

January 14, 2021 Executive Committee Minutes

Attendees:

Council Members

Kristine Dreckman – Chair
Al Fagerlund – At large
Hugh Kelly – At large
Brady Werger – At large
Mark Schneider – At large

Staff

Brooke Lovelace
Lindsay Leonetti
Bill Kallestad

A meeting of the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) Executive Committee (EC) was held on January 14, 2020 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

Agenda Item / Current Budget Review: Lovelace shared the 2021 budget and noted that DHS is taking at least 30 days to pay invoices, resulting in invoices that are sent in but not paid yet, and therefore not accounted for the monthly budget costs in a timely manner. The Council has \$273,000 of the 2020 funds that has not been obligated. These funds need to be obligated and projects need to be completed by September 30, 2021. University of Iowa Recruiting and Retention project is underway. The Employment Transformation Grant proposals are due Friday 1/15 and those projects are expected to start services on February 1, 2021.

Agenda Item/ Department of Transportation project: The DD Council has an opportunity to partner with the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT). The DOT will solicit grant proposals with local transit agencies committed to developing an innovated strategy for addressing transportation barriers. The budget for this project would be \$100,000 and the DOT would receive the grant proposals then the DD Council and the DOT would work together to review and award the grants. Fagerlund shared that Marshalltown is looking to expand their services and also make park and rides more accessible. Schneider suggested we add language to include rural areas in the grants. Lovelace to see if preference can be given to rural areas. The EC agreed there is a great need to address transportation barriers that people with disabilities encounter. Werger motioned to recommend this to the council for approval, Kelly seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda Item / Legislative Priorities: Kallestad met with Aller, Fagerlund, Fisher, Schneider and Werger on December 14, 2020 to discuss the priorities in detail. There are now three detailed priorities that incorporate the specific changes that council members wanted. Fagerlund asked about having meetings with provider groups to make sure that the DD Council's priorities are in line with other agencies. Schneider said that these priorities match with the MHDS board he is a part of in SE Iowa. Lovelace shared that the Council's priorities also align with the Iowa Associate of Community Providers' priorities as well.

Agenda Item /Advocacy Training for Council Members: The council will offer an Advocacy Training Jan 29th for council members at 10:00, which is right before the Capitol Chats. The training will discuss how council members can be effective when advocating and what tools are available to help the council members advocate for themselves.

Monthly Capitol Chats will take place this session as well, and will be held via Zoom. Capitol Chats will be hosted by Kallestad and Amy Campbell and will give people a chance to learn about what issues/bills the DD Council is advocating for, and an opportunity for advocates to ask questions about bills. There will be discussion centered on making sure that proposed legislation is understood so that individuals can easily advocate for themselves and others.

Kallestad also shared that the Council will be hosting virtual Town Hall meetings. The Town Halls will be an opportunity for council members and/or community members to design an agenda and invite legislators to attend meeting. There will be a few meetings set up to discuss the current DD Council Legislative priorities. We anticipate by initial interest that we will be coordinating at least seven meetings in 2021.

Lovelace shared that a legislative forum will take place in March for National Disability Employment Awareness month. Community Ambassadors will share their videos and have a discussion. It will also be an opportunity for attendees to discuss issues that are important to them. Legislators will be invited and participants will be able to ask and answer questions as well.

Agenda Item/ Covid 19 Vaccine update: An informational postcard went out to the DD Network about the Covid-19 vaccine. Lovelace serves on the Infectious Disease Advisory Council. She shared that people with disabilities who live in home settings are in the 1AB group to get vaccines starting on February 1, 2021. Lovelace will be advocating for individuals with disabilities who live independently to be included with 1C. Lovelace to send more information from IDPH to the Council.

Agenda Item/ State Plan update: The State Plan has been simplified and changed to include plain language so it's easier for Council members to advocate for themselves and to share about the DD Council's State Plan. Dreckman shared that she likes this simpler version of the State Plan and feels it's easier for members of the Council to understand and it is also more accessible. Dreckman and the rest of the EC agreed that the Council should submit the simpler version of the State Plan, with the understanding that we may have to go into more detail at a later date if requested. The State Plan will be discussed during today's council meeting. Today, members will have a chance to ask questions before the State Plan will be made available for public comment in March.

Agenda Item/Other EC items: Werger asked about having the EC meet on a different day other than when the full council meets and/or suggested that the break in between meetings be longer. Dreckman suggested the EC meeting at 8:30 when we are meeting via Zoom. Schneider suggested meeting at 8:30 until the end of June and then present this topic to the new incoming EC members. Kelly motioned to adjourn Werger seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22.