

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns  
Annual Report 2013

**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 13 counties and over 856 students and job seekers with disabilities participated across the state in FY 2013. This is an increase of 162 participants from 2012. The addition of Wichita/Sedgwick County is a source of pride and encouragement and we appreciate the partnership between Kansas Rehabilitation Services, the Rotary Club and Catholic Diocese of Wichita for their work to give job seekers with disabilities this opportunity. DMD partners local employers with job seekers with disabilities for the opportunity of learning about occupations available in the community and the job seekers who are interested in working. The event provides employers an opportunity to get to know and get comfortable with people with disabilities. We feel this is one of the most valuable tools we provide to encourage employment of people with disabilities.
2. KCDC continues to support the Employment First Oversight Commission. The Employment First statute was amended during the 2013 legislative session to eliminate the publication of an annual report and to put more emphasis on placement of people with disabilities. The employment first policy is that state programs providing services to people with disabilities must offer assistance with finding competitive integrated employment before offering any other employment options. KCDC is the agency that officially staff's the Employment First Oversight Commission.
3. The KCDC website was moved from its long-time provider to the State of Kansas platform. The new format is streamlined and fresh with new information that continues to emphasize employment and community living. The titles have changed, but there is still information about services for daily living, work, education and recreation. The youth section is still available as well. The former address still works, but the new address is kcdcinfo.ks.gov.
4. 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 (www.kcdcinfo.ks.gov/maps).
5. Over 500 news-related messages were distributed during FY 2013 through list serves on KCDCinfo.com. Information is distributed to businesses, ADA coordinators, community based organizations, employment specialists 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.