

infoNET Editorial Board Meeting Minutes August 25, 2023

Attendees: MJ Conaway, Julie Bergeson, Caitlin Owens, Bob Bacon, Amy Campbell, Kevin Harris, Joy Haris, Mark Smith, Brooke Lovelace, Carlyn Crowe, Lindsay Hommer

Welcome and Introductions

All attendees were welcomed

Role of Editorial Board:

The role of the board is to advise on content of DD Council policy publications (infoNet).

Goals in establishing the editorial board are to be more responsive to reader needs, increase readability of the publication, and to gain multiple perspectives on issues

Board members role is to decide what to include in each issue, make sure writing is accessible and meaningful, and to identify advocates who may want to write about their advocacy success

Board members help to decide the issues ripe for advocacy alerts, help to focus the content, and help with ideas for Capitol Chat special guests.

InfoNET printed publication is sent out four times a year.

infoNet & Editorial Board (EB) Schedule:

Printed and mailed/emailed four times year:

- o September 25, 2023 (Fall)
 - EB: August 25, 2023 (Noon-1)
- o December 18, 2023/January 2, 2024 (Winter)
 - EB: November 17, 2023 (Noon-1)
- o April 1, 2024 (Spring)
 - EB: February 23, 2024 (Noon-1)
- o July 1, 2024 (Summer)
 - EB: May 31, 2024 (Noon-1)
- o September 30, 2024 (Fall/Election)
 - EB: August 30. 2024 (Noon-1)

Review Summer Issue:

Creating change with and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in the community of their choosing.

No EB input was used for this issue as the skipped EB meeting had to be skipped due to people's schedules. Timing wasn't great for people who got the infoNET issue by mail because there was a submission of comments deadline of July 3 for home and community-based rules changes. This issue was really focused on federal rules and policies.

This version did not have the highlights of the articles separated due to space issues. Campbell stated she knows these are important and will try to incorporate these in the coming issues. Bacon stated that the summer issue was packed with important facts and stated that we need to reference the Department of Justice (DOJ) ruling in coming articles. Campbell agreed. Campbell spoke with Carrie Malone and she would like to make sure that we include something about the new dashboard in the next issue. Lovelace provided the link for the dashboard: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/iowa-Medicaid-dashboard>

Fall Issue:

Normally the fall issue includes election information, interim committees, changes in leadership. This year there will be coverage from the MYM! Conference and some shoutouts. Paula Connelly was on the last capitol chat and was talking about her work on caregiving and direct support professionals (DSP) and she has some information that can be turned into an article. This will be timely as this issue will come out just after DSP recognition week. Allies in Advocacy has done a video and we will want to highlight some of the work they did with their townhall. This issue will come out right before National Disability Employment Awareness month. There will likely will be changes in committees. HHS changes won't be complete before this issue.

Campbell would like feedback on what the focus should be. Harris stated that MYM! Conference should be a focus and what the four legislators said that attended the conference. The four legislators were invited because they have all done something to try to help the disability community in some way.

Bergeson asked if Take Your Legislator to work will line up timing wise to put in an article in about this. Campbell stated this issue will come out right when this starts. Crowe stated that we will have stories by then that we can include and we could include educational points about employment that may tie into our policy priorities. Lovelace suggested that Judy Warth and Brandy could be asked to write an article about the Blueprint for Change. Conaway asked what about a story about him who has eight degrees and no job. Campbell liked this idea. Harris stated that after the legislators go to work with someone, if they could get a after the workday video that would be good to post.

Creating change with and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in the community of their choosing.

2023 – 2024 Proposed Meeting Schedule:

Proposed Dates:

- Friday, August 25, 2023 (Noon-1)
- Friday, November 17, 2023 (Noon-1)
- Friday, February 23, 2024 (Noon-1)
- Friday, May 31, 2024 (Noon-1)
- Friday, August 30, 2024 (Noon-1)

Other Things Ahead:

Campbell will make sure the January issue has “The Scoop” so multiple levels of readability are included.

Crowe and Harris are working to get the Legislative Agenda and a Fact Sheet completed. Also, bill fact sheets will be done later in the session explaining how certain bills will affect people with disabilities.

Campbell stated that Texas does a good video every week during session that we may model our Capitol Snapshots after.

Other Business:

Lovelace stated that if something comes up, you don’t have to wait until a meeting to bring it up. Email or call Campbell, Crowe, or Lovelace. Campbell stays in frequent contact with Carrie Malone.

Smith suggested ending publications on a positive note such as doing a shout out on something positive that has happened.

Bacon suggested a “Lest we Forget” item in articles. Some examples are waiting lists and direct support professional salaries. A suggested idea was to include a ticker in each issue with the running numbers of people on waiting lists.