Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition

Start-Up Process

• A small group of professionals began conversations about forming a group focused on respite care services in Kansas.
• Statewide summit was held in May 2007 with grant funding. Jill Kagan from the ARCH National Respite Coalition, Senator Byars, a former state senator who championed Nebraska’s Lifespan Respite legislation and Rose Ann Percival, founder of the Oklahoma Respite Resource Network, participated in the summit and guided efforts. Result of the summit was formation of the Kansas Lifespan Respite Coalition (KLRC).
• Summit was followed by regular planning meetings to create mission statement, focus, etc.
• Coalition leadership met with various state departments in 2009, which resulted in partnership with the Kansas Department on Aging and the Aging & Disability Resource Center.

Structure

• Coalition Founder served as Chair during first year.
• New Chair was named for the following year. A steering committee (comprised of Founder, Chair, and active members) was formed to provide direction to coalition.
• Coalition Founder currently serves as Chair.

Staff

• Currently, the KLRC has no paid staff. However, grant money was received in 2008 and 2010 to pay for an intern to conduct a statewide needs assessment.

Funding

• The KLRC wrote a grant in 2008 and received about $12,000 in funding. The grant was used for community engagement and organizational development.
• The KLRC wrote the same grant in 2010 and received about $11,000 in funding for program development and revenue development.
• The KLRC does not charge dues for membership.

Membership

• The KLRC currently has about 40 active members with 200 interested stakeholders. For a list of current members, see http://www.ksrespite.com/links_and_resources.php.
• The coalition hopes to increase membership by connecting with additional service providers affiliated with the Aging and Disability Resource Center.

Meetings and Communication

• The KLRC holds periodic statewide meetings. Conference call capabilities have been made available during all meetings to facilitate participation across the state.

Major Activities

• The KLRC was successful in getting a state Lifespan Respite Care bill drafted and introduced to the Kansas Senate Ways and Means Committee in March 2008. Members of the KLRC testified in support of the bill, but unfortunately the bill did not make it out of Committee during the legislative session.
• The KLRC hosted a strategic planning retreat in Fall 2008 to bring statewide membership together to continue organizational development and focus on initiatives.
Using grant funding, the KLRC launched a website (www.ksrespite.com) and had brochures created to promote statewide involvement and awareness of respite care and of the KLRC.

The Kansas Department on Aging was awarded a federal lifespan respite grant from the US Administration on Aging in 2010. The KLRC worked collaboratively with the state agency to secure the grant.

In 2017, the KLRC collaborated with Respite Outreach Care for Kansans Organization, the Arc of Douglas County and Rewarding Work Resources to launch the Kansas Personal Care Directory. The directory helps connect individuals/family caregivers in need of supportive care with personal care and respite workers and is available at www.rewardingwork.org/Kansas.

Documents/Resources Available
- KLRC Mission Statement: The mission of the KLRC is to promote access to and use of respite for all Kansas caregivers, through community awareness, advocacy, education, and collaboration by providing a statewide respite care system.
- Website: www.ksrespite.com
- KLRC Membership Application
- KLRC Meeting Minutes
- Statewide Respite Survey

State Contact Information
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