

## January 11, 2024 Executive Committee Minutes

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

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

**Absent Council Members:** None

A meeting of the Iowa Developmental Disability Council (DD Council) Executive Committee (EC) was held on January 11, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM by Werger.

### Review Current Budget:

Lovelace reviewed December budget statement. Lovelace stated \$6,000 has been spent from Council support and we are only three months into the year. She believes the Council will go over budget for this federal fiscal year for this category.

The DD Council legislative reception is coming up on January 24<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 PM at the state capitol. The Allies in Advocacy open house will be right after this from 4:30-6 PM at the Iowa Historical Society. There will be additional costs for this event as well as others besides Council meetings. We will still want council members to attend.

There is \$5,900 remaining in the budget for out of state trips and there are three more trips planned for this year. It looks like the Council will be going over the \$5,900 remaining budget. Washington DC is expensive to travel to and two of the remaining three trips are there.

Lovelace shared the spending chart.

Lovelace shared the obligation chart. We are over obligated for both years.

Lovelace stated that the DD Council has only received about a third of our funding for this year due to the continuing resolution at the federal level. There is concern that we will not get the full amount that we usually get each year.

### Cultural Diversity Discussion:

Lovelace stated that the Council has a hard time reaching some of the underrepresented populations and having full representation on the Council. Lovelace asked if anyone has ideas about how the Council could reach these populations. Hoenig thought that there were a number of boards or commissions that represent certain populations that the DD Council could work with. Lovelace stated that these boards were under Department of Human Rights and are now under Health and Human Services under one entity. Lovelace stated the Council is going to work with Kimberly Baxter who is part of the Bridging Aging and Disability grant. Hoenig also suggested working with Derrick Willis from University Centers for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and broker some connections. Lovelace stated that the Council has been trying to recruit Sarah Young-Bear Brown to assist with this also. Hoenig will reach

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out to Monica to find out the name of the chief academic officer with the Iowa school for the deaf and another woman that works in Health and Human Services and they may be able to assist with this also.

Lovelace stated that Capture has identified where the people in the DD Network live by county. There is someone from our network in every county but, we could do more outreach in rural areas.

Lovelace stated the DD Council now has cards that has a QR code on them to join the network. Council members can hand these out.

### Legislative Reception:

January 24, 2-4 PM at the state capitol. Council members will meet in the rotunda on the second floor. Werger asked for Council members to reach out to their legislators to attend this event. Lovelace stated that the legislative invite needs to be distributed to the full Council. Werger is working with the governor's office to try to schedule a meeting with her. Werger would like a couple EC members to attend the meeting also. Kelly volunteered to come to the meeting. Hoenig will not be able to attend on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Lovelace asked for all members to be at the capitol by 1:30 PM. Cogil asked if there are meetings set up with legislative leadership. Lovelace stated we do not have anything set up yet but will look into it. Crowe stated that Pat Grassley invited the Council to set up a meeting with him. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Easterseals, and ASK resource center will also be there that day. JD Bumgarner will also be there with his metal art and will talk about how VR assisted him. Two Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) students and Allies in Advocacy members will be there also.

Crowe stated that the proposals regarding Area Education Agency's (AEA's) are moving forward without reaching out to the disability community for input. The message should be that people with disabilities are still not being invited to assist with these decisions.

Attendees should wear advocacy shirts on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Lovelace stated an email will be sent out about the legislative reception. Crowe will send the email.

### Letter to the Governor:

Crowe suggested before the holidays to write a letter to the governor to get her plan for the AEA's. Crowe will draft the letter. Crowe stated that our focus will be on the students and services. Lovelace stated it is also still unclear how students in non-public schools are going to receive services. Hoenig stated that for many years, the Dept of Education contracted with the Dept of the Blind for braille transcription of textbooks. This no longer happens. Schools are responsible for making transcriptions happen. It may be helpful to talk to Sarah Willeford, the Director of the Iowa Library for the Blind, and see how this process is going. Lovelace stated she thought the proposal is to give this responsibility back to the Dept of the Blind for transcription. Cogil stated it is important that the letter to the Governor is non-partisan. The EC would like to see the letter before it is sent.

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Crowe suggested having a townhall meeting next Thursday to see what others think about the AEA proposal and what needs to be advocated for. This townhall would include legislators. Special Education Advisory panel meeting tomorrow, and this could be brought up.

### **The Bridging and Aging Networks Grant:**

#### **Iowa Grant application for NACDD**

This grant is for technical assistance to bridge aging and disability networks together. This grant is to receive trainings and participate in meetings to find out what the best way to do this is. Since the Health and Human Services (HHS) departments merged, this grant would assist in seeing how to make this work better. We applied for this grant with HHS. Other partners are UCEDD, Epilepsy foundation, Disability Rights Iowa (DRI), State independent living council, National federation for the Blind, human rights department, Iowa Association of Area Agencies, and the Iowa missionary and educational Baptists state convention. The DD Council will find out at the end of January if we get this. The Council may reach out to Council members to be part of these meetings.

### **Succession Plan:**

Cogil comes off the Council in June 2024. Kelly, Werger, Roozeboom, and Hoenig all come off the council June 2025. Hoenig has another term but is not sure if he will run for another term or not. He is also not sure if he wants to remain on the EC another year. We need to think about the people that are recruited for the EC. According to the Bylaws, the next chair of the Council has to be on the EC for at least a year prior. The Council needs to recruit someone new on the EC and someone currently on the council may need to step down. Hoenig has volunteered to step down at the end of June 2024. In March it needs to be decided if Kelly, Werger, and Roozeboom want to do one more year on the EC then a slate of candidates needs to be put together.

### **Grant for Direct Support Professionals (DSP):**

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) is offering classes for college accreditation to become DSP's. Kevin Harris asked if the Council could help subsidize some of these costs. An issue is that the Council cannot pay people directly so the funds would need to go through a provider organization. Lovelace would like to check with the Iowa Association of Community Providers (IACP) to see if they are already doing this. \$5,000 would be used out of the Projects, Relief Grants, and Educational Opportunities funds. Kelly and Roozeboom think this sounds like a good idea. Cogil pointed out that people that use the consumer choice option (CCO) would not be using workers from a provider. They are paid through Veridian <https://www.veridianfiscalsolutions.org/cco/> Cogil provided information about CCO's: [https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/member-services/cco#:~:text=The%20Consumer%20Choices%20Option%20\(CCO,purchasing%20other%20goods%20and%20services.](https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/member-services/cco#:~:text=The%20Consumer%20Choices%20Option%20(CCO,purchasing%20other%20goods%20and%20services.)

### **Volunteers for Make Your Mark:**

Kelly and Werger volunteered to be on the planning committee.

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## Workplan Update:

Hoenig asked if the DD Council is still looking for an intern. He also inquired about poll worker training and distributing documents in plain language. Lovelace stated the intern is on hold due to funding. She will discuss this more with Dr. Williams from VR. For objective 2.1, the DD Council hasn't come up with a good mechanism for legislators to put things in plain language yet but is working on this.

Lovelace stated annual magazine is done.

## Action Steps:

Hoenig will reach out to Monica to get the names of two women that could assist with ideas to reach underrepresented populations.

Lovelace will reach out to Derrick Willis to get ideas to reach underrepresented populations.

Council members to reach out to their legislators to invite them to the legislative reception on January 24<sup>th</sup> at the state capitol from 2-4 PM.

Crowe will contact Pat Grassley and other legislative leaders to set up meetings on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Crowe will send an email out to Council members with the legislative reception invite.

Crowe will draft the letter to the Governor and the EC will review.

Kelly, Werger, and Roozeboom will decide by March if they want to do another one-year term on the EC.

Hoenig will decide by March if he would like to step down from the EC in June 2024.

Lovelace will check with the IACP to see if they are subsidizing funding for education for DSP's.

Lovelace will discuss with Dr. Williams about an intern.

## Adjourn:

Kelly made a motion to adjourn, and Cogil seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:16AM.