

Executive Director's and Legislative Update Report
May 5, 2023
KCDC Meeting

This Executive Director's and Legislative Update report is for the last 6 month.

COMMISSIONERS APPOINTMENTS: Rep. Dennis (Boog) Highberger was designated as House Minority Leader Vic Miller's representative. Rep. Carrie Barth was designated as House Speaker Dan Hawkins' representative.

I participated in the following meetings:

- Four Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) coordinators meetings were held since the last KCDC meeting. Discussions included plans for additions to the events, such as a reverse job fair, return to in-person events since COVID, and using former DMD participants who are now working as speakers for the events.
- There have been two COVID Equity Task Force (COVET) meetings since November 2022. Most of the discussion has been about how African American people are not willing to get vaccinations because, in the past the medical profession has used them to medical experiments without their knowledge. So far there hasn't been any solution to overcoming this experience, so they are willing to be vaccinated.
- The Governor's Commission on Emergency Planning and Response (CEPR) met twice since the November KCDC meeting. The last CEPR meeting the Department of Agriculture explained their work investigating Avian Flu and euthanizing flocks that are infected. Also, there was some discussion about the problem of electric cars catching fire and how to put them out. There will be a presentation about the problem and what is being done to more efforts more effective.
- The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) new Employment First Stakeholders group met for the first time in January and will meet monthly. KDADS is using \$2 million of Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) money for a grant to have an Employment First Implementation Plan put together for the agency to use. The Employment First Oversight Commission (EFOC) annual report was mostly recommendations for additions to the request for proposals (RFP) for the planning grant. KDADS won a National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON) grant that provides them with two subject matter experts on implementation of Employment First to evaluate Kansas' current issues and recommend solutions for effective implementation.

Activities/Updates

Legislative Update

Legislative updates were published each week of the legislative session.

We give our thanks to Senator Billinger and Rep. Highberger for their help with the Disability Hiring Preference bills. The legislature did not pass either bill. A bill was introduced in each house, HB 2253 and SB 308, and both houses had hearings on them and recommended passage sending them to the floor of their respective houses. The House bill was never in an exempt committee, so when the deadline for bills to be out of the house of origin passed, HB 2253 was stricken from the calendar. We will have to have a new bill introduced next year. The Senate bill was introduced in an exempt committee, so it can be worked next year.

The Dyslexia bill that was discussed during our November, 2022 meeting was introduced, passed and signed into law by Governor Kelly. Our congratulations to Jeanine Phillips and her group and KCDC Chair Rob Egan.

Senate Substitute for House Bill 2016 was a bill to stop abusive accessibility litigation. During the hearing and debate process some amendments made the bill unacceptable to the disability community, but amendments on the floor of the Senate made it more acceptable by limiting it to lawsuits about inaccessible business websites. The Governor signed the bill into law April 14th.

Disability Service Maps

The Disability Service Maps are completed and the KCDC Website has been updated. The pdf file was distributed to the mailing lists and is posted on the website as well.

Employment First Oversight Commission Annual Report

The annual report of the Employment First Oversight Commission was finished in December and sent to the appropriate recipients in January. KCDC Commissioners along with those subscribed to the KCDC, Disability News, ADA Information and Legislative Update list serves received the report as well. Please feel free to share it with others or refer people to KCDC for a copy.

Career Technical Education (CTE or Career Tech Ed) Data for the Last Two School Years

Career Tech Ed for Students with Disabilities by Academic Year

SPED means Special Education

Qualified 504 means children who have disabilities as defined under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Qualified 504 & SPED	2021	2022	Qualified 504 and NOT SPED	2021	2022
Qualified 504 & Sped Enrolled Count	950	1,094	Qualified 504 Enrolled Count	294	367
All Student Enrollment	10,590	11,519	All Student Enrollment	10,590	11,519
Percentage of Enrolled that are Qualified 504 and SPED	8.97%	9.50%	Percentage of Enrolled that are Qualified 504 and NOT SPED	2.78%	3.19%
Sped Completed Count	202	242	Qualified 504 Completed Count	68	67
Percentage of SPED Enrolled which completed in same year of Enrollment	21.26%	22.12%	Percentage of Qualified 504 Enrolled which completed in same year of Enrollment	23.13%	18.26%
All Completed Count	3,183	3,022	All Completed Count	3,183	3,022
Percentage of All Enrolled which completed in same year of Enrollment	30.06%	26.23%	Percentage of All Enrolled which completed in same year of Enrollment	30.06%	26.23%

Sourced from KSDE/KBOR
P20 system