Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

Draft Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2018

Present: Steve Miller, Don Woodard, Bob Cantin, Craig Knutson, Brian Ellefson, Dean Hollenbeck, George Beard, Ranita Wilks, Wendy Coates, Senator Rick Billinger, Marilyn Bittenbender, Anthony Fadale, Beth Van Vleck, Rene Hart for Mike Spadafore, Diane Woodard, Susan Weidenbach, Rick Shellenbarger, Heather Smith,

Guests: Brandi Studer, Stephanie Potter-West, Dallas Hathaway, Cindy Wichman, Dale Towers, Ann Elifritz,

Staff: Martha Gabehart

Welcome – Steve Miller, chair, welcomed the group and introduced Senator Rick Billinger as the designee of Senate President Susan Weigle. Martha announced that long-time commissioner Roger Frischenmeyer had died on Saturday, August 11th in Hutchinson. He had been a commissioner for many years and was chairperson several times. No memorial service has been set. A card was passed around for those who wanted to sign.

Introductions and Updates – the commissioners introduced themselves and said a little about the disability activities in their areas and with their interest group.

George Beard – is a guardian for three people with severe and persistent behavioral health issues; he was re-appointed to KCDC for 5th term, served September 2006 through August 2021; he is still interested in having Sarah Fertig, KanCare prospective inspector general, come to a meeting; and he would like to have Dr. Jean Hall, Glen White's successor at Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas, come to a KCDC meeting.

Introduction of business that requires a vote – Martha reported that at the November meeting it was not noted in the minutes that George Beard has volunteered to be the commission designee for the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas (SILCK). The commission approved by consensus and no letter was written to the SILCK to notify them. Martha emailed Kathy Cooper, Executive Director of the SILCK and informed her that George is the new KCDC ex officio representative. George contacted Martha last week to say that the SILCK wants to know exactly when the appointment was made. To make it official the commission needs to vote on George’s appointment to be KCDC’s ex officio representative to the SILCK.

Additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda – no changes were made

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Anthony moved the minutes of the May 4 meeting be approved as written. Brian seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comments – None

Disability Rights Center Crime Victims Grant Presentation – Brandi and Stephanie talked about how the grant provides advocacy, information and referral to victims with disabilities of crimes. Victims with disabilities can contact the Disability Rights Center at 1-877-776-1541.

Michael Lechner Advocacy Awards Presentations – Awards were presented to Dallas Hathaway and Martha Gabehart. Inclusion Connections KC had no representative to receive the award, so they will be invited to the November meeting for the presentation.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Update – Cindy Wichman updated the commission on the latest activities. Four of the waivers are up for renewal – Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Intellectual/Developmental Disability (IDD), Physical Disability (PD) and Frail Elderly (FE). The public forums are September 10 in Overland Park, September 11 at Chanute, September 12 in Wichita and September 14 in Garden City. There will be two meetings each day; 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and again from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. There will also be conference call on September 17 from 1:00 pm -3:00 pm and from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. More information will be distributed soon.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

Disability Caucus Update – Dale Tower reported on the Disability Caucus. This event brings people with disabilities together and divides them into three groups to talk about the issues in their geographic areas and what solutions might be found. There were also speakers and this year Roger Frischenmeyer was awarded advocacy award.

Governor’s Alzheimer’s Disease Plan Working Group – Ann Elifritz introduced herself as the new Commissioner on Aging. The working group was formed by Governor Colyer and has about 5 months to develop the Alzheimer’s Disease Plan for Kansas. They are meeting frequently to determine how best to deal with the rising incidents of people with Alzheimer’s and the issues that go along with taking care of these people. She also mentioned that some people with Down Syndrome get Alzheimer’s disease.

KCDC Office/Legislative Update – Martha reported on her activities over the last three months.

Vote on Appointment of George Beard to Represent KCDC on SILCK – Anthony moved George be appointed as the KCDC ex officio designee to the SILCK. Brian seconded. Motion carried.

Final Announcements – none

Motion to adjourn – Brian made a motion to adjourn. Anthony seconded. Motion carried.