

Lawrence attorney appointed as ombudsman for KanCare

Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services has announced the appointment of attorney James Bart, of Lawrence, to serve as KanCare Ombudsman for the State of Kansas.

KanCare is Kansas' new system to provide Medicaid services to consumers in an integrated care model through three new health plans, or managed care organizations, beginning in January.

Bart will be responsible for assisting consumers with unresolved access, service and benefit problems, in particular

individuals participating in a Home and Community Based Services Waiver program or those receiving other long-term care services through KanCare.

"Mr. Bart has the ideal background and experience to help KanCare consumers and assist them in reaching successful, fair resolutions of any problems they might have with the health plans and their providers," department Secretary Shawn Sullivan said. "They will find him to be a strong, effective, caring ally in getting their problems addressed promptly and

satisfactorily."

Bart, a graduate of Creighton University School of Law, also holds a bachelor's degree in Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management from the University of Iowa. With broad experience in advocacy and nonprofit work, Bart currently serves on the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities as a parent representative, is a past vice-chair of the council and was previously leader of the council's executive committee.

He also is a former member of the Arc

of Douglas County, which provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in Douglas, Jefferson, Osage and Franklin counties, where he was active in disability supports and training projects. Mr. Bart has completed the Council of Developmental Disabilities' in-depth advocacy training in community-based outreach and graduate network development. He is also a graduate of "Special Education Law Boot Camp," conducted by Wrightslaw.

The Office of the KanCare Ombuds-

man will be in the New England Building, 503 S. Kansas Ave. in Topeka. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services will provide that office with administrative and other services.

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