



Sedgwick County  
Developmental Disability Organization  
Dee Nighswonger, LMSW, LCAC, NADD-DDS – Director

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***Meeting of the Sedgwick County  
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board  
Tuesday May 10, 2022  
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
In-Person  
SCDDO, 615 N. Main, Wichita, KS 67203***

Al Besser, Jr.  
Greg Sullivan  
Sherry Arbuckle  
Shelley Herrington

Dave Jones  
Dee Nighswonger  
Rebecca Shell  
Jeannette Livingston

Cassandra Sines  
Deidre Manis  
Grace Kneil  
Kara Sumner

Welcome and Introductions

Review Minutes of Previous Meeting

Deferred for quorum

IDDAB Nominating Committee & Spring Officer Elections

Deferred for quorum

Affiliations

- There have been 3 affiliates added recently:
  - Angel Wings – Approved contingent on them getting the financial and insurance information. Insurance was obtained in last couple weeks so we are moving forward. They are a limited license serving 1 person.
  - Jondoh house – Approved contingent on getting licensure. They will provide residential and day, full license. He currently has KMAP number and is working

- o on contracting with MCO's.
  - o St. Margaret's mission – she currently had a license. She will provide limited license serving her sister. She had to remodel her home before she could bring in her sister and that is almost complete. She is also working on getting credentialing with Sunflower.
- There are 3 other providers in process and should show up on next advisory board agenda. They will all be full license providers.

### SCDDO Managers Reports

#### Director's Report - Dee Nighswonger

- Monthly happenings – these are documents put together by Jeannette Livingston and are then distributed to deputy county manager. He would then post summary on county website but due to staffing issues this is not happening so they will now be on the SCDDO website. They will no longer be sent out in an email since you will be able to pull them from the website. They can be found within the first week or two after the close of the month.
- Local Data – 5 years' worth of data on the website.
- Strategic Roadmap: Eliminating the IDD Waiting List/ Addressing IDD Capacity Erosion – This report was generated by Interhab in collaboration with representatives from throughout their membership. Sherry Arbuckle was part of this workgroup. Locally, there are nearly 1000 people waiting for HCBS funding in Sedgwick County with just under 10 yrs avg wait. In order for us to address and eliminate the waiting list, we have to stabilize current system. It has been under funded. There are providers who have closed, vacancy rates are high and providers also experience high levels of turnover.
- The Kansas legislation passed a bill to allocate \$2.5 million all funds to CDDO admin whose budget has not increased since 2015. All funds refers to state funding matched by federal funding to total the \$2.5 million which will be spread across all 27 CDDOs in the state. CDDO representatives are scheduling meetings with KDADS to understand what their ideas are about how the funding will be allocated. Meetings with the CDDO contract workgroup to talk about the contract amendment are scheduled.  

There was also a 25% rate increase that goes in to affect July 1 for IDD providers, Rate increase position providers to increase DSP's to an avg of \$15 and hour. Some of our providers have already started hiring new employees at that rate.
- Tiny K also received \$2 million added to the budget to help with early intervention. A bill was passed that creates improvements in ABLE act. Another bill was passed that enacts a tax credit for employing persons with developmental disabilities.
  - o Al asked who our strongest allies were – Dee will send out a list.
- InterHab was a part of the advocacy process. There are about 350 providers across state and only about 40 Interhab members. The biggest challenge will be making

sure all providers understand that the legislature will be looking at where the money will go. InterHab is working on developing a messaging to share with all providers whether they are a member or not.

- There will be an IDD service system modernization task force this summer focused on understanding challenges and creating strategic map on system improvements going forward.
- KDADS received a 10% increase in FMAP funding from the federal government as part of the CARES act that will be used to dig in to the waiting list and having a better understanding of what the current needs are and what the future needs would be, looking 5 yrs down the road.
- Strategic plan – Summary of the plan, there is a more in depth version on our website. We are currently working what we can do the last 6 months of this year to make progress on this plan.
- County budget – Each department head is presenting to Board of County Commissioners. Main issue this year has been about vacancy/vacancy rate/ turnover of staff. SCDDO has experienced longer time between job posting to application by qualified candidates than in the past.
- The SCDDO has received approval to participate in the AmeriCorps/ VISTA program - 3 full time VISTA volunteers will be recruited for the following service opportunities – Community Liaison, Adult Workforce Development, and Youth Workforce Development. The description of each service opportunity is listed below and can also be found on the department website: click [here](#)

**Community Liaison VISTA:** Ensure that individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities have access to the Home and Community Based Services needed to live their preferred lifestyle by helping with a variety of community education and outreach tasks.

**Workforce Development VISTA Adult:** Support the implementation of a new, innovative registered apprenticeship program for Kansas. This new program will help ensure that Sedgwick County has a robust, highly qualified workforce to support the needs of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

**Workforce Development VISTA Youth:** Serve with members of SCDDO to create employment opportunities for eligible Project Search special education students and High School students interested in a career in IDD services. Develop and create plans for two innovative program with our team.

Deputy Director - Jeannette Livingston

- Capacity report –Covid hit and providers were overwhelmed so we decided to hold off on the report. The last report was in 2018. Report should be completed for the next meeting.
- Project SEARCH – A virtual reverse job fair is being held until May 15 and is designed

for youth. In the past we worked with the local Workforce Alliance and the students set up booths and display their job skills and talents in person. Employers would come and students would talk to the employers about their skills, but this doesn't work in a COVID world. For the virtual job fair a website was set up that is password protected. So employers have to register and students create a video resume along with a written resume and post them on the website and employers can go and see all the students from Project SEARCH sites in Sedgwick County. Adult Project SEARCH individuals all have jobs.

- National Project Search heard about our virtual reverse job fair website and asked for Jeannette to submit an abstract to be included in the national conference. Jeannette along with 2 of the Project Search teachers will be presenting in July at the national conference.
- Affiliate meeting in June will be a special extended meeting to review response to pandemic. What went well, what didn't, what we could do better next time. It will be an in person event.
- AbilityPoint recognized the SCDDO with the partner in service award.

#### Service Access and Operations – Sherry Arbuckle

- Waiting list offers 21 for fiscal year for Sedgwick County
  - 15 offers were accepted
  - 3 were declined – 2 of them went through entire process and declined at the end
  - 3 no response – if no response they will be closed out soon and offered back out
  - 1 person who accepted, we are having issues getting in touch with them to get their assessment completed. If it doesn't get completed it will be considered an involuntary decline.
  - June 2012 currently the last date served by offers.
  - Out of the 968 who are waiting, 450 are under the age of 18 and 515 are over the age of 18.
- Operations is fully staff

#### Quality Assurance – Shelley Herrington

- COVID numbers – Last month there were 16 instances compared to 600 in January. There were 2 instances with 1 testing positive in May. All of our programs are open. We are encouraging everyone to go back to their day programs. State has not changed any of their exceptions yet so individuals are still allowed to receive services at home.
- QA Coordinator Jamie Kite left. The position has been open since end of March and we are actively recruiting. Applications are coming in slow.

- Onboarding –Site visit for St. Margaret’s Mission has been done, but the site is not ready. Sister is currently being serviced by parent, just waiting on remodel to be finished.
- Jondoh House currently has 1 group home. They don’t have a day facility but most day providers don’t start with a facility, they just go out in to the community.
- Residential provider Dwell is going out of business. They want to transition their homes over to Hearts of Love. Letters have been sent out to individuals and Hearts of Love will be managing the facility locations; however, they will all have to do options counseling because they have a new provider coming in to the locations. Pandemic was large factor in the decision to close the business.

#### Other Business/Announcements

#### Adjourn