

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns
Annual Report 2012

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 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 789 students and job seekers with disabilities participated across the state in FY 2012.
2. KCDC worked on implementation of the Employment First policy passed in the 2011 legislative session. The employment first policy is that state programs that provide services to people with disabilities must offer assistance with finding competitive integrated employment before offering any other employment options. Relevant state agencies were established, goals and objectives were created and public comments were taken, strategies and barriers were developed, the first annual report was sent to the Governor and legislature. KCDC is the agency that officially staff's the Employment First Oversight Commission.
3. KCDC worked with other partners to hold the 2nd Employment First Summit in April 2012. People with disabilities learned about employment opportunities and employment programs.
4. KCDC began work with the Developmental Disabilities Rate Review Commission late in the year. This commission reviews a survey performed each year by the Department for Children and Families to determine what, if any, rate change needs to be made for personal care providers for people with developmental disabilities and recommends that change to the governor and legislature.
5. The Commission remains active in the Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA) and the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KSYLF). KSYLF is a leadership event for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities that emphasizes leadership, career exploration and planning, disability heritage, and opportunities to interact with people with all types of disabilities and employed adults with disabilities.
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 (www.kcdcinfo.com/maps).
7. Over 500 news-related messages were distributed during FY 2012 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**

**Legislative Initiatives for 2013**

**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.

**For the 2013 Kansas legislative session, the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC) has two initiatives.**

1. The current enacting statute for KCDC is K.S.A. 74-6701, et seq. currently has ex officio member positions that are not in the Departments for Children and Families and Aging and Disability Services. The changes replace the corresponding positions to those no longer used.

2. K.S.A. 58-1301 et seq. references the accessibility building standards required for Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as those Kansas builders must use for making public buildings accessible. The standards were updated and accepted by the US Department of Justice in 2010. A technical amendment would reference the newer standards as those required for public buildings.