

## **DIVISION OVERVIEW - Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities**

### **MISSION:**

The mission of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (Council) is to ensure the opportunity to make choices regarding the participation in society and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities (DD).

### **PHILOSOPHY:**

The Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities is firmly committed to the following principles regarding persons with developmental disabilities:

- People have the rights and responsibilities of full inclusion to live, work, and develop relationships in the community of their choice and to participate to their fullest extent possible;
- Believe an essential component of community inclusion is supporting and promoting self-advocacy and the rights and responsibilities of making choices;
- Recognize the importance of family, friends, neighbors, and other community members who are necessary for interdependence; and
- Therefore, it is fundamental that supports and relationships exist to achieve a full life.

The role of the Council is to monitor, evaluate, and influence existing systems to assure that they are providing persons with DD the programs, services, and opportunities necessary to enable them to achieve their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, and integration into the community.

To achieve this, the Council develops and adopts a five-year State Plan that describes the extent and scope of services available in Kansas for persons with DD. The Council annually monitors and evaluates implementation of this Plan. The Council also reviews and comments on other State Plans that affect services to persons with DD and serves as an advocate on behalf of persons with DD.

### **PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST WITH MISSION:**

The Council is made up of 19 Kansans appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. Members of the Council must represent key DD stakeholder groups. The Council oversees the work of the Council staff through the Executive Director. The Council awards grant funds for projects designed to address key components of its State Plan. These grants make up the bulk of the Council's expenditures. The Council also seeks to participate in special projects to further its mission to persons with DD. These projects may be pursued solely by the Council or in partnership with other key stakeholders. Funding for these projects often comes from federal grants.

**STATUTORY HISTORY:**

Public Law 106-402 mandates that a Developmental Disabilities Council be formed in each state to advocate for persons with DD. The Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities is appointed consistent with federal and state law (K.S.A. 75-5501 et seq.)

**OVERVIEW OF CURRENT AND BUDGET YEAR INFORMATION:**

The Council has developed and submitted its State Plan for Federal FYs 2012 - 2016. The Plan is being implemented and the Plan's goals and objectives are reported to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The Plan contains the following objectives:

- Raise the level of education and public policy engagement of consumers, family members, people close to them, and other non-traditional sources resulting in an increase in the actual policy advocacy that occurs;
- Provide financial support for organizations that sponsor conferences for persons with DD;
- Assist people with developmental disabilities in discovering all available resources when seeking employment;
- Provide funds for educating families in their rights and best practices in special education;
- Increase the number of people with developmental disabilities who are working competitively in the community;
- Increase the number of persons who receive medical and dental care that addresses their physical, dental, mental and behavioral needs; and
- Ensure that self-advocates are present at all policymaking meetings and have the opportunity to be heard on matters of importance to them.