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**Kansas set to implement the expanded Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver for Medicaid to include persons with acquired brain injuries, as well as children under the age of 16**

During the 2018 legislative session, the Kansas House and Senate approved an expansion of the State’s Medicaid brain injury program to include both children under 16 and those with acquired brain injury - including stroke, aneurysm, and poisoning.

The expansion of services, spurred by advocacy efforts from the Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City (BIAKS) and others, means that individuals eligible for KanCare (Kansas Medicaid) and who’ve had an acquired brain injury can receive home and community-based services (physical, speech, and occupational therapies and other services) that help rebuild independence and prevent institutionalization in a nursing home.

The Waiver expansion will be implemented sometime in July, pending approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS). Kansas will become one of only a few states in the nation offering a publicly-funded rehabilitation program for children under 16 who have a brain injury.

Those who are Medicaid eligible and have an acquired brain injury (stroke, aneurysm, brain tumor, etc.) may contact the Kansas Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) at 1-855-200-2372 to schedule an assessment. Similarly, parents of children with brain injury may also contact ADRC to receive information about eligibility.

“We congratulate members of the Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City for their successful advocacy in expanding the state’s brain injury waiver to include persons with acquired brain injuries, also known as non-traumatic brain injuries, as well as children, said Susan Connors, president of the Brain Injury Association of America. The expanded waiver will no doubt improve the quality of life for people with all types of brain injury.”

“Brain Injury is a serious public health problem. We applaud the Kansas Legislature for recognizing that all people with brain injuries deserve to have access to the right care at the right time, said Robin Abramowitz, executive director of the Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City.” We look forward to working with other organizations who serve people with acquired brain injuries to increase awareness about the waiver and the types of services available.

“We are excited about the expansion of the brain injury waiver to include stroke; our hope is that many more people will receive critical rehabilitative services in their home and community that restore and maintain their independence” says Jane Savidge, Executive Director, The American Stroke Foundation.
BIAKS serves as the voice for brain injury with a mission to improve the quality of life for those affected by brain injury. The organization provides information and resources, training, support group information, education on preventing brain injuries and a caring ear whenever needed. More information can be found at www.biaks.org