State Rehabilitation Council of Kansas
Kansas Rehabilitation Services
2009 Annual Report
On the cover...

Looking through the keyhole at Monument Rocks

Rising out of the High Plains of western Kansas are the spectacular Monument Rocks. These limestone formations are also known as the chalk pyramids. They were formed 80 million years ago from the floor of a vast inland sea and stretch to more than 70 feet in height.

According to legend, visitors to Monument Rocks gain valuable perspective on their past accomplishments and challenges. Then looking through the keyhole, they are inspired to consider the future and potential opportunities that await.

In vocational rehabilitation (VR), we feel a certain connection to the legend of Monument Rocks. Our counselors work with people with disabilities to consider their experiences and strengths and then to help them identify and achieve their goals for the future. As a result of VR services, people with disabilities become employed. And employment leads to opportunities for greater self-sufficiency, economic equality and integration into society... an inspiring future.

Photo reprinted with permission of Scott Bean, Manhattan, Kansas. To see more of Scott’s beautiful photos of Kansas, please visit www.scottbeanphoto.com.
Dear Governor Parkinson and Commissioner Ruttledge:

On behalf of the members of the State Rehabilitation Council of Kansas, I’m pleased to present our 2009 Annual Report. This Report highlights the accomplishments of Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) and its consumers in the vocational rehabilitation (VR program).

The purpose of the VR program is to empower people with disabilities to achieve competitive, integrated employment. As we know through our own experiences and emerging research, there are many advantages to working in addition to earning an income and contributing to one’s own self-sufficiency. When people with disabilities are employed, their community, church and social networks expand. Their health often improves. They feel a greater sense of acceptance and inclusion in all that our American way of life has to offer. In this report, many Kansans who achieved employment through VR services share their perspectives on the positive impact of employment in their lives. I hope you will take a few moments to review their stories, as well as the statistical data provided about VR and the summary of the Council’s activities.

Throughout the year, members of the Council are available to you as a resource as you analyze issues related to employment of Kansans with disabilities. We welcome the opportunity to be of service to your administration.

Sincerely,

Glen White, Ph.D.
Chairperson

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A total of 1,426 Kansans with disabilities achieved employment through vocational rehabilitation (VR) services during FFY 2009. As part of the state’s workforce, these individuals are now able to experience the advantages of work – advantages that go far beyond the paycheck. Throughout this Report, we are proud to feature many of our consumers who have shared their perspectives on the value of work and the positive impact of VR services.

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1 To learn more about the advantages of working for people with disabilities, please visit:
Working Healthy Participants – Earning More and Costing Less; Jean P. Hall and Noelle K. Kurth
People with Disabilities: To work or not –the choice is yours; Patricia Yeager
Kansas Rehabilitation Services
mission and goals

Working in partnership with Kansans with disabilities to achieve their goals for employment and independence.

Goals 2008 - 2010

#1 Kansans with disabilities will achieve quality employment and self-sufficiency.

#2 KRS, its providers and partners will be accountable for the achievement of employment and the effective use of resources.

#3 KRS will emphasize the employment potential of students with disabilities and improve the outreach and outcomes for transition-aged students.

#4 KRS will emphasize the meaningful involvement of people with disabilities, public/private partners, employers and other stakeholders in KRS programs, services and activities.

“We could not ask for a better program. I believe VR goes above and beyond what is required.”

— Service provider from Sedgwick County
Successful initiatives with transition students

One of the major goals of KRS is to increase outreach and outcomes for transition-aged (21 years and younger) youth with disabilities. As a result of increased coordination with special education, school districts, students, and families, KRS has experienced a dramatic increase (137%) in the number of new applications from transition youth over the past four years.

2006: 755
2007: 1347
2008: 1646
2009: 1790

During the same time period, the number of new Individual Plans for Employment (IPEs) for transition youth has increased 150%. A total of 26% of all persons served are transition youth.

Jorge Holguin
Mechanic
Dodge City

Jorge was first referred to KRS as a transition student. As part of his plan for employment, he worked for Dodge City International part-time while he was a student at the local community college. He says he was very excited when the company offered him full-time employment after graduation. What does he like best about working? Being recognized for his hard work and abilities as a mechanic.
Overview of VR services

Vocational rehabilitation (VR) services are the cornerstone of KRS efforts to support people with disabilities to become gainfully employed and self-sufficient.

The VR program emphasizes community-based services, integration and consumer choice.

- VR Counselors work in partnership with people with disabilities to help them assess their skills and interests, to develop individualized plans for employment, and to provide or to purchase the services they need to become employed. Services are customized according to each person’s strengths, interests, skills, goals and informed choice.

- Services may include: counseling and guidance; physical and mental restoration; training; rehabilitation technology; and job placement.

- Supported employment helps people with significant disabilities achieve employment through job coaching and ongoing support.

- Related services, such as vocational assessment, supported education, independent living skill training, and training on the use of assistive technology, may be provided through a network of Career Development Centers, private providers, and the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Topeka.

- VR services also help special education students with significant disabilities prepare for postsecondary education and employment.

To be eligible for VR services, an individual must have a physical or mental impairment; the impairment must result in a substantial impediment to employment; and the individual must require VR services to prepare for,
secure, retain or regain employment. If KRS does not have sufficient funds to serve all eligible persons who apply, the agency must establish a waiting list which gives the priority for services to persons with the most significant disabilities.

Overview of related programs

In addition to VR services, KRS oversees a variety of other programs which provide specialized services.

**Kansas Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

The Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (RCBVI), Topeka, is a comprehensive training center which offers a variety of services to assist consumers in achieving competitive, integrated employment. Services include vocational assessment and assistive technology. Training is provided on basic job skills, work-related computer/communication skills, and the independent living skills necessary for employment.

Kansas Seniors Achieving Independent Living (Kan-SAIL) provides independent living skills training in the home communities of older Kansans who experience blindness or visual impairments.

Rehabilitation Teaching (RT) services are provided to assist persons who are blind or visually impaired in adjusting to blindness, increasing independent living skills, and preparing for employment.

The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) offers persons who are legally blind the opportunity to manage food service and vending operations in public/government facilities. BEP uses funds generated by its operations, rather than state general funds, to match federal VR dollars.

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The value of work . . . in Justin’s words

"I feel comfortable there . . . and I enjoy spending money"
Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH)
KCDHH offers technical assistance, advocacy, information and referral, sign language interpreter registration, coordination of interpreting services, and the Kansas Quality Assurance Screening for certification of sign language interpreters.

Independent Living
A network of Centers for Independent Living, which are community-based, consumer-controlled organizations, provide information and referral; independent living skills training; peer counseling; and individual and systems advocacy. In addition, the centers provide deinstitutionalization services to assist persons transitioning from nursing facilities to community living.

Disability Determination Services (DDS)
DDS makes medical disability determinations for the U.S. Social Security Administration on most Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) claims filed or reviewed in Kansas.

“Voc Rehab has helped me reach my goals in the profession of my choice. I am very happy and very grateful. Thank you.”
— Consumer from Shawnee County

The value of work . . . in Duane’s words
"I meet people and make friends"

Duane Gross
Custodian
Hays

After he got a job as custodian at a Hays church, Duane moved from his family’s farm to his own apartment. “I wanted to be on my own and do stuff, and go to work,” he said. “Now I don’t have to depend on everybody to go places and do things.” One of the activities he has enjoyed most was going to a holiday party with his co-workers. “I like to work,” he said. “I meet people and make friends.”
VR program has statewide impact

The value of work . . . in Linda’s words

"I’m proud to have my own identity"

Linda Black
Paralegal and Disability Advocate
Lincoln

For Linda, the benefits of working are many. She says she feels healthier now that she’s working, and she feels proud to have her “own identity.” Linda also enjoys helping other people, whether it be directly as an advocate or indirectly as a role model. “My story is known in my town,” she says. “Others see me working and decide they want to go back to work too.”

The VR program serves Kansans with disabilities in every county of the State as they work toward achieving their goals to maintain or secure employment.

“The program has helped my life in a way that is just simply a miracle.

Thanks so much.”

— Consumer from Labette County
Primary disabilities of persons served

- Mental Illness: 36%
- Orthopedic/Neurological Impairments: 18%
- Other Cognitive Impairments: 9%
- Learning Disabilities: 9%
- Mental Retardation: 8%
- Other Physical Impairments: 7%
- Deafness & Other Hearing Impairments: 5%
- Blindness & Other Visual Impairments: 4%
- General Physical Debilitation: 4%
- Other: 1%

Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury as the cause of their disability represented 1.8% of persons served. Persons with Autism as the cause of disability represented 1.5% of persons served.

Demographics of VR consumers

Marital status of persons served

- Widowed: 1.5%
- Separated: 5.2%
- Married: 14.9%
- Divorced: 17.9%
- Single: 60.5%

Gender of persons served

- Female: 49%
- Male: 51%

*Other includes persons who are deaf-blind, and persons with communicative or respiratory impairments.*
The value of work . . . in Tracy’s words

“Other people actually look up to me”

Tracy Baker
Home Health Aide
Olathe

“Before I thought I had this label on me because I felt so different. Now in my job, other people actually look up to me instead of down. I never thought that would happen. I’ve got more respect than I ever have had in my life and it’s wonderful.”

Race and ethnicity of persons served

- White 79%
- Black or African American 14%
- Multi-racial 4%
- American Indian and Alaska Native 2%
- Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 2%

5% of consumers declared Hispanic/Latino as their ethnic background.

Educational background of applicants

- Master’s Degree or Higher 1.4%
- Bachelor’s Degree 4.2%
- Associate Degree or Vocational/Technical Certificate 12.3%
- Post-secondary education with no degree 19.5%
- High School or GED 33.1%
- Grades 9-12, no diploma 24.5%
- Grades 1-8 2.2%
- Special Education Certificate 2.5%
- No Formal Education 0.2%
15,946
Number of persons served; 26% were transition-aged youth with disabilities (ages 21 or younger at the time of application).

7,380
Number of new applicants seeking opportunities for employment.

11,856
Number of consumers who participated in VR services designed to help them maintain or secure gainful employment.

23 months
The average length of time from application to successful employment.

**VR outcomes**
As a result of VR services, the following outcomes were achieved:

1,426
A total of 1,426 Kansans with disabilities completed their individualized plans for employment in FFY 2009 and achieved their employment goals. 95% of these individuals had significant disabilities.

297
VR also served high school students with significant disabilities, helping to assure that the investment in special education is further realized through additional career-focused postsecondary education, employment and independent living. Of the 1,426 Kansans achieving employment, 297 were individuals who first applied for VR services when they were transition-aged (21 years old or younger).

The value of work . . . in Kristi’s words

"I can afford to do something fun with my son"

Kristi Merritt
Operating Room Nurse
Kansas City

Working as a registered nurse at the University of Kansas Medical Center is a “dream job” for Kristi. “A lot of my identity as a person is through my job,” she says. “I find my career to be very rewarding. I’m proud to be completely off public assistance. Now I can afford to do something fun with my son and still pay my bills.”
$9.67
The average hourly wage for individuals who achieved competitive employment was $9.67. The average number of hours worked per week was 30. Individuals who were employed found work in a variety of occupations, including the major areas illustrated in the chart below.

“My VR rep has never hesitated to respond quickly to all my phone calls or inquiries. The program has been more helpful then I could have expected.”
— Consumer from Shawnee County
Examples of consumers with high-wage employment outcomes

“Our Rehab Services counselor is very supportive. He is accessible and consistent. I am a high school transition facilitator and he works well with our system.”

— Public school representative from Elk County

Note: All of these outcomes represent full-time employment of at least 40 hours per week.
A significant return on taxpayers’ investment

$17.2 million
During their first full year of work, the 1,426 Kansans with disabilities who achieved employment through VR services will generate $17.2 million in wages, a substantial contribution to the Kansas economy.

A multiplier impact on the economy
A study conducted by the Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University shows:

- The employment of VR customers has a positive or multiplier impact on the economy.
- For each dollar earned as a result of a VR placement, there is about $1.66 in total earnings through the economy.
- People employed as a result of VR services spend their income in local communities on housing, groceries, gasoline, services, and taxes... on life!
- As a result, for each person employed, there are about 1.85 total jobs created in the overall economy.

Favorable match rate
The match rate for Title I (VR) funds is favorable for the State, at a rate of 21.3% State to 78.7% Federal. The amount of the Federal VR grant is specifically allocated to Kansas as a fixed or capped amount.

“Voc Rehab has helped me accomplish goals I thought I could merely dream about. The assistance and support Voc Rehab specializes in providing was integral to my success.”
— Consumer from Douglas County
### Facts in brief about VR funding

**Funds available for VR and Supported Employment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Funds</td>
<td>$26,918,573</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title I (VR)</td>
<td>$25,617,869</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supported Employment</td>
<td>$300,006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other federal funds</td>
<td>$1,000,698</td>
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<tr>
<td>State General Funds/Fee Fund</td>
<td>$10,660,121</td>
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<td>Program Income</td>
<td>$1,500,504</td>
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<td>Enterprise Fund (BEP)</td>
<td>$62,163</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$39,141,361</strong></td>
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**Use of funds for VR and Supported Employment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services, Grants &amp; Contracts</td>
<td>$22,778,621</td>
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<tr>
<td>VR Case Services</td>
<td>$19,588,619</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants and Contracts</td>
<td>$3,190,002</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Living</td>
<td>$2,731,341</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$12,116,249</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Operating expenses</td>
<td>$4,246,491</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$39,141,361</strong></td>
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**Case service expenditures by category of service**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>$1,250,448 (6%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistive Technology</td>
<td>$2,256,978 (12%)</td>
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<td>Job Finding Services</td>
<td>$2,546,152 (13%)</td>
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<td>Maintenance Services</td>
<td>$1,709,431 (9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Contracts</td>
<td>$580,813 (3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
<td>$795,348 (4%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Assistance Services</td>
<td>$302,421 (2%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical &amp; Mental Restoration</td>
<td>$1,586,006 (8%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>$5,564,649 (28%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$2,996,373 (15%)</td>
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**Expenditures for consumer services and goods totaled nearly $19.6 million.**
Council’s report of activities

The mission of the State Rehabilitation Council is to work in partnership with KRS to help assure that the VR program:

- Is consumer oriented.
- Has sufficient resources.
- Results in quality employment outcomes.

In carrying out this mission, the Council’s objectives are to:

- Build partnerships among people with disabilities, employers, service providers and advocacy organizations.
- Build a spirit of trust and partnership between the Council and the agency.
- Reach out to people with disabilities and employers statewide.
- Hear and respond to input from people with disabilities and other stakeholders.
- Carry-out its responsibilities under the Rehabilitation Act.

During 2009, the Council undertook a variety of activities:

The Council provided an opportunity for consumers and other stakeholders to express their views about the services provided by KRS and their overall level of satisfaction with the VR program. This was accomplished by participating in the KRS stakeholder meetings, and co-sponsoring a consumer satisfaction survey.

- At the KRS stakeholder meetings, which were conducted in six cities during October and November 2009, participants were asked to provide feedback about the agency’s four strategic goals. (These goals are listed on page 3 of this report.) Participants were also asked to identify unmet needs of Kansans with disabilities; the strengths of KRS programs and services; specific suggestions for improvement; and opportunities for collaboration. A recurring theme during these meetings was the importance of having high expectations for people with disabilities to achieve competitive, integrated employment.

- In conjunction with the stakeholder meetings, KRS and the Council co-sponsored a consumer satisfaction survey.
Members of the Council played a significant role in updating the State Plan for FFY 2010. The State Plan, which is submitted to the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration, establishes the KRS goals and priorities and describes how the VR program will be operated in Kansas in several key areas, including order of selection, counselor qualifications, and collaboration with service providers. Members participated in a work session where they reviewed KRS performance, identified priorities, and provided guidance for the agency. These efforts culminated in the Council’s endorsement of the Plan’s emphasis on quality employment, accountability, services for transition-aged youth, and meaningful involvement of consumers and stakeholders. Council members expressed their enthusiasm for the customer service focus and strategic direction set forth in this plan.

The Council continued its periodic review of KRS regional operations as part of its analysis of the extent, scope and effectiveness of VR services. When visiting the communities of Lawrence, Topeka, Hays, and Wichita, Council members had the opportunity to meet regional staff and to learn about staffing levels and experience, performance, availability of service providers, and outcomes.

Council members shared information about the activities of other disability-related organizations with which they are affiliated. At Council meetings, members representing the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas, Families Together, the Kansas State Department of Education, the Client Assistance Program, and the Prairie Band Pottawatomie Nation provide updates on their activities. This information-sharing facilitates collaboration among the organizations.
Council members also provided guidance on KRS policy, reviewing Order of Selection and transportation issues.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2010, the Council plans to further utilize its committee structure, which was implemented in 2008. A major focus of the Council will be to analyze the needs assessment information and participate in developing the new State Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2011-2013.

"I like the feeling of independence"

Barbara King
Composite Worker – Plastics Manufacturing
Wichita

Life has changed dramatically for Barbara since VR helped her prepare for and secure a job in plastics manufacturing in the aircraft industry. Previously she worked in a fast food restaurant, making minimum wage. She didn’t have health insurance or vacation benefits and relied on Food Stamps. Now through her employment she has a full benefits package which includes vacation, sick leave, and health insurance. “There’s another benefit too,” she says. “I can go to the store and feel comfortable to pull out my debit card and pay for my groceries. It is a real benefit just to be able to hold your head up and say, ‘Hey, I can pay for this on what I make.’ When a bill comes to my house now I am capable of sitting down and writing out a check and paying it – right then. I don’t have the stress that I had before worrying about how am I going to pay this bill. It feels good, no late fees. I like the feeling of independence.”

"My services really have been positive. Being a veteran and to get services means a lot. My experience has been great."

— Consumer from Kansas City
## Officers

Glen White, Ph.D.  
Chairperson  
Lawrence  

Brad Rohr  
Vice Chairperson  
Gorham

## Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Larry Burnett</th>
<th>David Hanson</th>
<th>Rocky Nichols</th>
<th>David Rosenthal</th>
<th>Julia Thomas</th>
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<td>Hutchinson</td>
<td>Shawnee</td>
<td>Topeka</td>
<td>Lawrence</td>
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<td>Barbara Crooks</td>
<td>Shannon Jones</td>
<td>Christine Owens</td>
<td>Tami Schwindt</td>
<td>Anita Trainer</td>
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<td>Manhattan</td>
<td>Shawnee Mission</td>
<td>Haven</td>
<td>Garden City</td>
<td>Wichita</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Donnelly</td>
<td>Kerry Lustick</td>
<td>Craig Perbeck</td>
<td>Morris Taylor</td>
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<td>KRS Director</td>
<td>Salina</td>
<td>Wichita</td>
<td>Topeka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Hammer</td>
<td>Lynda Maddox</td>
<td>Wendy Pickell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyons</td>
<td>Osawatomie</td>
<td>Topeka</td>
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Map of KRS locations

1 - Atchison
410 Commercial
(913) 367-5345

2 - Chanute
1500 W. 7th
(620) 431-5000
(620) 431-5042 TTY

3 - Colby
1135 S. Country Club Drive, Suite 1
(785) 462-6760

4 - Dodge City
1509 Avenue P
(620) 227-8508

5 - El Dorado
410 N. Haverhill
(316) 321-4200

6 - Emporia
1701 Wheeler
(620) 342-2505

7 - Ft. Scott
710 West 8th, Suite 3
(620) 223-4010

8 - Garden City
1710 Palace Drive
(620) 272-5800

9 - Goodland
104 W. Hwy 24
(785) 899-5661

10 - Great Bend
1305 Patton Road
(620) 792-5324

11 - Hays
3000 Broadway
(785) 628-1066

12 - Hiawatha
810 Oregon
(785) 742-7186

13 - Hutchinson
600 Andrew Ave. S
(620) 663-5731

14 - Independence
200 Arco Place, Suite 220
(620) 331-0350

15 - Iola
406 N. Buckeye
(620) 365-2164

16 - Junction City
1010 W. 6th
(785) 762-5445

17 - Kansas City
402 State Avenue
(913) 279-7000

18 - Lawrence
1901 Delaware
(785) 832-3700

19 - Leavenworth
515 Limit Street, Suite 100
(913) 651-6200

20 - Liberal
615 N. Kansas
(620) 626-3700

21 - Manhattan
2709 Amherst
(785) 776-4011

22 - McPherson
218 E. Kansas
(620) 241-3802

23 - Newton
411 Washington Road
(316) 283-3015

24 - Osawatomie
616 Brown
(913) 755-2162

25 - Ottawa
2231 S. Elm
(785) 229-8600

26 - Overland Park
8915 Lenexa Drive
(913) 826-7300
(913) 826-6406 TTY

27 - Parsons
300 N. 17th
(620) 421-4500

28 - Pittsburg
111 E. Hwy 36
(785) 543-5258

29 - Pittsburg
320 S. Broadway
(620) 231-5300

30 - Pratt
400 S. Main, Suite B
(620) 672-5955

31 - Salina
901 Westchester
(785) 826-8000 V/TTY
(785) 826-8000 TTY

32 - Topeka
500 SW Van Buren
(785) 296-2500
(785) 296-5815 TTY

33 - Wellington
1116 W. 8th
(620) 326-7439

34 - Wichita
240 E. William
(316) 337-6314
(316) 337-7097 TTY

35 - Winfield
1809 S. Main
(620) 221-6400

For referral to the office serving your community, please call 1-866-213-9079.
Annual Report 2009
This report is based on data from Federal Fiscal Year 2009.

State Rehabilitation Council of Kansas
Glen White, Ph.D., Chairperson

Kansas Rehabilitation Services
Michael Donnelly, Director

Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, military or veteran status, or disability in acceptance for services or employment. For more information on this policy, please contact KRS.

To request a copy of this publication in special media, please call 785-368-8214.