Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2017

Present: Steve Miller, Elizabeth Van Vleck, Don Woodard, Jill Bronaugh, Bob Cantin, Craig Knutson, Brian Ellefson, Dean Hollenbeck, George Beard, Ranita Wilks, Brandt Haehn, Wendy Coates, Rick Shellenbarger, Brad Burke, Marilyn Bittenbender, Grady Landrum

Staff: Martha Gabehart

Welcome & Introduction of New Commissioners – Steve Miller, chair, welcomed the group. Since Brandt Haehn was not yet in attendance, he started introductions.

Introductions and Updates

Steve – He is a disabled Vietnam veteran, an advocate for national multiple sclerosis society and advocates for people with IDD because of his connection to the Parsons State Hospital. There is a fishing derby coming up. The Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) project has a collaboration that we have with Theatre in Lawrence to locate ambassadors for ATK and for our equipment reutilization program called Kansas Equipment Exchange (KEE.)  They want these ambassadors to spread the word, but also to help us located and increase donation of lightly used, high quality durable medical equipment (DME) that they can refurbish and pass on to Kansans at no cost. --the co-sponsorship has worked so well that others might want to borrow this idea; the National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Conference being held in KC on June 10; the iCan Connect program that ATK operates and technology available for individuals who have a vision and hearing loss; the Telecommunication Access Program (TAP)--that ATK also operates- and the services and new technology available through that program; and the ATK Equipment Loan Program and the cool technology that folks might want to borrow this summer for recreation, to take on family vacations, to family reunions, etc.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Update - Brant Haehn told the group that the Final Settings Rule effective date has been moved out to March 17, 2022. While this will give the state a little breathing room it will also give it time to review comments from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on the transition plan recently submitted and get more public comment on changes made based on the comments. The Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED) and Autism HCBS waiver renewals were approved by CMS. Brandt also let the group know that he had resigned from his position to take a position with Amerigroup as the Frail Elderly program manager. His last day is June 2nd.

Update on Emergency Preparation Exercise in Sedgwick County – Rick gave some background on the CMS emergency preparedness requirements for providers receiving CMS funds. Among those requirements are to write up an all hazards emergency preparedness plan and have one full exercise of the plan and then one other exercise. The South Central Health Care Coalition held five preparedness table top exercises (TTX) in February and March for health care providers to use a scenario to go through their emergency preparedness plan. This gives them the opportunity to make changes and improvements that will help them be prepared in a similar emergency. The scenario used was a missionary who comes back from Africa with Ebola and his wife and two children come down with influenza walk into their health care facility. They then go through their plans for dealing with this situation. 182 people from 40 facilities attended in 21 different counties.

In Return Strategies – Jim Atwater, President and Chief Executive Officer, described their service that connects businesses looking for qualified employees with disabilities to service providers who have job seekers with those skills. They currently have about 600 jobs listed. They are looking for service providers with join them, free of charge, to supply qualified job applicants with disabilities. The intent is to go global, but they have companies across the nation sending them vacancy announcements. They provided forms for people to have their agencies sign up to supply job applicants. Martha agreed to send their information to the Disability News list serve. [www.inreturnstrategies.com](http://www.inreturnstrategies.com).

Continued Introductions with updates of local activities

Elizabeth – She is the designee for Secretary of the Department for Children and Families (DCF) Phyllis Gilmore and works for Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) as the pre-employment services manager.

Don – He is in this fourth two-year term as elected representative of district 6 to the Silver Haired legislature and in his third term as speaker. He is a disabled Vietnam veteran. He was appointed to the commission because of his work with legislature for seniors, veterans and those with disabilities.

Marilyn Bittenbender – She lives in Lawrence with her family and they have a daughter with developmental delays. She has worked in competitive integrated employment, but it has not been successful and she prefers working with her friends at Cottonwood.

Jill – She is the designee for Director of Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) Mike Donnelly. She is the Employer Development and Marketing Specialist working with employers on hiring people with disabilities.

Bob – He lives in Olathe and works in management at Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas City. He has resigned from many of the boards but remains on the Olathe disability advisory board.

Craig – He is public policy coordinator for the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council and is the designee of DD Council Chairperson Dawn Wilson. The DD Council has several grants they will be letting soon. He will send information to Martha to share with the group.

Brian – He lives in Overland Park and has been on the commission for 15 years. He is retired but working on Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) events in the Kansas City area, is on the local transition board and recently joined the board of the Kansas APSE chapter in charge of communications.

Dean – He is President of Flint Hill Technical School in Emporia.

George – He is retired and has been on the commission since 2006. He is the guardian/conservator of three people who have mental health issues. His wards continue to have difficulties with communication with the KanCare managed care organizations (MCO).

Wendy – She works for the Kansas Department of Education as the Education Program Consultant Career, Standards and Assessments.

Ranita – She works at Independence, Inc. in Lawrence providing independent living (IL) skills training and running their youth employment program 15-21. She is the DMD coordinator for Douglas and Franklin Counties and she is also on transition council and is the local DMD coordinator.

Grady – He has been the director of disability services at Wichita State University for 25 years. Prior to his coming to Kansas he worked at centers for independent Living (CILs) in Nebraska and Oregon.

Rick –He works in the Emergency Management office of Sedgwick County and is on the Wichita Center for Independent Living board. He is married and they have several children with and without developmental disabilities.

Office/Legislative Update – Martha gave her update from the report circulated prior to the call. She went over the Career Tech Ed (SB 155) data from the 2015 and 2016 school years that was included in her report. Dean provided his view that this was a good program for the students and the technical schools and community colleges.

Approval of last meeting’s minutes – There was no quorum at the end of the meeting so the minutes from the February meeting were tabled until the August meeting.

There were no last comments before adjourning.

Motion to adjourn – George made a motion to adjourn. Brian seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourn