

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns
November 3, 2023 Meeting
Draft Minutes

Present: Rob Egan, Kayzy Bigler, Anthony Fadale, Bob Cantin, Brian Ellefson, Jenae Heller, Rep. Carrie Barth, Shanti Ramacharan, Dr. Steve Miller, Emily Hamm, Leigh Smith, Rep. Dennis (Boog) Highberger, Kathy Keck, Rene Hart, Susan Weidenbach, Sen. Rick Billinger, Robyn Herzog, Ranita Wilks, Martha Gabehart (staff)

Guests/Speakers: Andrea Beard, Amelia Grissom, Melissa (Missy) Bogart-Starkey, Zach Ahrens, Mizee Tyson, Callie Simmons, Janice Katsbelas, Laura Leistra, Jamea Kline, Lane Williams

Call to Order – Rob Egan, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

Orientation – Martha Gabehart, staff, reviewed the history of the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC) and the KCDC white notebooks for commissioners, and showed those in attendance the KCDC website.

Break

Introduction of Business Requiring a Vote at the End of the Meeting – Anthony Fadale indicated the creation of the Ad hoc committees to review the bylaws and the website might require a vote. Rob put that vote in Executive Director’s report near the end of the meeting.

Additions, Deletions, or Corrections to the Agenda – Ad hoc committees added to Executive Director’s and Legislative Update report.

Approval of July 14 Meeting Minutes – Kayzy Bigler moved approval of the minutes. Dr. Steve Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comments – Anthony Fadale reported that the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposed regulation amendments to their Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. They have a frequently asked questions file available that summarizes the proposed regulations. Comments are

due in a couple of weeks. Martha will send out the link to the fact sheet.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Update – Leigh Smith, director of HCBS Waivers, updated the commission members on the proposed policy changes, Final Settings Rule, proposed amendments to several waivers that include home modifications, vehicle modifications and special equipment and supplies. And proposed Technology Assistance (TA) unbundling.

Update on Nursing Facilities for Mental Health (NFMH) Settlement Agreement – Melissa (Missy) Bogart-Starkey and Lane Williams presented an update on the NFMH settlement agreement.

2023 Michael Lechner Advocacy Award Presentation – Martha virtually presented the 2023 Michael Lechner Advocacy Award for former KCDC Commissioner George Beard to his widow and daughter.

The meeting broke for lunch at 11:50.

Chairperson Rob Egan called the meeting back to order at 12: 17 pm.

KCDC Legislative Agenda for 2024 – Martha reviewed the proposed legislative agenda with the commissioners. There was discussion on adding to Full Funding for all HCBS Waiver Waiting Lists the Kansas Council on Developmental Disability platform of advocating for funding to staff and 20% of the Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities waiver waiting list slots in 2024. Kathy Keck agreed to send the wording to Martha so consideration.

Chairman Rob Egan requested the commission support Equitable Statewide Funding at 92% Special Education. Rob will provide the wording for this. The commission agreed.

It was decided to wait on a vote for the legislative platform until the wording has been agreed upon. Martha will draft the wording and send it out to the commission. A date and time will be decided on for the meeting to approve the legislative platform when the wording is distributed.

Executive Director's Report and Legislative Update – Martha gave the executive director's report. Ad hoc committees to review the website and bylaws were created. Brian Ellefson, Emily Hamm and Anthony Fadale are on the Website Review Ad Hoc Committee. Rob Egan, Susan Weidenbach, Shanti Ramcharan and Ranita Wilks are on the Bylaws Review Ad Hoc Committee.

Election of Officers – Anthony nominated Bob Cantin for Vice Chair. He agreed to accept the nomination. Ranita seconded. Motion carried.

Brian nominated Ranita Wilks for Chair. She agreed to accept the nomination. Anthony seconded. Motion carried.

Calendar for 2024 – February 9, May 3, August 2, and November 1. Martha noted that the proposed February meeting date was changed to the second Friday of February because the last two years, the Bob Bethell HCBS and KanCare Oversight Committee was scheduled for the first Friday of February and the KCDC meeting had to be cancelled. Everyone agreed with the proposed schedule.

Adjourn – Bob moved to adjourn. Robyn seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha K. Gabehart
Executive Director