

IOWA DD Council

Preparation, Participation, Power

DD Council Meeting Minutes, January 14, 2021

Attendees:

Council Members

Alecia Balduf	Al Fagerlund
Kelley Rice	Rob Fisher
Mark Schneider	Judy Warth
Rob Roozeboom	Hugh Kelly
Kristine Dreckman	Roxanne Cogil
Brady Werger	Kitty Hedderich
Carol Cross	Thomas Mayes
Jean Willard	Jason Goulden
Jane Hudson	
Kristen Aller	
Mark Smith	
Paula Motsinger	

Staff

Lindsay Leonetti
Brooke Lovelace
Bill Kallestad

Members Absent

Amber Gale

Members of the public

Lisa Yunek
Maggie Ferguson
John McCalley
Julie Bergeson

Call to order:

Council Chair Dreckman called the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) meeting to order on January 14, 2021 at 10:35 a.m. via Zoom. A quorum was established after introductions.

Agenda Item/Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Motion to approve the November 12, 2020 minutes by Kelly, seconded by Werger. Motion passes. Motion to approve January 14, 2020 agenda by Aller, seconded by Kelly. Motion passes.

Agenda Item/ Executive Committee Report: 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

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. The Executive Committee approved this project today with the caveat that we ask the DOT give preference to projects in rural areas Willard and Cogil shared they feel transportation

is a huge barrier for people with disabilities and feel that this is a good way for the DD Council to help with changes that need to be made. Smith asked if the project would include items like a lift or a new vehicle. Lovelace said yes, this does include capital expenditures. Werger and Motsinger shared that it is important to make sure there is funding available for wheelchair users especially in rural Iowa. Motsinger asked if there is anything in the proposals to help make this project sustainable in addition to the capital expenses (e.g. vehicle purchases). Lovelace shared that we have not seen any applications, but there have been discussions with the DOT to allow pilot projects to be approved. The EC recommended to approve this project, Cogil seconded. Motion passed

[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 1B 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. Cogil asked about people who live at home who may or may not be receiving care and if they still part of 1B. Lovelace said that as it stands right now, they are not included. As soon as the council knows more details about where and when to go for vaccine it will be shared with the council.

[Agenda Item /Advocacy Training for Council Members:](#) The council will offer an Advocacy Training on 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 legislative session, 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.

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/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. The priorities have been simplified and there has been added detail to each so that members can easily advocate for the DD Council and themselves. All of the priorities are also interconnected, and when members think about them it's important to think about how they are connected in relation to what legislation is proposed. Cogil asked about telehealth and if the Council plans on addressing or adding this in our priorities. Kallestad said the council could add this as an item and agreed it is an important issue. Hudson asked about the \$15 million per year for 2 years that has been allotted to Children's Mental Health and if we feel that is an adequate amount. Kallestad said there are a lot of gaps and even though they have funding, there aren't enough providers. He continued by saying, the availability of telehealth has been helping with service delivery, but gaps still exist. Hudson remarked that if service providers were paid enough it would definitely help with service delivery. Hudson feels the \$15 million allotted is

quite low, and inquired if perhaps legislative services can provide a breakdown of the figure. Dreckman asked Werger if he would share his experience when he recently met with Iowa Senator Zach Wahls. Werger shared that his sister has an intellectual disability and is living out of state and his family has struggled with getting services in Iowa. Dreckman said that by Werger sharing his personal story with Senator Wahls, legislators can understand what people with disabilities are really facing. Dreckman continued by saying the DD Council has an important role to play in connecting Council Members with legislators so they understand the issues. Motsinger said that the state is in “caregiver crisis” there are simply not enough resources to train and retain caregivers, and right now we do not have the appropriate infrastructure to be able to serve the populations that need it and be able to transition individuals out to the community. Motsinger said there are many barriers but feels the Council is on the right track. Motion to approve the priorities with the addition of telehealth items by Cogil, Werger seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda Item/Town Hall Meetings: Kallestad shared that the Council will be hosting virtual Town Hall meetings. The Autism Society and Iowa Family Leadership Training Institute have Town Hall meetings scheduled. The Town Halls will be an opportunity for council members and/or community members to design an agenda and invite legislators to attend meeting. Hudson shared that we may have a better turnout and have more participation if we have target invites to certain people around specific issues. Cogil said that we should explore holding education sessions on the lunch hour so that we can gather information and also provide information on certain issues. Lovelace likes this idea and also the council should be more creative about finding ways to reach and connect with legislators. Fisher said that he would be willing to contact Cindy Axne and invite her to a Town Hall. Lovelace said that this is also a good opportunity to get any of our Federal legislators or their staff to attend a Town Hall to talk about the upcoming Covid Relief bill. Lovelace also suggested having a Town Hall with the freshman legislators, Miller-Meeks, Feenstra, and Hinson to give the legislators an idea of what the DD Council does. Roozeboom will reach out to Feenstra because he has a relationship with him.

Agenda Item/ Review of State Plan Draft Goals, Objectives and

Activities: The State Plan Goals have 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 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. The EC proposed 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. Lovelace presented the changes with discussion following each item.

Advocacy: Three new activities were added based on previous feedback received from council members. Dreckman suggested to take out the words “DD Council members” and make this a general statement to provide training for people with disabilities who want to be effective board members.

Systems Change: Fagerlund suggested changing objective #2 by adding “improve” legislation. Cogil asked for clarification on if the DD Council weighs in on administrative rules that impact the DD population. Lovelace answered yes we do, and that is addressed in the first objective under Systems Change.

Capacity Building: Mayes shared that Capacity Building is the key to the other goals actually having an effect. If there isn’t capacity we can’t get the other goals accomplished. Warth added that capacity building is imbedded in the other goals. Lovelace suggested adding language to objective #2 stating

responding to “emergent issues”. The council can then fund projects in response to emergencies such as COVID or Derecho, and be in compliance with the State Plan. Warth asked to add since this is capacity building and to leave room for duplication in other areas or perhaps put briefs to explain what the DD Council is doing as issues emerge. Fisher also suggested to add technology projects to objective #2.

Targeted Disparity: The council has a relationship with Department of Human Rights to help underserved and underrepresented populations. Motsinger asked to change Native Americans to American Indians. Lovelace said rural areas are in direct need of certain services. Warth suggested to add another activity in regards to ways how we can engage members of the community with disabilities and how we can keep them engaged she continued by saying this a very important need to build relationships with people who we aren’t serving and don’t know anything about the DD Council.

Lovelace will need Council members to share the state plan in their communities after it is approved in March. Lovelace will send out the full plan when we have made the changes based on feedback from today. Members are encouraged to send any additional feedback prior to our March meeting. We will vote on the plan in March. We will not be able to make substantial changes to the plan in March.

Council Updates: Fisher gave us an update on his work to get an accessible push button for the United States Post Office building in Adel. He said that the building does not have electricity outside for the button, and the owners will let Fisher know how they want to proceed. Fisher has been working on getting this button added to the building, and will continue to advocate for this change.

Kelly is on the planning committee for the SOAR (Seeking Opportunities for an Advocacy Revolution) committee, and they are planning a self-advocacy conference that will be held with Iowa neighboring states. The conference will be held the weekend after the Make Your Mark! Conference.

Cogil: Tyler Leech is a self-advocate who worked with the DOT for a symbol on driver’s licenses and state IDs that will indicate the person has Autism. Cogil shared this as an example of a person with a disability who advocated for themselves and others, to get this designation on licenses and IDs. Cogil’s daughter is on the brain injury waiver and is receiving SCL services via FaceTime and this is working very well for her. She shared this so that people in rural areas who may not know this is available, may be able to have services delivered in this same way.

Warth shared that CDD is conducting a “Teaching for Independence” job coaching training for paraprofessionals. This training coincides with the Council’s state plan and she will share the data and results they gather from this training to share with the council. Warth also shared information about a pilot project that is a train the trainer event on sexual self-advocacy. She is hoping to get an individual with disabilities and one without to team up to facilitate this. They are Partnering with “Elevate Us” out of North Carolina. Lovelace said that his is something that the council would like partner with and more information will be sent soon.

Public comment: None

Miscellaneous updates:

Lovelace - the Council is finalizing the annual report and will be sent out soon. Please share this with your network.

Make your Mark! Conference will be held September 14-15 2021 in Des Moines and so far we are planning to have this event in-person. Lovelace asked if anyone would like to be part of the MYM planning committee. Aller, Fisher, Werger volunteered to be a part of the planning committee.

Motion to adjourn by Kelly, Fisher seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:52.