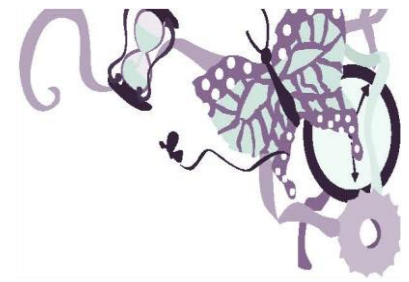


Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition



Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2013

Host: Disability Rights Center of Kansas

Participants: Monica Cissell – Central Plains AAA, Michele Dillon – Jayhawk AAA, Gina Ervay - KLRC/ROCKO, Steve Gieber – Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, Laura Owens – Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, Tyler Staples – Kids TLC, Tim Wood- Disability Rights Center of Kansas

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

Training & Credentialing Program Development:

- Butler Community College will be launching a new direct support training and credentialing class estimated to begin spring of 2014. The class will result in students receiving the nationally recognized credential of “Direct Support Professional-Certified Level 1”. To launch the class, 10 students need to be recruited. The class will be online and thus, students can participate from any geographical region in the state. The class will be offered for college credit. At this time, Butler has placed their plans to develop an Associate’s Degree program for DSP’s on hold due to financial constraints.
- In order for students to take the direct support professional course through Butler CC, they will first need to be a Registered DSP which entails a \$50 certification fee, a letter to the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals from the DSP’s employer validating completion of state required training along with six months continuous and current employment, and a letter written by the DSP indicating their intended professional commitment.
- In considering the long-term vision for a comprehensive DSP training and credentialing program that involves high school academies and leads to an Associate's Degree along with subsequent career pathways, strategies for bolstering sustainability are being considered. One idea is to further explore the feasibility of connecting the program to the Accelerated Opportunity Project: Kansas (AO-K) or the TRAC 7 project. The AO-K project uses an integrated education and training career pathways model to deliver career and technical education with adult basic skill instruction. Students complete short-term certificate programs aligned with labor market needs, leading to industry endorsed credentials and immediate jobs. The Technical Retraining to Achieve Credentials Program (TRAC-7) is a consortium of seven Kansas community colleges and technical schools which offer hands-on training in high-demand, high-wage careers to better meet the needs of a more skilled workforce statewide.
- Danny Gillum with Dodge City Community College and Travis Githens with Independence Community College have expressed an interest in exploring the potential of helping to develop the infrastructure for the Associate’s Degree program for Direct Support Professionals. Discussions will be ongoing.

- Johnson County Community College was initially planning to develop an on-line Social Disability course as a requirement for the Associate Degree for Direct Support Professionals. Johnson CCC is looking for funding to develop the course. In working with the Office of Institutional Research, they will be developing an assessment survey to determine interest in the course amongst employers and students. It is estimated that the survey will be ready for distribution to employers in early July and then to students in August. A strategy needs to be defined as to the best approach in reaching potential students since the target group may likely not be existing students on campus. This will probably involve accessing potential students via their employers. Johnson CCC's involvement will ultimately hinge on the assessment survey and overall future program development.
- Dan Hermreck with TARC will create a PowerPoint presentation regarding the direct support professional training and credentialing program to use in recruiting student and employer involvement. It is estimated that the presentation will be ready by early July to be distributed in conjunction with Johnson CCC's assessment survey. Interhab will assist with marketing the course to their members along with presenting information to employers at their board meeting in August and their annual conference during October 16-18, 2013.

Direct Care Worker Registry:

- KDADS has approved looking into options to develop a database for individual direct care workers. One option to be reviewed more closely is a 3rd party database based out of Massachusetts called "Rewarding Work Resources".

Respite Care Public Awareness Campaign:

- The campaign continues to be on hold until development of the direct care training and credentialing program is more advanced and new volunteer respite program possibilities are more known.

Updates and Announcements from Member Agencies/Organizations:

- The Autism Development & Learning Center with Kids TLC in Kansas City is looking at developing a respite care program.
- The Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC) Board of Directors will be holding a public hearing to discuss the program priorities for the organization. DRC is the officially designated Protection and Advocacy System (P&A) for Kansas. The public comment session will be: Friday June 28th, 2013, from 9am to 10am, at the DRC offices (635 SW Harrison, Suite 100, Topeka, Kansas 66603). Comments can be submitted in writing ahead of time to DRC. Please email your comments to info@drckansas.org by June 14th to be copied and delivered to the Board for its consideration.

- The Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities is seeking stakeholder input on the draft of their 5 Year State Plan by the end of June. You can find a copy of the state plan on their website at http://www.kcdd.org/?page_id=137.
- June 13th-15th is the annual Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas Conference to be held at the Ramada Inn in Topeka. For more information, contact Craig Knutson at 785-749-5588.

The next Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition teleconference will be August 13, 2013 at 11:00 am. The Disability Rights Center of Kansas will host the call.

Adjourned at 11:30 am.