

Executive Director's Report
July 14, 2023
Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC)
Meeting

COMMISSIONERS APPOINTMENTS: No new appointments since the May meeting. Michele Heydon, newly appointed Commissioner for Long-Term Supports and Services (LTSS) designated Leigh Smith, director of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) as her designee.

Activities/Updates

I requested an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) proclamation from the Governor. The signing was June 28th.

Legislative Update

The weekly legislative interim committee schedules have been distributed every week since they started being published around the first week of July.

Disability Service Maps

An updated pdf file of the Disability Service Maps was received in mid-June from the State Printers. I've placed it on the KCDC website for the public to download and print off.

KCDC Website

The ADA resource pages are being updated to bring them up to date.

Wildlife and Parks Update

Linda Lanterman with Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) let me know that they are purchasing a new fish cleaning station for Perry State Lake. It will be placed by the accessible parking.

Meetings

- One Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) coordinators meeting was held since the last KCDC meeting. Discussion included plans for additions to the events, such as a reverse job fair, return to in-person events since COVID, and using former DMD participants who are now working as speakers for the events. The coordinators decided to take June and July off since the schools are not in session. Also, the DMD event in Osage City took place and it was considered a success.
- There have been two COVID Equity Task Force (COVET) meetings since the May meeting. During the May meeting discussion included the success in reaching more Hispanic/Latinx people with vaccinations. This population is the second most vaccinated population being tracked at this time. There is a noticeable drop in vaccinations in most of the age ranges in the non-Hispanic populations. Discussion during the July meeting will be on action that can be taken to encourage more vaccinations when vaccinations will be commercialized.
- The Governor's Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR) met once since the May KCDC meeting. The June CEPR meeting had a presentation by the spokesperson and security leader of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan. While there was a ribbon cutting to declare the building finished, it won't open until 2025, and it will never be open to the public.
- The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Employment First Stakeholders group met once since the May KCDC meeting. The meetings are to be monthly, but they lost their staff person in charge of the group, so they cancelled the May meeting. The request for proposals to create the implementation plan for Employment First was awarded and work will begin soon. The plan is funded by \$2 million of Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) money. KDADS won a National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON) grant that provides them with two subject matter experts on implementation of Employment First to evaluate Kansas' current issues and recommend solutions for effective implementation. I have met with them several times and they have made recommendations for changes to the Employment First Oversight Commission statute.