

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns
Annual Report 2015

The Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns’ **vision** is that **all people** with disabilities are entitled to be **equal citizens** and **partners** in **Kansas society**.

**Fiscal Year Highlights:**

KCDC was instrumental in growth and partnerships in the key area of employment:

1. Local Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) committees held events in 31 counties and over 830 students and job seekers with disabilities participated across the state in FY 2015.
2. KCDC continues to support the Employment First Oversight Commission. The employment first policy is that state programs that provide services to people with disabilities must offer assistance with finding competitive integrated employment before offering any other employment options. The 2015 recommendations were published December 31st, 2014. KCDC is the agency that officially staffs the Employment First Oversight Commission.
3. KCDC staffs the Governor's Subcabinet on Disability. The Subcabinet meets four times a year with leaders from the disability community to provide updated information on implementation of KanCare and Employment First. It also responds to questions and requests for information or discussion on issues about state government and people with disabilities.
4. The KCDC website was updated with new information about employment initiatives and disability history information. You can see the updated site at www.kcdcinfo.ks.gov.
5. The 29 Disability Service Maps were updated for the KCDC website for use by Workforce Centers, community-based organizations and other state organizations as a resource tool to find employment-related services and other wrap-around services (<http://www.kcdcinfo.ks.gov/resources/service-maps>).
6. Over 500 news-related messages were distributed during FY 2015 through list serves on KCDCinfo.ks.gov. Information is distributed to businesses, ADA coordinators, community based organizations, employment specialists, employers and people with disabilities.

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**Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns**

**Vision** (destination) – The Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns’ (KCDC) vision is that all people with disabilities are entitled to be equal citizens and equal partners in Kansas society.

People with disabilities and society often do not have expectations of equal citizenship because of attitudinal barriers, institutionalization, and inadequate education. A citizen is a person born or naturalized in the U.S. of America with *all* of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities. An equal partner is one who is an active participant.

**Mission** (what we do) - KCDC is a catalyst for change in government for all people with disabilities.

A catalyst provokes or speeds a significant change or action.

**Values** (how we do it) – KCDC values partnerships, freedom of choice, advocacy, respect and to “do no harm.”

Partnerships – KCDC utilizes the strengths and connections of organizations to achieve our vision.

Freedom of Choice – KCDC recognizes that people have the right to make daily choices about their lives and lifestyles according to their functional abilities.

Advocacy – KCDC advocates for changes in government and other organizations that empower people with disabilities.

Respect – KCDC respects the rights and choices of partners and people with disabilities, and recognizes individual’s capabilities, strengths and potential.

Do No Harm – In regard to government policy, KCDC does not advocate for changes that would adversely affect another person or group in the disability community.

These values serve as a compass to guide our strategies, actions and relationships with government and non-government representatives, organizations, businesses, communities, fellow employees and individuals with and without disabilities.

**Legislative Initiatives for 2015**

KCDC supported no legislative initiatives during Fiscal Year 2015.