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.