



January 28th 2015
12:00 pm-1:00 pm
Lunch and Learn Call for HCBS Consumers
(26 Participants on the call)

Facilitated by Kerrie Bacon

- Introductions Kancare bi-weekly conference calls.
- ❖ **Speaker and Topic: Families Together and Keys for Networking with Connie Zienkewicz and Jane Adams**
- ❖ **Connie Zienkewicz:**
 - Families Together was founded by Chris Curry and the first Family Enrichment Weekend was held in Lawrence with a focus on bringing families together to share stories and gain support. Writing grants in began in 1986,
 - Since 2008 we are the awardees for the families to families that help people navigate the informational system.
 - We also help people to serve their constituents with I/DD or any other disabilities or struggles.
 - We also have private donations.
 - Office in Garden City, Wichita, Kansas City and Topeka and about 20 staff. All are parent with kids with disabilities.
 - Our major activities are working with families in person or on the phone. Example with IEP's. Each of the family knows their kids the best. We expect full participation.
 - We are known for our Family Enrichment Weekend. The first Family Enrichment Weekend was held in western Kansas in 1983. We bring families in overnight to a hotel and let them get to know each other better. Last weekend we had several families sharing experiences and learning new skills and information.
 - In 1987 Families Together was awarded a contract from the Department of SRS, Division of Mental Health and Retardation Services, to develop a respite care training curriculum with emphasis on families of children with emotional disturbance. Five Family Enrichment Weekends were held across the state.



❖ Questions:

Do you mainly provide service to school age families?

We are birth to age 26. This is regulated by our federal partner.

Sometimes we will have people that are older, and we may help with finding employment. Our statewide conference has a small fee, that mainly covers lunch but you may call in and get information that way, too.

Website: www.familiestogetherinc.org .

❖ The next Lunch and Learn will be on February 25th.

❖ Topic will be: Public Sessions Comments for the TA, SED and Autism Waiver