

Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2011

Host: Central Plains Area Agency on Aging

Participants: Gina Ervay – ROCKO, Kelly Evans – Trinity In-Home Care, Joan Flynn – CPAAA, Annette Graham - CPAAA, Rhonda Hale – National MS Society, Lindsey Norton - Alzheimer’s Association, Diane Salyers - Southeast Kansas Respite Services

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

Annette Graham updated the coalition that Tina Langley is no longer with the Kansas Department on Aging. Tina was the lead contact person for the Lifespan Respite Grant. All others at KDOA that were familiar with the Lifespan Respite Grant are no longer with KDOA as well.

Annette Graham and Gina Ervay will meet with Susan Fout, Commissioner of Community Programs with KDOA, on July 29th to discuss the future of the Lifespan Respite Grant. Coalition input regarding the future direction of the grant is encouraged. If you would like to participate in a grant planning meeting on either July 27th in the afternoon or in the morning of July 29th, please call Gina Ervay at 316 -687-5700 ext. 2.

The coalition reviewed the objectives and outcomes of the Lifespan Respite Grant. A copy of the grant or a link to the grant will be emailed out to members for review. It was noted that the overall goal of the Kansas Lifespan Respite Project is to expand access to and improve the quality of respite services for residents across the state, regardless of age, disability or special need.

Discussion included what the coalition considered as important aspects of the grant including increasing respite care services by making quality training accessible for care providers, creation of a state-wide database of resources and services, and a public relations campaign to help families know about the option of respite and where to go for services as well as to help caregivers access respite before it becomes a situation of too little, too late. Another important element of the campaign was to communicate how respite care is also very beneficial for the care recipient, not just the caregiver, thus helping caregivers to overcome their sense of guilt about asking for help.

Examples of progress other states are making regarding making training available for caregivers includes:

www.azdirectcare.org

www.respiteforme.com

Gina Ervay will search for lifespan grant objectives that other states are working on.

Discussion included ways lifespan respite funds could possibly be reallocated from community forums designed for the purpose of listening to gaps in services to proactive steps to help increase availability of services. Other potential proposed changes to the grant include utilizing K4-A’s 1-800 number as the statewide contact number for respite information, referral and assistance, and possibly locating the lifespan respite coordinator position in Wichita.

A link will be sent out to the coalition for the national Powerpoint Presentation “Making Respite More Effective” hosted by Dr. Dale Lund, Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology, and Co-Director, Center for the Promotion of Health Disparities Research & Training at California State University San Bernardino.

Next Meeting : September 13, 2011, 11 am (possible host CPAAA)

November 8, 2011, 11 am (hosted by Southeast Kansas Respite Services)

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Minutes recorded by Gina Ervay.