

Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2024

Present: Bob Canton, Brian Ellefson, Anthony Fadale, Don Woodard, Emily Hamm, Dr. Steve Miller, Todd Thornburg, Cora Ungerer, Jenae Heller, Shanti Ramcharan, Ranita Wilks, Robyn Herzog, Rachel Mayberry, Leigh Smith, Rep. Boog Highberger, Senator Rick Billinger, Rene Harat, Sara Hart Weir, Dan Decker, Rick Shellenberger.

Guests: Jamie Castanea (sp?), Mark Dietzler, Theresa Singh, Evan Dean, Craig Knutson, Missy Starkey-Bogart, Lane Williams

Call to Order – Ranita Wilks, Chairperson called the meeting to order. Cora Ungerer, designee for Ex Officio member, Secretary Janet Stanek of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment was introduced and provided some information on her new job as Title V Director of Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN).

The commissioners introduced themselves and gave updates.

There was no new business that would require a vote.

There were in additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda.

Approval of February 9, 2024, meeting minutes. Brian Ellefson moved to approve. Robyn Herzog seconded the motion. There was not discussion. Motion carried.

No public comments.

Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas (SILCK) Report – Rachel Mayberry reported that the SILCK discussed the change for the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center (TILRC). They are no longer accepting the federal money they were using as a center for independent living (CIL) and they are no longer the Assistive Technology for Kansans Project (ATK) provider for Northeast Kansas. Dan Decker provided more information.

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Update – Leigh Smith provided an update on the HCBS program.

Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services HCBS Employment First Update – Mark Deitzler provided information on Employment First and the grant that they gave to the University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities (KUCDD) to work on improvements to the current HCBS system to improve competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities.

Update on Nursing Facilities for Mental Health (NFMH) Settlement Agreement – Missy Bogart-Starkey (KDADS Behavioral Health Services) and Lane Williams (Disability Rights Center (DRC)) updated the commissioners on the progress being made on moving people with behavioral health diagnoses out of nursing facilities.

Employment First Grant Update – Craig Knutson and Evan Dean with KUCDD updated the commissioners on their progress on policy recommendations and creation of infrastructure to support full implementation of Kansas Employment First law. They have national partners with real experience implementing Employment First and local providers in their pilot program working to find people with disabilities competitive integrated employment.

No update report on the Working Healthy and STEPS program was given.

Executive Directors Report and Legislative Update – Martha Gabehart reviewed her executive directors report. She also reported the passage of the Disability Hiring Preference. Implementation will begin July 1, 2024.

Robyn Herzog moved the meeting adjourn. Emily Hamm seconded. Motion carried.