



Sedgwick County
Developmental Disability Organization
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**SEDGWICK COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, January 25 2019

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Arc, 2919 W. 2nd Street, Wichita, KS

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Rebecca Duden, President of the Community Council Executive Committee, introduced herself and opened the meeting. The other Executive Committee members introduced themselves including Kirsten Robinson, Vice President, Amanda Riddle, Agency Representative, and Jeannette Livingston, CDDO Representative.
- II. Wichita State University Transportation Assessment – Dr. Melissa Walker introduced herself and discussed a project her team is working on to assess how the current transportation system works for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Dr. Walker gave out her business cards and encouraged anyone who would like to share their story about transportation (good or bad) to contact her. Her e-mail is melissa.walker@wichita.edu
- III. Community Council Executive Committee Elections – Jeannette Livingston explained the election forms and encouraged all attendees to vote for the open Executive Committee spots. As there is still one opening, additional nominations are being accepted.
- IV. Guardianship Presentation – Ryan Farley, Hinkle Law Firm, LLC, provided a comprehensive presentation on guardianship. The attachment, “Basic Instructions for

Guardians,” is the training all individuals must take to become guardians. Mr. Farley discussed the difference between a guardian and a conservator. A guardian makes decisions for a disabled person while a conservator makes decisions for a disabled person specific to money and finances. Generally a conservator is not needed unless the disabled person has at least \$10,000 per month in assets.

A petition must be filed with the court to enact a guardianship arrangement and guardians must report annually on the status of their ward. Additionally, any significant changes must be reported to the court through an interim report. Guardians are expected to protect the rights of their wards. There are a few decisions a guardian cannot make for their ward without court approval, those include: consent to adoption of ward, termination of ward’s parental rights, amputation (unless lifesaving), sterilization, remove from life support or a lobotomy. A guardian can also never prohibit the marriage or divorce of a ward. Upon death, the guardianship extends just to the burial and does not include authority to distribute the ward’s assets.

Guardians also have to be careful of the appearance of conflict of interest and should not pay themselves from their ward’s resources. If reimbursement is needed, the guardian can request it through the annual court report. Mr. Farley also mentioned that having an out of state guardian is not recommended; if have an out of state guardian, should consider a local co-guardian.

- V. Agency Updates & Other Business – Jeannette Livingston discussed the new recognition program the Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Organization has initiated. The program is designed to recognize direct support supervisors and targeted case managers for excellent work. A copy of the recognition nomination form was provided.