



***Executive Summary
Highlights of the
10th Kansas
Disability Caucus***

2005 KANSAS DISABILITY CAUCUS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



CHOICE = FREEDOM



With a record attendance of over 600 Kansans ranging in age from 4 yrs to 78 yrs old, representing all disability types, the Kansas Disability Caucus was a great success.

Comments from participants tell the powerful story:

“Employment provides economic security, it defines our participation and connection in the community” ‘Employment for people with disabilities should be our highest priority, second to none”.

“Personal assistants do a really good service, and they don’t get the respect or the pay they deserve.”

‘I’ve been here for two days and what I’ve been hearing boils down to two words; GET INVOLVED”

“If we are going to educate our communities we need to educate ourselves.”

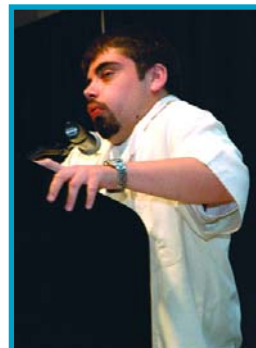
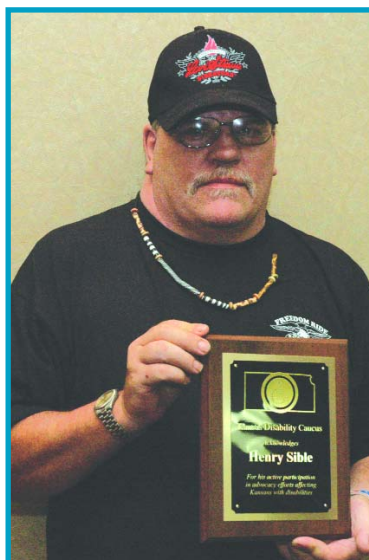
CAUCUS SESSIONS

- ❖ The backbone of the conference is the Caucus sessions where participants speak out about the continuing needs of all people with disabilities in Kansas. On two occasions participants meet according to what area of the state they live to discuss emerging disability issues. These Caucus sessions encourage people to suggest action planning for making real change take place.
- ❖ Issues identified were diverse and heartfelt. Each region felt very passionate about their issues and strongly voiced their concerns;
 - Unemployment continues to ravage the disability community. We are at a place where we can no longer ignore the economic disenfranchisement of citizens with disabilities.
 - Extreme need for adult dental services
 - Increase reimbursement rates / benefits for personal assistants (PAs)
 - Access to health care in general and lack of education among physicians
 - Civil Rights – all Kansas citizens need to have knowledge of disability rights history, civil and human rights and how to direct their own services and supports. This will encourage people with disabilities to take action and file complaints with Department of Justice, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development when discrimination occurs.
 - Home and Community Based services...eliminate the waiting lists, de-segregate programs and services, remove institutional bias in long term care and develop a waiver for Mental Health.
 - Immediate need for emergency preparedness

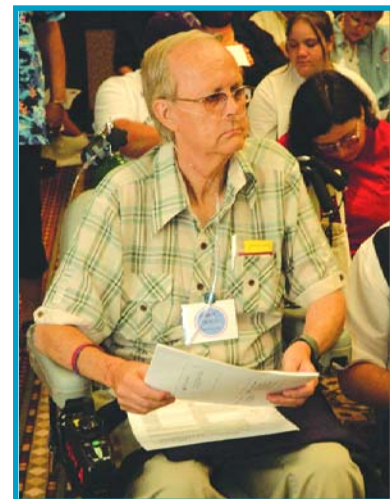
AWARDS BANQUET

Outstanding advocates who have contributed to the disability rights movement were recognized on Thursday evening.

CAUCUS ACTIVITIES

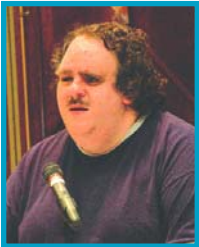


"We will continue to work to free our people."





“To empower and provide our brothers and sisters with the tools necessary to live independently.”



☆☆☆ A WORD OF THANKS ☆☆☆

SPONSORS

- ❖ Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas, Inc.
- ❖ Kansas Social & Rehabilitation Services
- ❖ RCEP Region VII
- ❖ Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities
- ❖ Kansas Department of Health & Environment
- ❖ Traumatic Brain Injury Systems Development Project

CONTRIBUTORS

- ❖ Kansas Association of Centers for Ind. Living
- ❖ Dept. of Education Student Support Services
- ❖ Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns
- ❖ Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation
- ❖ United Missouri Bank, Manhattan
- ❖ United Bank & Trust, Clay Center
- ❖ Union State Bank of Clay Center
- ❖ Citizens National Bank, Clay Center
- ❖ Clay County National Bank, Clay Center
- ❖ Farmers & Merchants State Bank, Wakefield
- ❖ Disability Rights Center of Kansas
- ❖ Rexs Tire Store, Topeka
- ❖ United Missouri Bank, Topeka
- ❖ City of Topeka, Mayors Office
- ❖ Kansas Department of Aging
- ❖ Southwestern Bell Telephone Company
- ❖ Kansas Elks Training Center
- ❖ Columbian Bank, Topeka
- ❖ Target of Manhattan
- ❖ Walgreens of Topeka
- ❖ Walmart, Topeka
- ❖ Alliance Bank, Topeka
- ❖ Vision Bank of Topeka

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- ❖ Living Independently in Northwest Kansas, Inc.
- ❖ Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns
- ❖ Independent Connection/OCCK, Inc.
- ❖ Kansas Association of Centers for Ind. Living
- ❖ Coalition for Independence, Inc.
- ❖ The Whole Person, Inc.

☆☆☆ Caucus Committee ☆☆☆

Shelia Nelson-Stout
Carrie Greenwood
Lou Ann Kibbee
Marty Wooten
Josie Torrez

Nancy Scott
Julia Fonseca
June Campbell
Mary Lou Dunn
Shannon Jones

