

IOWA DD Council

Preparation, Participation, Power

DD Council Meeting Minutes, March 11, 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
Amber Gale	
Kristen Aller	
Mark Smith	
Paula Motsinger	

Staff

Lindsay Leonetti
Brooke Lovelace
Bill Kallestad

Members Absent

Jane Hudson

Members of the public

Connie Faneslow
Lisa Yunek
John McCalley
Julie Bergeson

Call to order:

Council Chair Dreckman called the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) meeting to order on March 11 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 January 14 2021 minutes by Werger, seconded by Gale. Motion passes. Motion to approve March 11, 2021 agenda by Aller, seconded by Werger. Motion passes.

Agenda Item/ Executive Committee Report: The DD Council will be releasing Advocacy Management and InfoNet Request for Proposals (RFP) on March 22, 2021. Lovelace highlighted some of the changes in each RFP.

Advocacy Management project changes include limiting funding to \$275,000 per year (the previous RFP limit was \$301,000 current spending is \$313,000), branding projects as a DD Council project, not publishing Iowa Advocacy Connection newsletter and instead publishing a yearly magazine that highlights all the work the Council does. The project also includes social media, website and event management, and increasing the number of people who are in the DD Council network.

Public Policy Partnership project changes include limiting contract to \$112,000 per year (the previous RFP was \$100,000 current spending is \$108,000), reducing the number of printed paper copies of InfoNet and instead do weekly online brief versions of InfoNet during legislative session. There will also be 4 hard copies distributed throughout the year. The RFP will also require the contractor to do more

advocacy training, more social media engagement during session and creating some policy briefs during session.

The Executive Committee voted to approve these RFPs to be released. Fisher seconded. Motion carried.

RFP evaluation committee: Dreckman shared the need for 4 volunteers for the RFP evaluation committee and explained the duties of the RFP evaluation committee, which is responsible for reviewing, evaluating and recommending approval of the proposals submitted. Fagerlund has volunteered to be on the committee. Warth and Aller volunteered to be on the committee and Lovelace shared that anyone else who is interested to contact her please.

Budget: The guidance from ACL has changed. Councils can now use 2 years of funding to pay for administrative costs that directly tie into the Council's State Plan. With this new guidance, all of our 2020 award is now obligated. We will have more funds available now from our 2021 award.

What the council does not spend of the 2019 funds will be gone by September 30, 2021. Many of the budget items we have allocated (such as travel) will not be able to be spent because of the pandemic.

Cogil asked if any of the project funding used in the Customized Employment project is used by people who are served by the Department of the Blind through Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS). Lovelace will talk with David Mitchell from IVRS to ask if any of the counselors at IVRS can be trained to support people who get services from the Department of the Blind. Warth asked if we knew about the Helen Keller Institute in Iowa who serve people who experience deafness and blindness. Lovelace and Warth have experience working with them and will reach out to see how the council can support individuals served by the Helen Keller Institute.

Executive Committee Member Term updates: Dreckman shared that the Council will need to elect new Executive Committee members in the May meeting. Per the bylaws, we elect members for Election Committee to develop a slate of candidates to be presented to the Council and be voted on in the May Council meeting. Fisher, Aller, and Goulden volunteered to be on the Election Committee. Motion to approve them as committee members by Werger, seconded by Warth. Motion passed. If people are interested in becoming an Executive Committee member please contact Lovelace.

Disability Policy Seminar: The Disability Policy Seminar will be held virtually April 19-22. On the final day of the seminar, April 22nd, the attendee's will have the opportunity to meet virtually with their Senators and Representatives. The Council can sponsor three or more self-advocates attend this seminar. Attendees would have to attend all sessions, and Lovelace would like to know why they want to attend. Roozeboom said he would be interested in attending. Lovelace will contact him with more details. Lovelace would like to have 3-4 self-advocates attend and the Council will pay for the seminar registration cost.

New Council Members: The Council has 3 openings right now that we are waiting for the Governor to appoint. Bergson, the Department of Aging Representative will be appointed. We have 7 people who applied. The following people will need to reapply if they wish to continue to serve on the Council: Aller, Cogil, Gale and Mayes, need to reapply and be reappointed by the Governor. Rice and Dreckman will be ending their second term. If council members are no longer interested in being a council member, please let Lovelace know. In order to reapply, members can apply through the [Iowa Talent Bank](#).

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

Activities and Next Steps: Lovelace shared that the next step with the State Plan is to make the plan available for public comment. Motion made by Smith to make this available for public comment and Kelly seconded. Motion carried.

The State Plan will remain in draft format and it will be available for public comment for 45 days starting on March 15, 2021. There are several ways that the State Plan will be shared. Capture Marketing created a PDF to disseminate that is easy to understand and share. The Council will host listening sessions, and council members are encouraged to attend at least one session. The sessions will be on April 6 at 6:00, April 7 at 1:00 (this session is focused on deaf and hard of hearing community-but anyone may attend), and 4/8 11:30. There will also be a dedicated email where people can submit suggestions. Social media posts will be shared, and a postcard will be mailed to everyone in the DD Network. After the public comment period ends, the Council can make changes based on feedback and then will vote on the final plan in the July meeting.

Agenda Item/DD Council Project updates:

Employment Transformation Grants: We awarded two grants to First Resources and 43 North. First Resources is going to expand their employment services efforts in some rural towns where employment services aren't currently being offered. 43 North will be expanding the progress made with the first grant that was awarded, and training more staff on job coaching supports using the Work Autonomy app and also to purchase more iPad's to be used by the individuals. The grant will also be used to offer National APSE training to 31 staff members. Yunek said that the opportunity the grant presented was very well timed and very much needed to expand their effort to use the technology including the video resumes.

Recruiting and Retention Grant: This is a project partnered with the University of Iowa Center for Excellence in Disabilities and Development (UCEDD) to award mini-grants to residential providers to assist in the removal of barriers they have with recruiting and retaining staff. In order for providers to apply for this grant they had to agree to transition at least 2 individuals out of Woodward or Glenwood Resource Center, and spend the funds by 9/30/2021. Grants were awarded to Systems Unlimited, who are going to offer paid time off to part time employees. LSI is going to serve individuals with more medical needs by paying for staff to obtain their CNA license. Hills and Dales are going to implement an employee referral program. Any staff member who refers an employee will receive a stipend. Hills and Dales are also going to offer career path training for leadership for their direct support workers. Crossroads was awarded a grant as well, and they going to have their staff participate in Strengthsfinder Training.

Department of Transportation: The Council partnered with Iowa Department of Transportation has awarded a total of \$113,330 in Iowa Developmental Disability Transportation Grants to five Iowa public transit systems.

The following projects were awarded funding:

- Ames Transit Agency (CyRide), "Automatic Passenger Counter Technology Project" - \$19,037
 - This app will allow riders to see how many people are on the buses coming to their stop so they can make a decision on whether or not to take the next bus or board the current bus. This will help with safe social distancing on the buses.

- Marshalltown Municipal Transit, “Pink Route” - \$15,133
 - This is a pilot program that will open up routes to certain recreation areas that weren’t on a bus route. It will also have a route that will take riders to a camp that supports people with disabilities.
- PeopleRides, “Healthy Accessibility Program” - \$15,000
 - Providing transportation to people with DD and make sure that people will get to medical appointments as well as other places such as YMCA’s and other recreation services in the Hardin, Poweshiek and Marshall counties.
- Region 8 Regional Transit Authority (RTA), “ICF & HCBS Transportation” - \$20,000
 - Providing transportation to people with DD and make sure that people will get to medical appointments as well as other places such as YMCA’s and other recreation services in the Dubuque, Delaware and Jackson counties.
- Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA), “Barriers to Transit Equity for People with Disabilities” - \$44,160
 - This project will identify the barriers that people with disabilities and develop a plan to address them.

Health Self-Advocacy Project: DD Council is partnering with the Iowa Department of Public Health and the UCEDD. This project is being modeled after a project in existence in Oregon. We need volunteers from the Council to review and evaluate the modules, and adapt it for Iowans with disabilities. Here is a link to the Oregon project: [Oregon - Taking Charge of my Health](#).

[Agenda Item/ Policy updates:](#) Kallestad shared that there have been 1,000+ total bills presented this session. Town Halls and Capitol Chats have been very successful and well attended. In the Town Hall, there were presentations about key bills, and Cross and Werger were able to share their advocacy stories. The Town Hall also gives a chance for legislators to comment and ask questions. The Council is tracking 44 bills; some issues in the bills we are tracking are adult changing tables, Able Accounts transfer bill, telehealth bills and direct care registration bill. Kallestad shared that the InfoNet website has information on how to track the bills that the Council is following. Cogil said that she has been involved in Epilepsy Seizure Safe School bill which has passed the House and will move to the Senate. Kallestad has been also working to help legislators understand how the voting bill affects people with disabilities. Fisher and Kallestad are working together on a possible town hall with some federal representatives. Kallestad reiterated that it is very important for people with disabilities to connect with legislators because although they may not agree with their stance on an issue, it’s very important that legislators hear voices about issues.

[Agenda Item/Sexual Self-Advocacy Project-Center for Disabilities and Development \(CDD\):](#)

CDD is partnering with Elevate Us Training, and Warth is conducting train the trainers to help people with intellectual disabilities learn about sexual self-advocacy and relationships. Training will include people with disabilities partnering with people who do not have disabilities and forming a partnership to learn how to teach the program to others. There are 22 lessons about sexual health self-advocacy and the goal is help people make the decisions and develop skills to advocate for themselves. Warth will send out a flier and an application for those who are interested in participating in the project.

Council Updates:

Fisher shared that a contractor has been looking to install the accessible door push button at the post office, and Fisher anticipates that he will be able to go there soon and see the progress he helped happen by advocating for change in his community.

Werger shared that he is conducting fundraiser for Special Olympics Iowa, and if people want to make donations, you can contact him.

Cogil shared there was a webinar co-sponsored by the DD Council to provide more information on the new guardianship laws that was very well attended and had some very important information. Warth noted a need for a fact sheet on guardianship. Something that is abbreviated and easy to understand. Yunek agreed and said that if we had easier and more readily available information about guardianship, it would be very helpful, for teachers and care givers.

Werger and Balduf were interviewed by Iowa News Service for DD Awareness month and the interview also talks about how people with developmental disabilities are dealing with the pandemic one year later.

Public comment: McCalley updated us on Amerigroup and the partnership they have with Iowa Total Care and Iowa Medicaid and the changes that have happened since the pandemic began. He said that services are expanding for home delivery meals. They are also working on Covid Relief projects with the Anthem Foundation. They are also focusing on serving people who fall into the greatest health disparities category. They are also working on community integration project, which is working closely with the State Resource Centers, and also offering it to ICF and nursing facilities who want to live an independent life.

Motion to adjourn by Kelly, Aller seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:56.