

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns
Annual Report 2017

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 (FY) Highlights:**

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

1. Local Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) committees held events in 41 counties and over 777 students and job seekers with disabilities participated across the state in FY 2017.
2. The Commission finished its service dog education campaign and posted the resulting Information on the KCDC website. The commission continues to follow its request to the Kansas Department of Revenue to compare accessible parking permit holders with death certificates and remove those parking permits from circulation. The Dept. of Revenue is installing a new computer system and this request is on hold until the installation is finished in FY 2018.
3. KCDC continues to support the Employment First Oversight Commission. The employment first policy is that state programs that provide employment services to people with disabilities must offer assistance with finding competitive integrated employment before offering any other employment options. The 2018 recommendations were published January 3, 2017. KCDC is the agency that officially staffs the Employment First Oversight Commission.
4. 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. The Subcabinet formally accepted the Disability Employment Committee as a subcommittee. The Disability Employment Committee created a survey form for agencies to use in gathering information on data elements and definitions used.
5. 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.
6. 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>).
7. Staff is represented on the Kansas Partnership for Accessible Technology (Chairperson), Governor's Commission for Emergency Planning and Response, Medicaid Functional Eligibility Instrument for Intellectual/Developmental Disability advisory committee and Assistive Technology for Kansans Project.
8. Over 500 news-related messages were distributed during FY 2016 through list serves on KCDCinfo.ks.gov. Information is distributed to businesses, ADA coordinators, community based organizations, employment specialists, employers and people with disabilities.

**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 2018**

The Commission has not endorsed any new initiatives for 201. The commission continues to support initiatives the improve competitive integrated employment and access to programs and services for people with disabilities.

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