



SEDGWICK COUNTY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Friday, April 29, 2022
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
AbilityPoint or Virtual
2919 W 2nd Street, Wichita

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jeannette Livingston, SCDDO Deputy Director, welcomed everyone.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Jeannette Livingston introduced officers

- a. Chairperson: Tavricks Lawless
- b. Vice-Chair: Tami Allen
- c. Secretary: Chelsea Jackson

SAFE AT HOME VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

- Kristen Phillips, Operations Director, presented their National Arc virtual programs. Link is provided. Some of the programs she demonstrated were virtual museums and Accessible Chef (located under Community and Life Skills under topics).
- <https://programlibrary.thearc.org/browse>

ABILITYPOINT CAMPS

- Kevin Fish, Executive Director, presented their programs.
- <https://abilitypoint.org/>
- AbilityPoint changed name in October from ARC to AbilityPoint. There are multiple organizations within Wichita that have ARC in their name and they were receiving calls for all of them.
- YESS – Youth Education and Summer Socialization – School ages 5-21 – Allows youth with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) to continue learning while also enjoying summer. The program also supports working parents. This year, due to funding issues, YESS Camp does require a 2 to 1 student ratio meaning they have to have at least 2 USD 259 students register to each 1 out of district student.
- The Crew – 18-21 year olds focuses on Transition to Employment & Life Skills Training.
- Camp Ability 16+ year olds is a residential camp for 1 week.
- Miss Unstoppable pageant builds confidence among participants.
- Scholarships are available.

RAINBOWS UNITED CAMP WOODCHUCK AND SERVICES

- Tiffany Graf, Coordinator for family support services and camp director presented on Rainbows camp option.
- <https://rainbowsunited.org/>
- Camp Woodchuck – 6-21 year olds – They are celebrating 50 years this summer. Their summer recreational and leisure day program will be done in the home again this year.
- Other activities the camp has featured include: fashion show, splash pads, art show, talent show, play in large backyard, Botanica, Spa Day, skating.

- Latchkey – They are still working on figuring out when/if it will be open again. Tiffany will email Jeannette and Jeannette will email Community Council members updated information when received.

AGENCY UPDATES AND OTHER BUSINESS

Jeannette – Effective July 1 the Kansas legislative session approved a 25% rate increase for providers. They also approved a study to be done on the waitlist to see what can be done to reduce the wait time for services.

Down Syndrome Society received a grant that will help young people who are working age learn skills through operation of a food truck.

Special Olympics South Central Regional Track and Field will be held on April 30, 2022 at Wichita Collegiate.

Aurora Meyers, the local KanCare Ombudsman, reminded folks that if you receive KanCare then it would be a good idea to call the clearing house to make sure they have up to date address information. This is particularly important if you have moved in the last couple years. While under a pandemic emergency order, KanCare was not requiring annual updates but those will begin again. If the annual form is not sent in timely, KanCare will be closed. It is also important to update address and contact information with CDDO. You wouldn't want to wait ten years for services only for the SCDDO not be able to reach you!

Cassandra Sines spoke of her advocacy work and mentioned the caregiver crisis (which is different than the direct support crisis but related). Cassandra mentioned a documentary to be released end of May that she is working to bring to Sedgwick County.

How do you find out where you are on the waitlist – call the CDDO at 316-660-7630

Anita Ragahavan mentioned the importance of parents advocating for improvements in the IDD system. There is an Advocacy group called ACT that meets at AbilityPoint every other week. If you would like more information email Jeannette.livingston@sedgwick.gov to be added to the Community Council email list

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in July and will focus on Medicaid. If you have questions about Medicaid, please email Jeannette.livingston@sedgwick.gov and they will be answered during this meeting. More information will be sent out before the meeting.

If you have a topic you would like addressed email Jeannette.Livingston@sedgwick.gov.

ADJOURN