Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

Draft Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2018

Present: Steve Miller, Don Woodard, Bob Cantin, Craig Knutson, Brian Ellefson, Dean Hollenbeck, George Beard, Ranita Wilks, Wendy Coates, Brad Burke, Marilyn Bittenbender, Anthony Fadale, Peg Spencer, Dean Hollenbeck, Marilyn Bittenbender, Shanti Ramcharan, Mike Spadafore

Guests: Aaron McCullough, Cindy Wichman, Deone Wilson, Robert Cooper, Jodine Trout,

Staff: Martha Gabehart

Welcome – Steve Miller, chair, welcomed the group.

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. Steve was awarded an honor flight to Washington, DC for May 21st.

Brian – He coordinates the Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) events in the Kansas City, Kansas are and in Kansas City, Missouri. The Kanas event is scheduled for November 1 at the Mid-America Nazarene University. The Missouri event is scheduled for October 23rd at the Kaufmann Foundation. This year’s agenda will include information on the ABLE program, Medicaid and Social Security.

Bob – He is an active on the Advisory Board for People with Disabilities for the City of Olathe. They have been advising the architects for the new courthouse being built in Olathe.

George – He is a guardian for three people with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) in the Kansas City area. He has requested Sarah Fertig, current nominee for the Oversight Inspector for KanCare. He has requested she come to the commission meeting so she can hear about our concerns, but because she has not been confirmed yet, she cannot officially participate.

Wendy – She works for the Department of Education and represents Colleen Riley, Special Education Director. She as the Education Program Consultant Career, Standards and Assessments. She reported there will be wheelchair softball game at Gage Park on May 20th at 1:00 pm.

Craig – He works for the Kansas Developmental Disabilities Council and is represents council chairperson Dawn Wilson. They are holding their bi-annual Employment First Summit May 30-31st at the Capitol Plaza in Topeka. They have reached capacity, but if people will want to register, they will be notifying people as other cancel their reservations. They have also launched a new website.

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. They worked on guardianship and grandparent rights during the session this year.

Aaron McCullough – He was Shanti Ramcharan’s guest. He is an attorney who has worked for the Southwest Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Center and was an accessibility specialist in Seattle, Washington.

Shanti – She is no longer working for the Veteran’s Administration in Johnson County.

Deone Wilson – She is the director of the Resource Center on Independent Living (RCIL). She is also the chair of the Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living (KACIL). She will be presenting information at Santa Fee High School on transition and related topics, their advocacy services and help with Medicaid applications.

Mike – He represents Kansas Dept. of Transportation Secretary Carlson. He is the transit fund administrator. He reported that the new transit five-year plan will be out on the 21st. Mike also reported that SB 285 passed the legislature and creates the Joint Legislative Transportation Committee.

Dean – He is the president of the Flint Hills Technical College in Emporia. There have been some discussions on how to determine if a student has a disability.

Brad – He represents Secretary Lana Gordon of the Kansas Dept. of Labor. The National unemployment rate for people with disabilities dropped to 8.0 percent in April 2018.  It was as high as 16.9 percent in June 2009.

Anthony – He has been busy giving a presentation to the National Red Cross in Iowa on our emergency preparation and advising a university on a residence hall modification.

Ranita – She is busy working with her Youth Employment Program helping high school students with disabilities find employment,

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.

Introduction of business that requires a vote – No

Additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda – Anthony moved the agenda be approved. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Marilyn moved the minutes of the last three meetings be approved. Brian seconded. Motion passed.

Transit Day at the Capitol - Mike talked about the annual transit day at the capitol event and showed the video of the speeches. He invited everyone to come next year.

Public Comments – George made public comments on the problem of registering to vote when you have had a name change. She had a name change and she had to pay for the marriage certificate while her birth certificate was free because she was registering to vote. Also, he is still having trouble communicating with the Kancare Clearinghouse. He is concerned about how hard it is to negotiate the KanCare system are at a disadvantage, whether it is understanding the wording or writing letters or knowing that one can appeal and how to appeal decisions.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and Final Settings Rule Update – Cindy Wichman gave an update on the progress the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) is making on the Final Settings Rule. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published the rule in 2014. All services provided through CMS programs must be provided in the most integrated settings. A newly formed Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS)/Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)/ Department for Children and Families (DCF) steering committee has reviewed the comments received on the draft plan and are working on the process for evaluation of providers to determine if they are providing services in the most integrated means possible. She also answered questions from the commissioners.

Office/Legislative Update – Because time was running short, Martha pointed out that the new Career Tech Ed (SB 155) data for 2016 and 2017 is available and is in the report.

Kansas APSE (Association of Professionals Supporting Employment First) Report – Brian reported that APSE is a professional organization of people who work to help people with disabilities find competitive, integrated employment. They have members from across the state and there are chapters in many states.

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas (SILCK) – George updated the commission on his experiences representing the commission on the SILCK. He said they do things differently but are working hard to implement the Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Also, they are paying his way to the National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) conference this year.

Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living (KACIL) – Deone Wilson reported on KACIL’s Christopher and Dana Reeves grant to help people with mobility impairments move out of nursing home/institutions. They have helped many people and still have money left to help a few more. If people want to access the support, just contact Deone or any of the centers for independent living.

Update on Video Remote Interpreting – Robert Cooper, director of the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH) presented information on some important things to consider when deciding on how to provide interpreter services to people who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired.

Final Announcements – none

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