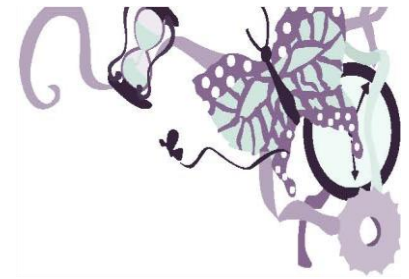


Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition



Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2013

Host: Disability Rights Center of Kansas

Participants: Cathy Anderson – Trinity Heights Respite Care, Monica Cissell – Central Plains AAA, Gina Ervay - KLRC/ROCKO, Steve Gieber – Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, Laura Owens – Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, Diane Salyers - Southeast Kansas Respite Services, Tim Wood- Disability Rights Center of Kansas

Upcoming 2013 Meeting Dates (11am-12pm): Jun. 11th, Aug. 13th, Oct. 8th, Dec. 10th

Training & Credentialing:

- Butler Community College has been the lead college in designing the new direct support professional training and credentialing program. Their original plan was to launch the program for the fall 2013 semester. However, a major change has occurred. BCC recently underwent a \$1 million budget reduction. Consequently, BCC would not allow the new proposed training program to go to their Board of Trustees for approval due to the added expense. Therefore, the program cannot be submitted to the Kansas Board of Regents for approval this June. It is not known whether or not BCC will be able to submit the training program for approval by their Board of Trustees in December 2013. They have asked other participating colleges (Garden City, Neosho County, Johnson County, Cloud County and Independence) if they would like to assume the lead college role.
- In the meantime, BCC had developed a course outline for three new online classes: Intro to Direct Support, Interim Direct Support, and Advanced Direct Support. Students can take these classes if teachers can be recruited. The classes would lead to nationally recognized credentials through the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals, but would not count towards an Associate's Degree. Dan Hermreck from TARC in Topeka and Mark Barber from Flint Hills Services in El Dorado are possibly interested in teaching the classes, but no plans are finalized at this point. In order for students to take these classes, they must be currently working in the field of direct support services and have access to Direct Course (formerly the College of Direct Supports) through their employer.
- Challenges:
 - Without the training program leading to an Associate's Degree, there is no opportunity to build in career pathways for students.
 - Without the Associate's Degree component, creating high school academies that would serve as a recruitment avenue for direct care workers will also not be possible.
 - Without additional funding support, the program won't likely be sustainable long-term.

- The Lifespan Respite Project has been approved to access technical assistance support from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Lewin Group. Advisement will be sought to see how we can best overcome the aforementioned challenges.

Public Awareness Campaign & Lifespan Respite Website:

- The development of the statewide respite care public awareness campaign is currently on hold. A critical step prior to launching the campaign is the development of a one stop shop caregiver resource website. It was intended for the website to be a part of KDAD's Aging and Disability Resource Center website. However, approval to move forward with creating lifespan respite web pages on KDAD's website has not yet been granted. The Kansas Lifespan Respite Project can possibly hire a contractor to create the website, but we still need approval first to tie into the state's website.

Personal Care Worker Registry:

- The Aging and Disability Resource Center database is only able to list organizations that provide respite care, and not individual care providers. In order to better connect families who self-direct their care as well as positively impact the employment opportunities for students entering the new training and credentialing programs, a new database will need to be created that lists individual personal care workers.
- The development of a new personal care worker registry is currently on hold pending approval from KDADS. KDADS needs to review legal aspects and overall feasibility of the project prior to moving forward.

Respite Volunteer Training:

- In effort to garner best training practices to support future volunteer caregiving networks across Kansas, Erin Pittenger from Ogden (near Manhattan) and Gina Ervay from Wichita are now certified volunteer respite trainers in the "REST" training program (Respite Education and Support Tools).
- If you would like more information about the training program, contact Gina Ervay at (316) 218-9363 or gervay@rockoinc.org.

Technical Assistance – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Lewin Group:

- The Kansas Lifespan Respite Project and the Money Follows the Person Project have connected to better enhance outcomes of related initiatives to support persons who are aging, disabled or chronically ill. Going forward, we have been approved to receive technical assistance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Lewin Group. The following areas will be a focus for technical assistance:

- Task 1: Guidance in preparing Kansas to potentially apply for federal dollars to access training and wage increases for personal care workers.
 - Action Step 1: Guidance on developing the training and credentialing program for direct care workers
 - Action Step 2: Guidance on getting training costs built into reimbursement rates with a specific focus on managed care
- Task 2: Connecting the Money Follows the Person Project with the Kansas Lifespan Respite Project regarding a registry for individual care workers.
 - Action Step 1: Review registry options available nationwide and successful strategies.

Updates and Announcements from Member Agencies/Organizations:

- Trinity Heights Respite Care provides respite care for children with special needs in Marion and Harvey Counties. They recently celebrated their 20th Anniversary. A big congratulation goes out to them for the meaningful difference they are making in the lives of families!
- Organizations and families are invited to sign up for email alerts for the End the Wait Campaign through the Disability Rights Center of Kansas. This advocacy effort is making important strides toward improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities. You can help by letting your voice be heard. To sign up, logon to www.endthewaitks.org.
- You are encouraged to attend upcoming public forums to learn what KanCare means to children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, their families and caregivers. One such forum will be held by the Advocates in Communities Team (ACT) of South Central Kansas on April 13, 2013, 1:30 pm at GracePoint Church located at 9035 West Central, Wichita KS.

The next Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition teleconference will be June 11, 2013 at 11:00 am. The Disability Rights Center of Kansas will host the call.

Adjourned at 11:50 pm.