Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC)

Commission Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2015

Conference Call Meeting

Commissioners Participating: Bob Cantin, Anthony Fadale, Don Woodard, Frank Chappell, Rick Shellenbarger, Brian Ellefson, Shanti Ramcharan, Ranita Wilks, Kerry Cosgrove, Craig Kaberline, George Beard, Marilyn Bittenbender, Rosie Cooper, Diane Woodard, Craig Knutson, Connie Wold, Tessa Goupil, Grady Landrum, Steve Miller, Heather Smith

Guests: Steve Gieber

Welcome: Bob welcomed everyone at 10:01 am. He introduced Marilyn Bittenbender and asked her to tell the group a little about herself. She is the parent of a daughter with developmental disabilities and serves on an IDD committee for KanCare called Friends and Family.

Introductions and Local Activities:

Bob Cantin – Olathe Arts Festival is not going to happen this year. The committee that organizes it is taking a break and may not continue unless some new people join the committee.

Anthony Fadale – Anthony is working with the Department of Administration and the agencies relocating the Docking building. Agencies are locating accessible and usable space for the public and employees. As information becomes available we will distribute it.

Frank Chappell – From Wichita and started a charity called Ambucs that buys custom built three wheeler for children and veterans with disabilities at no cost to them.

Rick Shellenbarger – March 2-6 is Severe Weather Awareness Week. September is Emergency Preparedness Month. They are people to review their emergency preparedness plans. March 4 at 1:30 is statewide tornado drill.

Brian Ellefson – First Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) meeting to start planning for the Kansas and Missouri events in Kansas City.

Shanti Ramcharan – Rehab counselor with Veteran’s Affairs serving Kansas City area. Suicide prevention act is on its way to the President for signature. VA is sending out choice cards to all of veterans about going to a private provider in their own community if they live further than 40 miles from a VA hospital.

Ranita Wilks – Youth transition services and coordinates the Youth Employment Program for Independence, Inc. in Lawrence. She is currently working on finding youth to apply for the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum in July.

Kari Cosgrove – Kansas City with adult daughter with IDD. She is currently taking care of her, but also a licensed professional counselor with experience with victims of crime in the child abuse area.

Craig Kaberline – He is the Commission on Aging. They are now taking applications for the Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

George Beard – Works for the Whole Person in Kansas City, Missouri. Asked to be told when advocacy days will be held at the legislature.

Rosie Cooper – Director of the Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living. They are putting together the Disability Caucus for August 13 and 14 this year at the Ramada Inn this year. Also they are running a logo contest for the Kansas Advocacy Network Disability Organization (KANDO) organization. Check their website for details.

Diane Woodard – The Rehabilitation Hospital in Overland Park is opening February 11 and the first 30 patients will be provided services pro bono. It is a private rehabilitation hospital with 45 beds at I-435 and Nall.

Craig Knutson –Project Search training program for transition aged youth. Stop Abuse Training going on in Sedgwick County CDDO and will take statewide. They are also working with the Kansas Leadership Center for providing leadership training for people with IDD. Basil Dannebohm introduced Homestead Refund Act bill. He will send the number to share with the commission.

Steve Miller – Multiple Sclerosis Action Day is February 10th at 10:00 am in the rotunda on the first floor. Please wear orange.

Don Woodard – Chair of the Shawnee County Advocacy Council on Aging and is speaker of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature.

Grady will give his report later in the meeting.

Introduction of Business that will require a vote – no

Addition, deletions or corrections to the agenda - no

Approval of Last meeting’s minutes - approved

Public Comments - none

KanCare Update – Aquila Jordan updated the commission on the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Physical Disability (PD), Frail Elderly (FE) and Intellectual/Developmental Disability (IDD) Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) waiver applications were submitted for renewal. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has 90 days to review and respond to the state about their applications. Final rules from CMS require transition plans be submitted. January 26th the public comment period for the Autism, Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED), and Technology Assistance programs opened. March 17th is the deadline for submission. KanCare quarterly report for final quarter of 2014 and annual report are submitted at the end of the month.

Service Dog Amendment Committee Report - Grady Landrum reported that the committee set the goal of Examine reviewing the state and federal laws that deal with service/guide/support dogs and develop educational guidance regarding the statutes for the public, specifically police, law enforcement, housing and public accommodations. The timeline for completion is our November meeting.

Legislative Update – ABLE Act – Scott Gates with the State Treasurer’s office explained Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) savings accounts are savings accounts for people who became disabled before the age of 26 to be used for expenses not covered by Social Security and other benefits. The money in the account will not count against the person’s Social Security benefits. The account must be in the individual’s name and they can have only one account. The annual maximum deposit amount is $14,000 with a total maximum of $100,000 with a cap for growth to $350,000. Anyone can contribute to the account. The money can be used for a wide variety of expenses including employment, medical expenses not covered by Medicaid, housing, transportation and other living expenses. Taxes are paid when the money is taken out of the account. HB 2100 establishes the act in Kansas. It has passed out of the House committee and is on general orders. There are some concerns about the fiscal note. They estimate if it passes this year, it will be July, 2016 before the accounts can be opened.

Anthony made a motion to support HB 2100 as in its form today February 6, 2015. Rosie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Martha reported HB 2041 enacts the Parkinson’s disease public awareness and education act; HB 2045 expands Medicaid eligibility and HB 2150 enacts the Death with Dignity Act (physician assisted suicide bill). Diane asked if there is a provision that excludes people with DD that would not able to access take advantage of this. Extensive discussion occurred and Martha volunteered to send out the link to the bill and then talk about it if members decide they want to take a position.

Employment First Update - Rocky updated the commission on the Employment First 2015 Report to the legislature and Governor. Marilyn commented that she wanted to be sure there is still choice for the person with a disability that includes sheltered workshops. Her daughter tried integrated competitive employment three times, but wasn’t successful, so she is working the Cottonwood work center.

KCDC Office Update – Martha updated the commission with the report she distributed prior to the meeting. (1:37)

Kansas Care Act – Steve talked about the AARP initiative to expand the people who can receive information on how to take care of a person when they leave the hospital to those caregivers who are not necessarily family members. HB 2058 is the bill that would establish this.

Bob adjourned the meeting.