

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC)

July 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Commissioners present: Rob Egan, Chairperson, Anthony Fadale, Steve Miller, Brian Ellefson, Bob Cantin, Shanti Ramcharan, Claire Regan, Rachel Mayberry, Ranita Wilks, Michele Heydon, Leigh Smith, Rep. Boog Highberger, Drew Stacie Martin, Kayzy Bigler, Kathy Keck, Bert Moore

Guests and Staff: Martha Gabehart, Wilhelm Polusny, Sara Hart Weir, Jamie Katstula, Allyson McCain, John Hedges, Liz Long

Call to Order and Introductions – Chairperson Rob Egan called the meeting to order. There was not a quorum. The new designee for the Commissioner for Long Term Supports and Services was not participating at the time.

Commissioner Introductions – Ms. Leigh Smith joined the meeting during introductions and was introduced by Rob.

Introduction of business that will require a vote – none

Additions, Deletions or Corrections to the Agenda – Approval of May was put off until a quorum was met.

Public Comments – none

Review of the Dyslexia Bill – Dr. Bert Moore, Director of Special Education, made a presentation on the changes the recently passed Dyslexia bill put into place. The Dyslexia Handbook is currently being revised. There is more training going out to Special Education teacher and coordinators that they are to identify students using the Kansas State Department of Education guidance document “Eligibility Indicators” for the category of Specific Learning Disability (SLD) in which Dyslexia is included. Reports of many special Education teachers and coordinators telling parents that they do not diagnose Dyslexia when they should be identifying them.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Update – Leigh Smith, new designee for newly appointed Commissioner of Long Term Supports and Services Michele Heydon, gave an update on the status of the HCBS waivers and answered questions.

Working Healthy Update – Liz Long, new director of the Working Healthy Program updated the commissioners on the changes that have happened to the program in the last year.

Executive Director’s Report – Martha gave her report.

Break

Update on Special Health Care Needs Programs – Kayzy Bigler, Director of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) updated the commissioners on the programs available through her division.

Adjourn – Anthony made a motion to adjourn. Brian seconded the motion. Motion carried and meeting adjourned.