

## March 14, 2024 Executive Committee Minutes

**Attendee Council Members:** Brady Werger, Hugh Kelly, Roxanne Cogil, Rob Roozeboom

**Council Staff:** Brooke Lovelace, Carlyn Crowe, Lindsay Hommer

**Absent Council Members:** Mike Hoenig

A meeting of the Iowa Developmental Disability Council (DD Council) Executive Committee (EC) was held on March 14, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM by Werger.

### Review Current Budget:

Werger stated that Lovelace and he spoke the other day about the budget. Currently there is \$5,000 - \$6,000 left for in-state travel for the remaining fiscal year. Werger stated he has been coming up the night before the council meetings and staying in a hotel. The council needs to be cognizant that more will be spent than budgeted for this year for in-state travel and not to put in requests for travel that aren't necessary. Roozeboom asked if there have been more requests this year or why is the council going to be over budget. Lovelace stated there have been more activities for council members to attend this year.

Lovelace also stated that the council is going to be way over budget for national dues and out of state travel. Werger and Crowe are going to Washington DC next month and none of those costs are showing on the budget sheet yet.

Lovelace stated the council gets a small appropriation from Health and Human Services (HHS) every year and the council just received it for this year. It is \$36,150. This amount is not budgeted for as it is not guaranteed. Lovelace believes that in-state and out-of-state travel budgets will need to be increased for next year. It is necessary to stay within the administrative cap though when budgeting. Administrative costs cannot be over 30% of the budget.

Lovelace stated that there is still talk that all councils may receive a 1% budget decrease from the federal government this year. This has still not been decided.

Roozeboom asked if the additional activities that the council has been doing this year have been positive. Lovelace stated she believe they have even though they take funds to do. Lovelace stated there used to be a big event at the capitol for people with disabilities, but people weren't getting to meet with their legislators and the council didn't reimburse people. The way the council does it now is that the council reimburses more people, but they also get to meet with their legislators more. Cogil stated she really likes how the council does it now.

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Cogil asked if the budget is decreased by 1%, how much would that be. Lovelace stated the 1% is taken off the whole pot of DD Council funds and we do not know how much that would be and how that would be distributed to individual councils.

Lovelace stated that in reference to the administration cap, time that council staff spend on state plan activities, does not go towards the administration cap. Lovelace stated that part of goal each year is to increase the amount of time that Hommer spends working on state plan activities. Crowe's is at about 75% - 80% and Lovelace's is at about 50%. On the admin cap sheet, the 47% is the average of all staff members time spent on state plan activities.

#### **EC Candidates and Election Committee:**

Werger stated three volunteers are needed from the full council to make up the election committee. The election committee is charged with coming up with a slate of candidates to fill the executive committee empty spots. Hoenig will step down from EC and Cogil will end her term in June. Werger and Kelly have agreed to stay on as chair and vice-chair. Roozeboom has also agreed to stay on as an at-large member. Bouza and Thompson have indicated interest on joining the EC. Bouza or Thompson would have to take over the Council chair after a year on the EC.

Aller and Cogil's terms are ending on the council in June. Two new people have been appointed to the council, Jim Kain and Kimberly VanBeek. Steveson and Gale can apply to be on the council again. Bergeson, Lawson, and Evans' terms end but they can reapply. Cogil stated Tonya Heiman may be interested in applying. She is a family advocate from Carroll. Lovelace stated it doesn't look like we will have to worry about gender balance due to a new bill.

#### **Council Self-Evaluation Opportunity:**

Lovelace shared the council self-evaluation. The first section evaluates the council as a whole. The next section is about the council's relationship with council and staff. The next section is to see how people think themselves are doing. And the final section is about the council chair. Lovelace will send the evaluation out electronically to everyone after the meeting and would like feedback in the next two weeks. Roozeboom likes the idea of doing this evaluation. Kelly agrees. Lovelace stated we may add a place to put comments.

#### **Workplan Review:**

Lovelace stated the council is doing well with capitol days. Six grants were awarded.

Crowe will check on the bill about training poll workers that the Secretary of State office was involved with. Lovelace stated that the council can still see though if there's a way that the council can help them train poll workers on accessibility.

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MYM! conference dates are Sept 18-19 in Ames. Aaron Gulob is the keynote speaker and Daniel Van Sant is second keynote speaker. In the next week we should have the exhibitor and sponsor flyer ready to go. Hopefully this year the council will have more sponsors.

The council is seeing an increase of people joining the network. Crowe asked for the actual numbers of people that have joined. Lovelace stated it is in Emily's quarterly report.

The council is still supporting the community ambassador program but they have other funding so we may not be doing that anymore. Werger asked if we are funding the mental health ambassadors. Lovelace stated yes. Werger asked why we are not funding community ambassadors anymore. Lovelace stated it is different funding streams.

Zach Mecham has a contract for Allies in Advocacy to act as a facilitator and leader of the group. The state plan calls for the council to support a grass roots advocacy group. Mecham will do the evening activity involving comedy at the MYM! conference.

There is interest in voter grants. Voter information will need updated after new laws are passed.

Legislation that is eliminating a lot of the boards and commissions will probably be signed into law. The council has been waiting to see what happens as a result of this bill.

Crowe stated the Blueprint for Change is the DIF (Disability Innovation fund) grant. This is a federal grant that came to the state through Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). VR has contracted with the University of Iowa to do some of it. There are five objectives and some of them are very specific to training. One is on policy, and it is to align a policy initiative so that we are encouraging any state funding that is used to help people get a job. The idea is to get rid of sub-minimum wage and sheltered workshops. There's been some policy around that called the Work Without Worry bill which will help more people make more money and have more allowable assets. Crowe stated there is an amendment to the bill allowing income to be 350% of poverty level for an individual and the asset limit would be a primary residence valued at no more than \$400,000 and some vehicles were allowed. The current allowable income is 250% of the poverty level as a family. Crowe stated it is now in the appropriations committee and the Senate doesn't want to do it because it is too much too fast, and they have their own version which ups the limit of assets for a couple to \$26,000. Roozeboom asked why the legislature isn't wanting to do it. Crowe stated because it would be costly upfront with administrative fees and more people would sign up to be on Medicaid. Roozeboom asked what Medicaid covers. Lovelace stated it covers personal care attendants that personal insurance won't cover. Roozeboom asked if anyone has done an economic survey to see if the state may actually make money by allowing people to make more money and buy assets that would be taxed. Lovelace suggested that Roozeboom talk to his legislators about this. Kelly

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stated that Ed Esbeck, Joel Wesselink, and him are going to do some videos dispelling the myths of being on Medicaid and working.

lable webinar will be on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **Bridging Aging and Disability Network Grant:**

This is a small technical assistance grant that the DD Council applied for with the Department of Aging and Disability. The first meeting is scheduled in April. A workplan needs developed. The council is asking if anyone would like to participate from the council to be part of the planning team. Aller and Cogil have offered to participate.

#### **Cultural Diversity Discussion:**

The council is asking if anyone has any ideas to get people from diverse backgrounds to join the council. The deaf and hard of hearing school is going to be reached out to during the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA). Werger stated that the council doesn't have a diverse makeup of council members and asked if the council could do a Facebook recruitment video. Lovelace thinks there needs to be one on one conversations and there needs to be connections with different communities. Werger would like to take a couple pamphlets or business cards about the DD Council to hand out at the college campus.

#### **Action Steps:**

Lovelace will send the council self-evaluation out electronically to everyone after the meeting.

#### **Adjourn:**

Roozeboom made a motion to adjourn, and Kelly seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:11AM.