Employment First Oversight Commission Meeting

January 7, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Rocky Nichols, Mike Donnelly, Ron Pasmore, Bob Hull, Steve Gieber

Commissioners Present by Phone: Barney Mayse, Wendy Parent Johnson, Dan Kerschen

Liaisons Present: Jeff Schroeder, Mary Ellen Wright

Guests: Jill Bronaugh, Craig Knutson, Steve Curtis

Guests Present by Phone: Sara Sack, Shelly May, Joe Scarlett, Anthony Fadale

Staff: Martha Gabehart

Welcome and Introductions: Rocky welcomed everyone and for a motion to add approval of the last meeting’s minutes. Ron moved and Bob seconded adding approval of the July meeting’s minutes to the agenda. Motion carried. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: Bob moved approval of the July 7th meeting minutes. Ron seconded. Motion carried.

Griffin-Hammis Report Presentation: Craig Knutson with the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council presented information on research performed by Griffin-Hammis into why Kansas’ disability employment numbers decreased after the Employment First law was passed. The report makes several recommendations for systems changes that have increased employment for people with disabilities in other states.

Bob moved the commission accept the report with appreciation for the DD Council’s investment and the commission is interested in implementation initiatives to follow. Ron seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion of Report and Recommendations: The commissioners discussed whether or not to make recommendations to the legislature. It was decided to send this recommendation: The Employment First Oversight Commission recommends that concrete, measurable action steps with published timelines be developed to engage stakeholders as well as identify issues and opportunities in order to make significant improvement in the employment outcomes for Kansans with disabilities. As part of these measurable action steps, there needs to be a determination of a specific process for decisions to be made and change to occur. The Commission wants to stress that action is needed. This process needs to be cross-agency and cross-disability. It must include decision makers from the highest levels of state government. Many of the studies are completed. Many of the recommendations have been generated. These different recommendations often agree with and reinforce each other. There are existing ideas and recommendations from stakeholders to make positive changes in the employment outcomes for Kansans with disabilities. For example: the Developmental Disabilities Coalition of Kansas, the original Employment First Workgroup (before passage of the current law), the Big Tent Coalition, the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the past recommendations of this Employment First Oversight Commission. Bob moved approval of this recommendation. Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried.

It was agreed to send the recommendation electronically to the governor, legislature and heads of state agencies. No print copies will be made and delivered.

Steve moved the meeting adjourn. Bob seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Gabehart