wallace, Logan, Trego, Greeley, Scott, Lane, Ness County, Rush, Sheridan, Hodgeman, Gray, Haskell, Morton, Stevens, Meade, Clark, Barber, Edwards and Stafford counties. Over 13,000 people with KanCare insurance live in these counties.
- **There are not enough providers to meet this need.** If you split the state in half there are 32 providers for 56,000 people enrolled in KanCare. These providers do not have room for all these patients, even if they were willing to accept them. If you look at providers who take care of the complex dental cases the number drops to three. Drs. David Hart, E. JoAnne Brown and myself were 3 of 6 providers in western Kansas with the ability to do sedation services and half just dropped out.
- **The Network Access List maintained by KDHE contains outdated and inaccurate data.** Many listed "providers" from my area who I know personally told me they are not providers, never were, and did not know they were on the list. Based on the errors just in my area I questioned the validity of the lists in whole. I decided to reach out to other counties. I took time out of my schedule to pick up the phone and call many dentist offices in Kansas from the list, and I discovered widespread errors. I have attached the results of my own outreach. This should **not** be taken as a definitive list (I did not have time to call all the providers listed in Sedgwick, Johnson, Wyandotte, and some other eastern Kansas counties). I do hope it raises serious questions about whether the state is providing oversight and quality control of the provider directories provided by the MCOs as they decide whether the dental provider network in the state is "adequate." The notes attached are the inconsistencies that I came across and a map of what the state really looks like.

Without providers, there is no KanCare dental coverage. If KanCare's reimbursement rate was comparable to Delta Dental many of the 2,100 dentists in the state would become providers. The network would be adequate. If Kansas would allow mid-level dental providers and keep the supra-gingival scaler assistants we could provide care more cost-effectively to patients with KanCare insurance; the current reimbursement is still inadequate even with that. As it stands, dentists are choosing to end their participation in the program and patients in Kansas are unable to get the care they were promised. Kansas should make the necessary funding and policy decisions to rebuild KanCare's commitment to providing dental care coverage.

Please contact me if I can answer any questions or provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



Melinda Miner, DDS, AEGD

My notes after my phone calls to "providers" from the Network Access List

Ellis County

Dr. Daniel Miner has 300 KanCare kids in his practice. He will not take new patients.
Dr. Michael Holmberg and Melinda Miner have given notice as of December 21, 2016.
Drs. Charis and Charles Brandt Brooks moved out of state earlier this year.
Drs. Kurt Martin, Ronald Roholt, and Larry Good are not, and were never, providers.

Russell county

Dr. Michael has only 200 KanCare patients in his practice. He will not take new patients.

Barton County

Dr. David Hart left the network November 1, 2016.
Dr. Nathan Jergenson moved out of state earlier this year.

Norton County

Dr. Mark Klein retired.

Riley County

Drs. Amy Brockman, Antoinette Cancelada, Oluwatobi Gbemi, and Adam Bowen are no longer providers in this county.
Dr. Danielle Royer works on Fort Riley for the Army.

Morton County

Dr. Bill Tidwell retired. The dentist who bought his practice does not accept KanCare.

Wichita County

Dr. E Joanne Brown gave notice and will no longer be a provider November 30, 2016

Rawlins County

Drs. Roger Minneman, Zachary Shelton, Micah Snyder are no longer providers in this county
Dr. Nathan Schmidt is leaving the clinic in June 2017

Lincoln County

Dr. William Knapp passed away in 2014.

Harvey County

Drs. Justin Dillner, Matthew Tippin, Robert Sweet are not providers.
Dr. Terry Greenstein moved to Kingman County and is no longer a provider.

