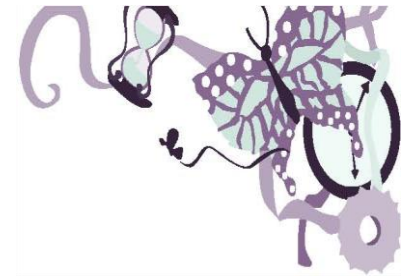


Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition



Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2014

Host: Disability Rights Center of Kansas

Participants: Charline Cobbs - Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, Gina Ervay - KLRC/ROCKO, Mike Horan – Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, Connie Rickard – Trinity Heights Respite Care

Upcoming 2014 Meeting Dates (11am-12pm): August 12th

Training & Credentialing Program Development:

- Discussions continue to determine a new lead college in applying for program approval with the Kansas Board of Regents. Possible lead colleges include: Johnson County, Hutchinson and Barton County.
- The first direct support professional online training course offered through Butler Community College had five graduates. Two of the graduates are willing to speak about their experiences to legislators and the managed care companies as a strategy to move the program forward including the possibility of asking the state to apply for federal matching funds to support wage increases.
- A new online direct support professional training course for supervisors is on schedule to begin this fall through Butler Community College.
- The Kansas Lifespan Respite Project will be offering \$30,000 in scholarships to help increase enrollment for the direct support professional training classes. Interhab will be involved with the scholarship award process.

Direct Care Worker Registry:

- The Sunflower Foundation declined the grant request to purchase the Rewarding Work Resources direct care worker registry.
- The grant request made to the Money Follows the Person project to help fund the Rewarding Work Resources direct care worker registry was awarded.
- Respite Outreach Care for Kansans Organization can help fund the first year's maintenance fees. More discussions are planned to talk with the managed care organizations to help with ongoing support of maintenance fees for the registry. A strategic plan for long-term sustainability of the registry will need to be developed.

- It will be important for Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition members to help with recruiting workers for the direct care worker registry.
- On a recent call with KDADS regarding upcoming changes to direct support services, it was noted that by 2015, payroll intermediaries will no longer be considered employers of supportive care workers due to the ACA requirements for providing health insurance. There was some discussion over concern that this would result in families not being able to ask payroll intermediaries for lists of supportive care workers. This is all the more reason why the direct care worker registry will be an important component of the long term services and support system going forward.

Sustainability of Lifespan Respite Initiative:

- The opportunity for Kansas to apply for the federal lifespan respite expansion grant was presented to both the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services and the Kansas Department for Health and Environment. Neither department had the time or employee resources to collaborate with the Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition on the development of the grant. The grant can only be submitted by a state agency. Thus, the capacity for the Kansas Lifespan Respite Project to continue making progress in expanding access to quality respite care services will not advance unless an expansion grant is applied for in 2015.
- Without additional resources, it will be difficult to further efforts related to disseminating respite volunteer training. Whether or not the college training program can continue to advance without further funding is yet to be determined. The direct care professional training and credentialing program may be a key area of interest for MCO's going forward as many states are wondering what level of training MCO's may require of direct care professionals.
- An important next step will be to work with a champion within a state department to help advance the lifespan respite initiative in the future, including spearheading any future application for federal lifespan respite funding.
- Nationwide, the trend in seeking sustainability of lifespan respite projects is to integrate the lifespan respite initiatives into the system of long term services and supports.

Organizational Updates:

No updates reported.

The next Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition teleconference will be August 12, 2014 at 11:00 am. The Disability Rights Center of Kansas will host the call.

Adjourned at 12:00 pm.