Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

August 1, 2014

Commission Meeting Draft Minutes

Commissioners Present: Anthony Fadale, Pat Terick, Rosie Cooper, Rep. Scott Schwab, Shanti Ramcharan, Susan Weidenbach, Sharon Spratt, Chair Knutson, Wendy Pickell, J. Basil Dannebohm, Jill Bronaugh, Ed Mills, George Beard, Grady Landrum, Brian Ellefson, Bob Cantin

Commissioners Participating by Phone: Tessa Goupil, Rick Shellenbarger, Connie Wold, Senator Jack LaTurner

Staff Present: Martha Gabehart

**Welcome and Introductions -** Chairman, Grady Landrum, called the meeting to order, welcomed the commissioners and asked each to introduce themselves giving some information about what is happening in their community and with their organizations.

Bob Cantin – The Olathe Arts Festival will be next year, he is on the Whole Person center for independent living (CIL) board and they will be hiring a new director in the next couple of weeks.

Brian Ellefson – President of the Whole Person CIL, he has been planning Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) activities for Kansas and Missouri. The Kansas event is for Johnson and Wyandotte Counties and will be October 17. The Missouri event will be October 28. Brian is on the Johnson County Transition Council and they will start meeting again soon.

George Beard – George is an independent living specialist at the Whole Person CIL in Missouri though he lives in Kansas. He helps people in Missouri find personal care attendants.

Ed Mills – Ed is president of the NW Technical College in Goodland. They have 700 students which is a record high. They have a large number of veterans with disabilities enrolled now. They have an App building program where people can learn to make mobile apps for cell phones and it can be taken on-line. Students do not have to live in the Goodland area to enroll for this program. Also, they are encouraging high school students to enroll in this program using the Senate Bill (SB) 155 (Career Tech Education program) that is free to the high school students.

Jill Bronaugh – Jill now represents Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) director Michael Donnelly. She is the employer development and marketing specialist.

J. Basil Dannebohm – Basil is running unopposed in both the primary and general elections for representative in his district.

Wendy Pickell – no report

Craig Knutson – Craig is the designee of Developmental Disability (DD) Council Chairperson Dawn Wilson. The DD Council continues working on their Project Search programs with a new adult program. The original model is for high school seniors with intellectual/DD (IDD) disabilities providing on-the-job training in three different areas of a business. Kansas has three Project Search programs that have 100 percent employment placement. He also reported they received a grant from the Kansas Leadership Center to put people with IDD in leadership positions.

Susan Weidenbach – Susan reported Workforce Development submitted their proposal for the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) grant. The Innovation Fund starts October 1. Kansas received a Second Chance grant for woman in the Topeka Correctional Facility to work in local businesses. Also Kansas is one of two states receiving technical assistance from the LEAD Center and the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) to improve employment services through cooperation of several Kansas agencies for people with disabilities. The agencies are Commerce, Aging and Disability Services, Children and Families, Health and Environment and the Managed Care Organizations.

Shanti Ramcharan – Shanti works for the Veterans Administration in Overland Park. Her replacement at Emporia State University is Ms. Liske Seader.

Rep. Scott Schwab – Rep. Schwab is the designee of Ray Merrick Speaker of the House of Representatives. He is from Olathe.

Rosie Cooper – Rosie is the Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living (KACIL). They received an Empowerment grant from United HealthCare grant in Hutchinson for working with people with disabilities who think they cannot work on finding employment. Though just started, the first presentation helped several people realize they can work. They also have a pilot grant from Sunflower for housing modifications.

Anthony Fadale – Anthony is the State Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator. He reported that the Division of Personnel Services within the Department of Administration will be moving out of the Docking state office building in the next few weeks and into the Landon state office building. The Docking building is going to be taken down and the agencies are moving into other buildings. Anthony assured the group that all new office locations would be accessible.

Pat Terick – Cerebral Palsy Resource Foundation (CPRF) has a grant from United HealthCare for promotion of the Kansas Bidders Preference Program. They are also involved with DMD in Wichita which will be October 21st. The workforce board is putting together a job fair for people with disabilities on October 11th.

Sharon Spratt – Sharon is the designee for House Minority Leader Paul Davis and is director of Cottonwood in Lawrence. They continue to place people with disabilities in jobs in the community. They have two Project Search sites which have a 100 percent placement rate.

Connie Wold – Connie is the designee for Secretary Phyllis Gilmore of the Department for Children and Families.

Senator Jake LaTurner – Senator LaTurner is the designee for President Susan Wagle.

Tessa Goupil – Tessa is the designee for Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley.

Rick Shellenbarger – Rick works for Sedgwick County Emergency Management.  He gave a presentation on the need for shelters at congregate facilities (planned for new construction) at a recent Wichita Area Builders Association code enforcement meeting.  The code enforcement members will create a special committee looking at requiring nursing homes, assistive living facilities and jails to have standard shelters for new facilities.

Grady Landrum – Grady is the director of disabled student services at Wichita State University (WSU). WSU is opening a new 785 bed facility August 6th. He will be checking accessibility before it opens. On October 22 there will be a college visitation for high school students with disabilities in Wichita to encourage them to think about going to college.

**Introduction of Business That Will Require a Vote –** No business was brought forward that would require a vote.

**Additions, Deletions or Corrections to the Agenda –** Anthony suggested adding a vote to the Discussion about the Service Dog Law Proposed Changes.

**Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes -** Susan said there wasn’t anything in the minutes about the parking committee. Martha let the group know she didn’t add that because she thought that was a committee Glen White was going to create. She will check with him on that. Also, she said it should be Aligned, not Allied in name of the program Zoe Thompson spoke about at the last meeting. Martha will make that change. Basil moved acceptance of the minutes as amended. Ed seconded. Motion carried.

**Update on Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** – Susan gave an overview of WIOA which makes changes to Workforce Centers and their services as well as the Rehabilitation Act. There were several handouts.

**Update on Independent Living Changes in WIOA** – Rosie updated the commission on the changes to independent living services and centers made in WIOA. She had two handouts from the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) on the changes.

**Discussion and Possible Vote about Service Dog Law Proposed Changes –** Grady started the discussion about changes to the Kansas law which would align it to the ADA requirements for service dogs. Martha reminded the commission that though there had been concerns about the law prior to this spring, a call from a constituent whose dog was removed from a courtroom because she couldn’t produce certification of the dog’s training as a service dog. While that situation seems to be corrected by the court’s ADA coordinator, there was concern on staff’s part that the law was too confusing and needed to be change to clarify alignment with the ADA. The changes were sent to Anthony Fadale, but not to any of the other parties who might be concerned about it. It was decided not to vote on the wording until we know if others have concerns. Martha will send out the proposed wording to the legislative update list and those who have worked on amendments to the law before.

**Lunch –** It was decided that since the meeting was behind schedule, there would be a working lunch.

**KCDC Website Tour –** Martha went through the KCDC website for the commission and answered questions.

**Executive Director’s Report –** Martha gave her report. (attached)

**Adjourn –** Grady asked if there were any final comments before we adjourn. It was pointed out that the date for our next commission meeting is November 7th, not 1st as it said on the agenda. Anthony moved we adjourn. Pat seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Director’s Report

August 1, 2014

KCDC Meeting

Since the May 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
* Kansas Partnership for Accessible Technology (KPAT) meeting
* Employment First Oversight Commission (EFOC) meeting
* National Association of Governors’ Committees on People with Disabilities (NAGC) conference call
* I participated in a couple of Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas (SILCK) meetings. My term ends soon and Rosie Cooper has agreed to attend for KCDC.
* Use Law Committee meeting
* Kansas Rehabilitation Services Advisory Council Meeting
* Three webinars for the State Leadership Employment First Mentoring Program through Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)
* Two Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) webinars put on by the ADA Centers

I participated in the ADA Symposium in Denver with Anthony Fadale. I have my ADA Coordinator Certification and have been participating in webinars and classes as continuing education.

I also participated in the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KSYLF) mentors’ luncheon and resource fair in July.

I have been meeting with Robert Cooper, the new executive director of the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He’s been learning about the state system of oversight and providing assistive technology for employees and the public who are deaf or hearing impaired. I invited him to participate on the Kansas Partnership for Accessible Technology so he can make recommendations and talk about technology.

Roger Frischenmeyer and I hosted a conference call with Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) coordinators in July to talk about Roger taking over as the state coordinator and the events happening this year. It was agreed to publish the events dates, places and coordinators’ contact information and this has been done on the KCDC website under “Disability Mentoring Day.” We also agreed to have monthly calls and contact community-based organization directors about starting DMD events in their communities.

I reviewed several court decisions about Olmstead integration looking for anything Kansas needs to consider doing differently. Some don’t have much application since our waiting list for Home and Community Based Services is going down. I also reviewed the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the uninsured. It recapped the Olmstead law suit and some settlement agreements then discussed Medicaid’s roll in implementation of Olmstead’s integration mandate. Medicaid is the primary long term supports and services program that provides needed services in the community.

I skimmed the US Department of Education’s Guiding Principles – A Resource Guide for Improving School Climate and Discipline.

I read and tried to process the Emergency Support Functions (ESF) 5 and 6 of the Kansas Response Plan. ESF 5 is about emergency management support which includes communication, coordination with federal and county emergency personnel as well as volunteer organizations like the Red Cross. EFS 6 is about mass care (caring for large numbers of people), housing and human services.

I reviewed the Kansas criminal life-threatening communicable disease law after the US Dept. of Justice published their report on best practices to reform HIV specific criminal laws to align with scientifically supported factors. Since the Kansas law deals with the intention to give life threatening diseases to a person without their knowledge, it doesn’t appear that our law needs any changes.

I’m updating the KCDC website to make sure the links all work and the information is current. After the website is updated, the disability service maps will be updated.