

Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition

Meeting Minutes

Host: National M.S. Society

May 10, 2011

Participants: Gina Ervay – ROCKO, Kelly Evans – Trinity In-Home Care, Laura Owens – ADRC Director, Kathy Stiffler – Individual Support Systems, Rhonda Hale – National MS Society, Amy Goldstein – National MS Society

Upcoming Meeting Dates: July 12, Sept. 13, Nov. 8 (11am-12pm)

Gina welcomed everyone and introduced participants in the meeting.

Laura and Tina with KDOA are in the process of reviewing 33 applicants for the KS Lifespan Respite Program Director and will be interviewing in the next few weeks.

Gina noted that Bonnie Duden shared about the KS Apprenticeship program at our last meeting. Individual Support Systems in Topeka has partnered with the KS Apprenticeship program and shared her experiences with the KLRC. One KLRC initiative is to increase the pool of trained service providers, and the Apprenticeship program is a way to advance the training and education of direct support professionals that results in a nationally recognized credential.

Kathy shared that 6 people have completed the program at Individual Support Systems.

Kathy noted the program is intensive for the participants and mentors. There are two levels of certifications (initial and advanced) required for completion by students. Students apply to the program and upon acceptance are matched with a mentor (typically a supervisor of the organization). Ratio is two students to 1 mentor. A coach (typically a director of the organization) oversees program and leads classroom of students who meet once each month for 4 hours. Students are assigned portfolios that they must present, and a state board reviews /approves each portfolio. Initial certification lasts 10 months, advanced certification is an 8 month course. Kathy noted the program requires approximately 15 hours per month, which includes computer training (College of Direct Supports), classroom training, and meetings with mentor and coach. Kathy reported that it requires a substantial time commitment from the agency and apprentice. Apprentices are paid by the organization, and wage progression is an expectation of program participation. ISS does not receive any additional funding from the local Work Force Center or other sources to compensate for the training costs. Kathy expressed that the program has been fun and has increased the confidence of staff who have completed

the program. Kathy noted that direct support professionals who have completed the program enjoyed the program and take on more leadership in their positions than before completion of the program.

Gina explained that a host for our July conference call is still needed. Joan Flynn with AAA, someone from CPRF, or the Ind. Living Resource Center, or the Wichita Center for Community Support and Research may be options for hosting. Amy from the MS Society noted they are willing to host again in the future if needed. Kelly and Gina will explore options and make contacts for hosting the next call.

Members shared updates on contacting other organizations about KLRC membership. Kelly shared a KLRC powerpoint presentation with the Douglas County Coalition on Aging. No new members signed up immediately, but interest is there and membership interest may increase as KS lifespan initiative moves forward.

Kelly will work on uploading the KLRC power point presentation to the website for use and distribution by members.

Gina and Kelly expressed an idea for members to share information on local respite programs and asked participants on the call to share about any innovative or interesting respite models in local communities. Kelly asked Gina to share about the ROCKO program. ROCKO = is a mobile respite program serving Sedgwick and butler county. ROCKO provides 4 hour periods of respite in churches, community centers, and schools. Currently at a crossroads because can't become licensed without a facility, so relying on fundraising dollars to continue programming. ROCKO utilizes 150-180 volunteers annually. Respite is provided mostly by paid staff positions.

Gina provided an update on national respite initiatives. The National Respite Coalition is exploring partnership with CARE.com. One consideration is for each state to contribute \$5,000-\$10,000 and the National Respite Coalition would contribute \$25,000 to access a national database of respite providers and resources. Gina has information from the National Respite Coalition on various registries. Kelly will post this info on the KLRC website.

Laura shared KDOA's hope to have the lifespan respite program director hired in time for the next meeting in July.

Next meeting: July 12, 2011. (All meetings start at 11am with conf. call capabilities.)

Meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Minutes recorded by Kelly Evans.

