Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2014

Commissioners Present: Grady Landrum, J. Basil Dannebohm, Brian Ellefson, Bob Cantin, Steve Miller, Ed Mills, Diane Woodard, Sharon Spratt, George Beard, Paul Meals, Wendy Pickell, Susan Weidenbach, Gina Meier-Hummel, Anthony Fadale, Ranita Wilks, Rosie Cooper, Heather Smith, Tessa Goupil (phone)

Staff: Martha Gabehart

Guests: Diane Cole, Craig Knutson

Welcome – Grady opened the meeting with a welcome and introduced Basil Dannebohm and Rosie Cooper as new members.

Introductions with Updates of Local Activities –

* Brian Ellefson – 10/17 is the Kansas City, Kansas Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) at the Mid-America Nazarene College. October 28 is the Kansas City, Missouri DMD.
* Bob Cantin – The Downtown Arts Festival isn’t going to be held this year, but plans are to hold it in 2015. Also, the Olathe Community Center is complete and an impressive accessible building. Bob recommends if you are in Olathe, you should stop and walk through.
* Steve Miller – Labette Community College started using the Disability Health curriculum created by Heather Smith with Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the KU Medical Center in their nursing curriculum. Wording for the accessibility tax credit was added to Senate Bill (SB) 265 in conference committee and was signed into law on April 18. The Gary Daniels Sunbelt Rodeo will be September 20 and 21st. For more information contact Marlys Shomber-Jones at 620-421-6550 X 1726.
* Ed Mills – Career Tech Ed was reauthorized again this year. Great program for high school students to learn a trade for two years free while they are in school.
* Sharon Spratt – working in implementation of the Intellectual/Developmental Disability waiver into KanCare.
* George Beard – nothing to report
* Paul Meals – June 20th there will be a statewide webinar/hearing at 2:00 pm on the new Kansas Rehabilitation State Plan. There will be several locations around the state including at the DCF Learning Center in Topeka. Planning has started for the Wichita DMD event. The Downtown Rotary Club will be involved again this year.
* Ranita Wilks – Continues to work with her Youth Employment Program (YEP). She hasn’t started thinking about DMD yet, but will hold another event in the fall. She went to the Employment First Summit this week and felt it was a big success.
* Diane Woodard – (new commissioner) Diane told a little about herself and her work at Community Works. She has a new brain injury (BI) support group in Shawnee, Kansas called Advocacy Works.
* Wendy Pickell – The data from the post school survey is now available. She will send the report to Martha for distribution to the commission. She attended the Employment First Summit and felt it was a great success.
* Susan Weidenbach – The Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) grant ended March 31st. The new round of funding will be available this summer and Dept. of Commerce will apply again. The Employer Partnership Initiative Program (EPIP) for clients of Kansas Rehabilitation Services and Medicaid recipients is moving along. Ready to Work is a new program for the long-term unemployed for which Workforce Services will apply. Susan also went to the Employment First Summit and felt it was a good meeting.
* Gina Meier-Hummel –The KanCare Oversight Committee heard reports on Tuesday. Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) is making enhancements to the mental health, substance abuse and waiting list funding. About $52.6 million all funds investment in moving people off the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiting list. The Governor’s Mental Health Task Force released its recommendations. Rainbow mental health facility reopened and has been repurposed to screen and triage. $3.5 million was invested into the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) program and expanded.
* Anthony Fadale – Naomi Blodgett is the new Foster Care Ombudsman in Department for Children and Families. He continues to review undue hardship requests for agencies working on technology projects and is reviewing issues with access in state buildings. Should the state sell their buildings and then lease them back, he will make sure all of the accessible features are maintained. He went to the Employment First Summit this week also and felt it was a big success.
* Basil Dannebohm (new commissioner) talked about his disability and advocacy.
* Rosie Cooper (new commissioner) – The Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living (KACIL) is looking for money for housing modifications. She also went to the Employment First Summit and felt it was a success.
* Craig Knutson (guest) – with the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council reported their Employment First Summit was this week and it went well.
* Heather Smith – Ks. Department of Health and Environment’s (KDHE) Maternal/Child Health Survey is open until May 15th. This is an opportunity to provide public input on MCH related activities in the state. She encouraged commissioners who have an interest to complete it.  Also, Special Health Care Needs is doing their strategic planning with a strong focus in care coordination and addressing the needs of the entire family.
* Grady Landrum – a 785 bed residence hall will open soon at Wichita State University (WSU). Grady is chair/president of Accessible Sports and they are partnering with US Disabled Vets to help veterans use sports in their recovery. Wichita/ Sedgwick County is renovating their public pools and adding accessibility features.

Introduction of Business That Will Require a Vote – None

Additions, Deletions or Corrections to the Agenda – None

Approval of Last Meetings’ Minutes – Susan pointed out Tina De La Rosa’s name was misspelled. Brian moved to approve with one amendment, Anthony seconded. Motion carried.

Workforce Aligned Industry Demand (AID), M-Tech Program –Zoe Thompson, Board of Regents & Dept. of Commerce, Tim Clothier, Washburn Tech – Zoe gave an overview of the Workforce AID program which partners employers with technical schools to provide free training and certification in occupations employers in the area need. These are certifications which can be used to document qualifications with a variety of employers. Tim Clothier spoke specifically about the program at Washburn Tech.

Update on KanCare – Kari Bruffet, Director of Kansas Health Care Finance, updated the commission on the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers and implementation of the IDD HCBS waiver. (handout attached)

Lunch/Update on the Research and Training (R&T) Center on Independent Living – Glen White reported on the activities of the R&T Center

Creation of a parking committee was requested. It would look at the literature regarding parking accommodations and then look to see if any state statutes needed to be changed to require businesses to increase/improve available parking. It also would consider signage wording on parking signs used for van and car parking spaces.

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

Tour of KCDC Website – Martha started the tour, but didn’t finish so the next presentation could be made. The Tour will be given at the August 1 meeting.

Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA) – Johnna Godinez reported on the activities of KYEA. The Youth Leadership Forum (YLF), the Empowerment Series, internships for youth with disabilities, community presentations, disability education in schools, Mentoring Matters and more.

Discussion about Service Dog Statute K.S.A. 39-1111 – Michael Byington, Commissioners – Michael gave a brief history of the current statute on verification/identification of services dogs. Some discussion occurred about changing the law to reference the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). George moved the topic be tabled until the August meeting for further discussion. There was a second. Some discuss followed about what tabling meant and George withdrew his motion. Susan moved a subcommittee be formed to put together a draft for discussion at the next meeting. Rosie seconded. Motion carried. Grady and Rosie are on the committee.

Adjourn – Basil moved the meeting adjourn, Brian seconded. Motion carried.