

Executive Director's Report
November 3, 2023
Meeting of the
Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC)

I was out of the office for six weeks in August and part of September so this report will be brief.

COMMISSIONERS APPOINTMENTS: Commissioners Dr. Steven Miller, Claire Reagan, Shanti Ramcharan, Brian Ellefson and Ranita Wilks were reappointed to three-year terms. New Commissioners Jenae L. Heller, Medical Administrator of Kansas Disability Determination Services, takes Joshanna Stone's place as designee for Secretary of Department for Children and Families (DCF) Laura Howard.

Activities/Updates

Requested Kansas Disability Employment Awareness Month (KDEAM) proclamation from the Governor for October. The signing was September 29. Shanti Ramcharan represented KCDC.

The Legislature approved two new positions for the minority offices. That means KCDC gets half time position. When the position description is completed, I will send it out to encourage people to apply. I plan on using this position to update the website and Disability Service Resource maps.

I participated in the creation of the 2023 Kansas Disaster Response Plan for the first time. KCDC is listed in the Recovery Support Function (RSF) 3 Social Services and 4 Housing.

I continued to work with the Governor's office staff and Employment First Oversight commission on the Disability Hiring Preference executive order. However, stakeholders decided to withdraw their support and ask that they be giving an opportunity to get a bill passed in the legislature next session.

Legislative Update

The weekly legislative interim committee schedules have been distributed every week.

KCDC Website

The public has notified me a many times about broken links on the website. Those have been replaced or removed as appropriate. The county ADA Coordinators pages and the Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) Local Coordinator Toolkit have been updated.

Starting in December, the KCDC website will be transitioned to a new platform. This means all of the pages and links will be replaced and possibly completely removed.

Meetings

The Covid-19 Equity Task Force (COVET), Governor's Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR), the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Employment First Stakeholders meetings were not attended.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and traditionally, when Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) events are held. One Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) coordinators meeting was held since the last KCDC meeting. Review of events will be made at the November 8th meeting.

As you may recall, KDADS agreed to set aside \$1 million for a planning grant in create an implementation plan for Employment First. It was announced in October that the University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD) won the contract. There was one meeting early in October to find out more about their plans and one meeting of the steering committee of which I am a member.