DRAFT

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

Commission Meeting Conference Call Minutes

August 5, 2016

Present: Frank Chappell, Diane Woodard, Brian Ellefson, Rick Shellenbarger, George Beard, Shanti Ramcharan, Bob Cantin, Ranita Wilks, Dean Hollenbeck, Anthony Fadale, Mike Spadafore, Kerry Cosgrove

Staff: Martha Gabehart

Guests: Jerry Tenbrink

**Call to Order and Welcome:** Chairman Bob Cantin called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**Introductions with Update of Local Activities:**

Bob: Olathe hosts a national fraternity that raises funds and awareness for people with disabilities (Pi Kappa Phi). Three groups start bicycling on the west coast and move east cover 32 states and 12000 miles. They raise over $500,000 each year. They stop in Olathe because they get a police escort into town, they stay at the dorms at the School for the Deaf, if there is a Royals game in town they take them to the game, they are given tours of local businesses like Hallmark or Garman. They get free massages and have their bikes worked on for free also.

Dean: Flint Hills Technical College classes begin within the next couple of weeks. They are also concerned about state budgets and how they affect institution budgets.

Brian: Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) planning – 11/3 for the Kansas City, Kansas event at the Mid- America Nazarene University at the Bell Cultural Events Center, 10/26 for the Kansas City, Missouri event at the Ewing Marian Kauffman Foundation Center. The City of Olathe is having a big Ability Expo on August 27th at the Overland Park Sheraton where businesses that provide services, equipment and other things for people with disabilities will display their information.

Mike: KDOT has a couple of plan updates coming up; the coordinated public transit human services plan and Matt Messina is the new Bike/Ped Coordinator who is working on the new Kansas bike plan. Mike has recommended Matt send that plan to KCDC for review and comment late next year. Interim secretary is Richard Carlson now. He is a former legislator, director of the Kansas Turnpike Authority and Pottawatomie County Commissioner.

George: Rehabilitation Institute’s day at the lake recently. They had an exhibitor that brought recumbent bicycles that a person could use their hands instead of their feet to move.

Frank: Ambucs organization has 15 models of bikes that are free for people of all ages who have disabilities. Ambucs is five years old and they have given away over 200 bikes. Their website is [www.aircapitolambucs.com](http://www.aircapitolambucs.com) They also make wheelchair ramps. He is raising money for them and for the Erin is Hope Foundation which serves children with communication disorders helping them learn to read and write.

Anthony: Working on a range of things including comments that Kansas Partnership for Accessible Technology will submit to the US Dept. of Justice on their website accessibility standards. Also, attended the ADA Symposium in Denver during June.

Rick: Weather situation in his area has kept them busy. The Eureka tornado damage required resources they provided. They provide mental health representatives along with others to make sure people with disabilities as well as people without disabilities can get the services they need after the tornado. This October has a Wichita Community Preparedness Event includes installation of smoke alarms, sharing of preparedness information, demonstrations, bicycle safety, etc.

Frank offered <http://aircapitalambucs.com/> to Rick for finding ramps. AMBUCS provides free “trykes” and ramps to those who need them. Also, national is <http://www.ambucs.org/>.

Ranita: Working on DMD and spoke at the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum (KSYLF) giving a goal setting workshop and attending the KSYLF mentors’ luncheon.

Kerry: I have a comment for the next agenda item.

Shanti: no update

Diane: no update

**Introduction of business that will require a vote:** None

**Additions, deletions and corrections to the agenda:** The Service Dog Committee report is removed from the agenda because Grady is not able to be on the call.

**Approval of last meeting’s minutes:** Dean moved and Frank seconded that the May 6th meeting minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

**Public comments:** None

**KanCare Comments/Concerns:** George talked about his concern that the managed care organizations and KanCare administration are not in touch with the people they serve. One example is the KanCare newsletter article about how to use your smart phone to access United HealthCare For Me mobile application. He doesn’t know anyone on Medicaid who has a smartphone.

A second concern is that the managed care organization for his wards do not send mail to the KanCare member, but to the guardian. He has written to them saying they should be addressing correspondence to the clients who are receiving the health care, not the guardian if we are to be following the independent living guidelines. Someone from United HealthCare called him and said their system won’t send correspondence to the member, only the guardian.

Martha said she would contact an attorney she knows at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to see if there is any reason why an MCO would not send information about a person’s KanCare when they had a guardian.

Kerry talked about a problem her clients who have intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) who have trouble making decisions are having with their managed care organizations (MCO). The MCOs are trying to circumvent the targeted case managers and speaking directly to the clients and then significantly cutting their service hours who have been on the IDD waiting list and are now supposed to receive services. These individuals are being denied day services which they have had prior to coming off of the waiver. Diane offered the Disability Rights Center (DRC) services to appeal loss of hours or denial of services.

George said the United HealthCare’s telephone system requires you to wait hours before someone actually answers the phone.

Diane indicated they are hearing these issues all the time.

Martha will write up these issues and forward them to Dr. Mosier with KDHE so she could respond to these concerns and ask for a response to these at our next meeting.

**Office/Legislative Update:**  Martha reviewed her director’s report.

**School Resource Officers (SRO):**  Jerry Tenbrink, Statewide DARE Coordinator in the Attorney General’s office. They work with officers in their training area and they have an association, Kansas State Juvenile Officers Association (KSJOA). Training includes a weeklong training at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center and a three day advanced training. DARE officers have a two week basic training. All of the these trainings include working with special needs students, but it does not cover all circumstances and types of disabilities. Most officers rely on teachers or other school staff when they get back to the schools they work in to understand the students with disabilities in their schools. They are always looking for partnerships that would help them with training. Their annual training conference is next July in Lawrence. They would welcome someone who could provide some training. George said the Kansas City school district (USD 500) is using the police force staff. Jerry said most districts are moving to use the local police force. Diane asked what kind of person is the staff person used as a resource. Jerry responded that these are usually teachers but could be a counselor. Is there any monitoring done for consistency? Jerry said there is no monitoring. The school district is responsible for hiring and training these folks. Diane talked about the probability of the wide diversity in how school districts handle students. Jerry agreed that there is, but said there is now a requirement for school districts and their superintendents to do juvenile justice authority training. Diane asked what this commission could do to be helpful. Jerry said he is willing to look at training you have and giving training at the conference would be helpful. Parents should be on site councils that work on what is happening in their schools. Frank asked if site councils allow people who don’t have children on those site councils. Jerry didn’t know, but Martha said we could ask Wendy Coats to answer that at our meeting. Kerry asked if the training is mandatory. Jerry said there is no mandatory training. Bob asked if he saw this as a weakness. Jerry said that law enforcement understand that if they are putting an officer in a new situation, that person should be trained for that situation. If commissioners have concerns or questions, they contact the Attorney General’s office. Jerry’s email is [jerry.tenbrink@ag.ks.gov](mailto:jerry.tenbrink@ag.ks.gov) and his cell phone number is 785-213-8356.

Bob asked where we want to go with this. Diane reviewed the situation saying SROs are not mandatory, locally run if you have money and there is a lack of reporting. George said if you want to talk to someone else about this we could talk to Ron Miller with the Kansas City police department, he has a completely different take on it. Diane is concerned about small towns with no training and problems they will have. Is there something to help educate parents on this? Martha suggested contacting Families Together and Keys for Networks to see if they have any parent education they are doing or if they are working on this issue. Rick suggested we needed to expand to other groups as well since this affects all students, not just those with disabilities. Diane wants to continue to talk about this and be methodical about how the commission proceeds. Martha recapped that Wendy can be asked to talk about what site councils do and who can be on them; we can contact Keys and Families Together; she was unaware of any non-disability groups that might be working on this. Rick suggested approaching the sheriffs and law enforcement associations. Kerry reminded the group that local mental health centers are doing training with local police and we should include them in our dialogue. Rick said Jerry mentioned Ken Winter who coordinates their training and we might include him in our discussions. Rick said he (Mr. Winter) is from Sedgwick County.

Adjourn – Frank moved the meeting adjourn. George seconded. Motion carried