Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

May 1, 2015

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Participating: George Beard, Shanti Ramcharan, Grady Landrum, Brian Ellefson, Ranita Wilks, Marilyn Bittenbender, Frank Chappell, Rosie Cooper, Stephen Miller, Anthony Fadale, Craig Kaberline, Josh Powers, Craig Knutson, Jill Bronaugh, Kerry Cosgrove, Susan Weidenbach, Tessa Goupil, Wendy Coates, Diane Woodard

Staff: Martha Gabehart

Visitors/Speakers: Laura Leistra, Mike Donnelly

George Beard, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order in the absence of Chair Bob Cantin.

**Introductions/updates**:

George Beard: Retired in March from The Whole Person center for independent living. He continues to be guardian to a person with a disability in Wyandotte County and has been asked to do so for another person.

Grady Landrum: Will be doing a walk through to inspect the new airport in Wichita for accessibility as part of his work on the Wichita/Sedgwick County Disability Advisory Committee. The Service Dog Committee members have been assigned a law to review and pull out the pertinent parts about definitions, terms and requirements with regard to service dogs/animals. That information will be pulled together by August for use in developing the educational materials for the public, businesses and organizations.

Brian Ellefson: His two Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) events are October 23rd in Olathe and October 20 in Kansas City, Missouri. He is still active on the transition council pulling together topics. He worked on a large job fair and remains active on The Whole Person board.

Ranita Wilks: Ranita is working with youth transition services and has an employment program called Youth Employment Program (YEP) which provides paid work trial opportunities for youth aged 18-21 years. She will start planning for the DMD even with her education partners in the next few weeks. Her employer, Independence, Inc. is working on plans with the City of Lawrence for the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration this July.

Marilyn Bittenbender: She participated in InterHab’s Push Day at the Capitol rally. The rally had people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, their family members and advocates march and talk to demonstrate their need to have the legislature increase funding for their programs and services and talked to legislators about the need for more funds. She also toured Cottonwood with Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins and talked about the need to keep the subminimum wage certificates available for those organizations that need contracts to keep their clients working in the work centers.

Frank Chappell: Ambucs gave away 17 3-wheeled trikes for people with disabilities and veterans since the February meeting of KCDC. These are for rehabilitation use.

Rosie Cooper: The centers for independent living (CIL) have turned in their bids for continued funding as CILs. The United Health Empowerment Grant Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living (KACIL) received has 49 participants with 21 employed, 17 of which have been working over 90 days, and 1 volunteer. The Prairie Independent Living Resource Center has been spearheading this program. KACIL is also organizing the Disability Caucus which is August 13th and 14th in Topeka. A letter will go out today about. They are doing major fund-raising because they are starting from scratch this year. KACIL also has a home modification program that is going well.

Steve Miller: The states in the MS Society Mid-America Chapter have their walk events in April and May. The Autism community is having a significant problem with BCBS paying for their services.

Anthony Fadale: The governor signed executive order 15-2 earlier this year which focuses on expanding employment of people with disabilities and veterans. The Department for Children and Families is moving out of the Docking building, which is scheduled for demolition, into the Athene building at 6th and Kansas Avenue. Dept. of Revenue will be moving into the Mills building at 9th and Kansas, the former Dept. of Education building at 10th and Quincy and the grocery store on the north east corner for 29th and Topeka Blvd.

Craig Kaberline: A new request for proposals will be released in the next couple of weeks for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC). Also, Aging Services is working with KU on a Medicaid Functional Eligibility Instrument (MFEI) which is used to determine a person’s limitations and, in turn, their eligibility for Medicaid Long Term Supports and Services (LTSS).

Josh Powers: The Dept. of Transportation has finalized the moving the transit districts boundaries for public transportation.

Craig Knutson – the legislature passed the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account legislation which establishes a system of savings accounts for people who because disabled before the age of 21. This allows these people with disabilities who are Social Security disability to save larger sums of money than ordinarily allowed. Also, the legislature is close to passing the seclusion and restraint bill. The Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council continues working with Wichita State University (WSU) on their leadership program for people with intellectual/DD. They are also having some more public forums…..

Jill Bronaugh – Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) administration moved to the Athene building at 6th and Kansas Avenue. They are working with Commerce on some Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) work groups.

Kerry Cosgrove represents House Minority Leader Tom Burroughs.

Laura Leistra (for Aquila Jordan) – Gina Meier-Hummel has resigned from KDADS and Aquila has taken her place on KCDC until a new Commissioner of Community Services and Programs can be hired. HCBS Summit was held in April where there were about 700 people attending. Positive feedback came in. information was provided for providers as well as consumers and KanCare members. There was information about guardianship, person-centered planning and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) information among other things.

Susan Weidenbach gave her update later in the meeting.

Tessa Goupil is working with the WORK program.

Wendy Coates there is a transition summit on June 9th and 10th in Lawrence. Also, Career Tech. Ed. courses that are approved for funding for high school students are listed on the Kansas Department of Education and Board of Regents websites. Also each school should have a Career Tech. Ed. coordinator.

**Introduction of New Business that will require a** **Vote** – No

**Addition, Deletions and Corrections to the** **Agenda** – No

**Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes (February 6th)** – Kerry Cosgrove’s name is misspelled. Steve moved and Brian seconded approval of last meeting’s minutes as amended. Motion carried.

**Public Comments** – none

**Update on Senior Care Act** - Craig Kaberline reported the Senior Care Act provides home care to people over 65. It is a federally funded program at about $7 million. It provides homemaker and chore services also. Funding is based on Older Americans Act and allocated to the Area Agencies on Aging. There was a recommended a budget reduction for next year, but Department for Aging and Disability Services will be reducing the administration allocation so the reduction won’t affect services.

**End Dependence** – Mike Donnelly reported that End Dependence was started last fall. They have gone through the proposal process has for the contract that would be technical assistance and training. It is to build capacity of our partners in the community to improve the outcomes for people with disabilities in the VR program. Partners are Kansas Departments of Commerce, KDADS, HE, and Corrections. They are in the process of getting the selected contractor’s paperwork through the approval process. This contractor will work on technology, connections to national experts and handle putting out the Request for Proposals (RFP).

**Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** – signed into law in July 2014. Requires four core partners (Workforce Services, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Adult Basic Education) to be involved in planning of and development of a statewide plan. Eight planning groups are in place with staff/members of the four core partners and community people. One is data and how it will be shared; one on the new youth focus and another on improving and enhancing our connections with employers. VR has a plan to provide in addition with the combined state plan. The VR plan will be specific to VR services and will include how they 15% of their federal dollars to youth and transition plans. Department of Education estimates that would include about 22,000 young people across the state. Section 511 requires any person that is transitioning or going into a subminimum wage work program, that person must be evaluated to see if they can be successful in a competitive environment rather than a sheltered work environment.

**WIOA Update from Commerce** - Susan Weidenbach reported the state plan is the Governor’s and State Board’s plan for implementation. June 5th and August 17th is set for public comments. Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) is fully staffed with Dustin Gale and Dale Tower and the three local areas KC, Wichita, and Western Kansas areas and up and ready to go. This project is focusing on secondary education.

**Office Update** – Martha reviewed her report (attached.)

Next meeting is August 7th at the Eisenhower State Office Building from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

**Adjourn – Anthony moved the meeting adjourn. Frank seconded. Motion carried.**

Executive Director’s Report/Legislative Update

May 1, 2015

KCDC Meeting

Since the February KCDC meeting:

I participated in:

* Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR) meeting
* Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) meeting
* Subcabinet on Disability meeting with disability leadership
* Two Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) webinars put on by the ADA Centers
* Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Summit

Roger Frischenmeyer and I hosted two conference calls with Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) coordinators since the February KCDC meeting.

I will start updating the KCDC disability service maps. There are still several that are not on-line. I have two new maps I’ll be researching and putting together. They are the Kansas Consumer Advisory Council for Adult Mental Health and Kansas Infant-Toddler Services. If you know of another map that would be useful, please let me know by May 15 so I can get that done before the end of the month.

The effective communications group reported on at the last meeting was able to meet with Representative Tom Sloan who is on a Federal Communications Commission advisory committee about requesting the FCC to open up the directory of video telephone to organizations/government offices so they can use the technology that most deaf/hard of hearing people are using for telecommunication. We found that they are already working on that and it should soon be available.

The Service Dog Amendment Committee has taken the separate laws that pertain to service dogs and will create and table with the pertinent information on it to share with people who will attend the training that is developed.

Legislative Update

HB 2216 establishes the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) savings accounts in Kansas. This bill was signed into law by the Governor and the Treasurer’s office will start working on putting the program in place. I believe it will be up and running by July 1, 2016.

KanCare Ombudsman Volunteer Program

I have been working part-time with the KanCare Ombudsman to help with the implementation of their volunteer program. I compiled the resource information for their resource director, drafted the volunteer project coordinator’s position description and interview forms for the person hired by Wichita State University to help with the program and helped review the training volunteers will be given before they can start providing services. They will be located in Wichita and Wyandotte and Johnson Counties first since these have the densest population in Kansas. The goal is to that the volunteers will provide basic information to KanCare applicants and clients answering questions and referring them to the appropriate organization for help. The current ombudsman, Kerrie Bacon, will continue to do the same while also fielding those calls that are more detailed and require more knowledge than the volunteers will have. I will continue to help until they feel the program is up and running.

I will be attending the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Symposium in Atlanta, GA May 10-13.