**Employment First Oversight Commission**

**2016 Annual Report to the Governor and**

**Members of the Kansas Legislature**

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The Kansas Employment First Oversight Commission was created by the same state law that requires competitive and integrated employment to be the first option when serving people with disabilities (KSA 44-1136 to 44-1138, also called the Employment First Initiative Act).

Under this law, the focus of the Commission is on making recommendations to increase the number of Kansans with disabilities in competitive integrated employment. The Commission may issue an annual report making recommendations to the Governor, Legislature and state agencies on strategies to increase the number of Kansans with disabilities in competitive integrated employment.

**Recommendation**

The Employment First Oversight Commission recommends that concrete, measurable action steps with published timelines be developed to engage stakeholders as well as identify issues and opportunities in order to make significant improvement in the employment outcomes for Kansans with disabilities. As part of these measurable action steps, there needs to be a determination of a specific process for decisions to be made and change to occur. The Commission wants to stress that action is needed. This process needs to be cross-agency and cross-disability. It must include decision makers from the highest levels of state government. Many of the studies are completed. Many of the recommendations have been generated. These different recommendations often agree with and reinforce each other. There are existing ideas and recommendations from stakeholders to make positive changes in the employment outcomes for Kansans with disabilities. For example: the Developmental Disabilities Coalition of Kansas, the original Employment First Workgroup (before passage of the current law), the Big Tent Coalition, the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the past recommendations of this Employment First Oversight Commission.