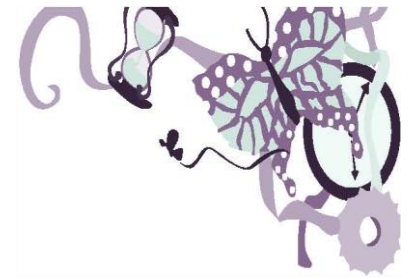


Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition



Meeting Minutes – February 12, 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, Mike Horan – Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, Tim Wood- Disability Rights Center of Kansas

Upcoming 2013 Meeting Dates (11am-12pm): Apr. 9th, Jun. 11th, Aug. 13th, Oct. 8th, Dec. 10th

Training & Credentialing:

- The lead community colleges in Kansas that are partnering with Butler Community College to roll out the new direct support professional training and credentialing program (which can result in an Associate's Degree) are: Garden City, Neosho County, Johnson County, Cloud County and Independence.
- North Central Kansas Technical College is working with the North Central Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging to develop caregiver training. We have reached out to them regarding a partnership opportunity, but have not yet been able to discuss initiatives in detail.
- **If anyone would like to pursue a training partnership with your local community college, please contact Gina Ervay at (316) 218-9363 or gervay@rockoinc.org for more information.**
- **How Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition Members can be involved:**
 - *Participate in a direct **care worker wage survey**. The cumulative results (not listed by individual organizations) will be submitted to the Kansas Board of Regents along with the application for the new training program. The information being collected includes titles of direct care worker positions along with the starting wage and average current wage.*
 - *Write a **letter of support** of how your organization or association would support the training program (i.e. providers may be willing to support the mentoring/work-based learning piece; associations may be willing to help advertise the program to potential students or assist in connecting students with families in need of workers etc.)*
 - *Any organization that would like to participate in advising with the development of the training and credentialing program is encouraged to do so. The next training advisory teleconference call will be held on February 26th. Contact Gina Ervay for more information at (316) 218-9363 or gervay@rockoinc.org.*

- Next steps for the training and credentialing program:
 - Technical assistance will also be sought from the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota or the Lewin Group/Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. They are knowledgeable in direct care training programs nationwide.
 - Once the training program application is finalized, the information will be presented to the Tech Authority who will take it to the Curriculum Committee who will approve it to go to the Kansas Board of Regents. It is estimated that the program can meet the required approvals by April 5, 2013 to go to the Kansas Board of Regents by their meeting on June 13, 2013. This timeline would likely enable Butler to offer the program as soon as the fall of 2013.
- The initial training and credentialing program will target incumbent workers. Once the program gains traction, we will be focusing on developing high school academies that feed into the program. There is also the vision of working with universities near the participating community colleges to build bridges between the programs that will also lead on to additional career pathways.

Public Awareness Campaign:

- The KLRC will be launching a statewide respite care public awareness campaign. The timing of the campaign will coincide with the roll out of the new training and credentialing programs. The campaign will be designed to: connect families with direct care professionals, connect service providers to the ADRC database, and connect potential direct care workers to the training and credentialing programs at community colleges.
 - With Butler possibly rolling out the new training program as early as the fall of 2013, we need to begin the conceptual design phase of the marketing campaign. The challenge will be coming up with a slogan and campaign design that will appeal to both caregiving families and direct care professionals.
 - **Anyone interested in participating on a marketing committee to work on the campaign design as well as brainstorming a strategic plan for various communication avenues, please contact Gina Ervay at (316) 218-9363 or gervay@rockoinc.org.**

Lifespan Respite Website:

- We will soon begin working on a lifespan respite website that will likely connect to the Kansas Department for Aging and Disabilities Services website. Final approval of the project by KDADS is still pending. Once approved, it will be the one stop shop clearinghouse of respite care information and resources. Eventually the Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition's website will be discontinued as all information regarding respite will be centralized. A good example of such a lifespan respite website is: <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/taketimetexas>.

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.
- Discussions are ongoing whether KDADS will develop an in-house database to augment the current one at www.ksadrc.org, or if a third party database will need to be considered. Liability issues are also currently being navigated as it concerns background checks of workers.
 - Rewardingwork.org is a third party database currently active in five states, soon to be six states. Some states provide access to the database free of charge to families on a Medicaid waiver. If families are charged an access fee, they are only charged for the months they utilize the database. Rewarding Work does not do background checks.
 - Care.com is a current database available nationwide. Families pay a monthly subscription fee. Care.com can do background checks on employees listed.

Respite Volunteer Training:

- With known gaps in respite care service combined with uncertainties around what future funding will be available to support services, many states are strategizing the development of volunteer caregiving networks.
- 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 will be attending the “REST” training program (Respite Education and Support Tools). The training program is a train the trainer model and will be held in Tennessee the end of February.
- If you would like more information about the training program, Gina Ervay or Erin Pittenger will be able to assist starting in March. For more information, call Gina at (316) 218-9363 or gervay@rockoinc.org.

Outreach/Updates:

- Monica Cissell reminded coalition members to review the ADRC database at www.ksadrc.org to ensure your organization/agency is listed and that the information is accurate.

The next Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition teleconference will be April 9, 2013 at 11:00 am. The Disability Rights Center of Kansas will host the call.

Adjourned at 11:40 pm.