Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns

Commission Conference Call Draft Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2016

Present: Bob Cantin, Chair, Anthony Fadale, Don Woodard, Diane Woodard, Craig Kaberline, Craig Knutson, Grady Landrum, George Beard, Brian Ellefson, Ranita Wilks, Rosie Cooper, Steve Miller, Marilyn Bittenbender, Brad Burke, Susan Weidenbach, Kerry Cosgrove,

Guests: Scott Gates, State Treasurer’s office; Bill Rein, Kansas Dept. for Aging and Disability Services, Barb Helms

Call to Order – Bob called the meeting to order.

Introductions and Local Updates

George Beard – no update

Shanti Ramcharan – no update

Don Woodard – no update

Grady Landrum – no update

Diane – is now on the Brain Injury Association Board of Directors. They had a private showing of the movie, “Concussion” and had a panel presentation after the movie.

Bob Cantin – is still on the Persons with Disabilities Board for the City of Olathe. They are planning their 2016 activities.

Brian Ellefson – the tentative date for the Kansas City, Kansas Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) event is November 3rd at the Mid-America Nazarene University Bell Cultural Events Center in Olathe. He plans to have the Missouri event at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Conference Center, but no date is confirmed yet. The first DMD committee meeting is Tuesday, February 16th from 3:30 to 5:00 pm at The Whole Person office, 3710 Main, Kansas City, MO (Community Room)

Ranita Wilks – March 5th they holding an Empower Me event with Kansas Youth Empowerment Academy (KYEA) for youth from 15-25 years of age. The topic is relationship building. April 6th the Douglas/Jefferson County Transition Council will hold their annual resource Expo.

Marilyn Bittenbender – She is on the friends and Family Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD) board.

Rosie Cooper – Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living (KACIL) is holding public forums at the centers for independent living (CILs) on March 30th to hear comments on the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The plan is on the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas’ (SILCK) website. The Resource for Independent Living (RCIL) is working with Emporia on some accessibility issues. The Independent Living Resource Center is Wichita is working with the city on some drive by lawsuits. A shop has opened in Wichita called Autism Avenue specifically to give people with autism opportunities for internships to learn soft skills and gain employment experience. The Prairie Independent Living Resource Center (PILR) is having youth student advocacy day with a job-a-thon. They received a grant to do a disability assimilation at the schools where they bring in technology and things so that non-disabled students can experience disability. The Disability Caucus summary should be out next week.

Steve Miller – The MS Society walk is in April. They are watching SB 9 establishing the cannabis compassion act and SB 341 about step therapy (requiring less expensive therapy before moving on to more expensive therapy.) The Federal Food and Drug Administration announced plans to reassess their approach to opioid medications because of the ongoing opioid abuse epidemic.

Anthony Fadale – Department of Revenue is moving their offices by June 2017. No new information on when the Docking State Office Building will be torn down.

Susan Weidenbach – Antonio Soave is the new Dept. of Commerce Secretary. The unemployment rate in Kansas has dropped to 3.9 percent. reported the combined state plan for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was approved by the KansasWorks State Board and will be signed by the Governor shortly. They received a Work Incentive Fund grant that will help them further data sharing capabilities, create a portal for consumers to access information, cross training for staff (all partner agencies) and paying for additional training services for job seekers with multiple barriers. Workforce Services is applying for a Tech Hire grant. The money comes from fees collected when businesses hire people from other countries under an H1B visa. They will be targeting people with disabilities over 19 years of age.

Craig Knutson – the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council is hosting the Employment First Summit April 21st and 22nd in Topeka at the Capitol Plaza hotel and convention center. The cost is $50, but if you go to the summit, you get the $50 back. They have a stellar line up of speakers and breakout sessions.

Kerry Cosgrove – no update

Update on ABLE Accounts – Scott Gates with the State Treasurer’s office reported that Kansas is partnering with six other states to jointly create a fund for ABLE accounts. They projected that only as many as 100,000 people in Kansas would be eligible to open accounts that was not enough to be able to pay a financial firm to maintain the accounts. Before the end of 2015, Congress passed a bill that removed any requirement that the accounts be in the same state as the person opening the account. This means that Kansans could open accounts in other states, which reduces the possible number of Kansans taking advantage of a Kansas plan even further. The State Treasurers office is taking this into consideration as they continue to determine what to do about establishing the accounts.

Emergency Detention – Bill Rein with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services explained to the commissioners how police officers currently deal with people who may be a danger to themselves or others and it is unknown what is going on with them. This gives officers the ability to take someone into custody until they can determine if the person is drunk, on drugs, has a behavioral health or some other condition and possibly get treatment for the person if that is what is determined necessary.

Service Dog Committee – Grady reported the Service Dog Committee is working on writing up the single page descriptions for different audiences with which laws apply and what is required. The audiences are justice/police, education facilities, housing, small business/restaurants, medical facilities/VA and airlines. They will be posted on the website and distributed through the list serves.

Parking Committee – Shanti reported the Parking Committee met in January about van accessible parking availability. There are four areas to be addressed. 1) Awareness issue for people with parking placards; companies, organizations and businesses responsible for striping parking lots; and law enforcement agencies; 2) effectiveness of signage; 3) rural areas and 4) misuse of placards by people who are not disabled, but had a disabled family member who died or no longer need the placard and the renewal procedure which no longer requires a doctor to sign the form for renewal. The committee is meeting in two weeks.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Gabehart, Executive Director