

November 9, 2023 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:

A meeting of the Iowa Developmental Disability Council (DD Council) Executive Committee (EC) was held on November 9, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by Werger.

Review Final 2023 Budget:

Lovelace stated there was \$56,000 unspent from the 2023 administration budget. The 2021 and 2022 funds will all be spent.

Review Current Budget:

Lovelace reviewed the Obligation chart for 2023 and 2024. It appears there is \$38,000 in unobligated funds for 2023 but this should be spent on invoices not paid and other special projects. The Council is now funding \$5,000 for the Community Ambassadors program. Hoenig stated that two community ambassadors presented at the Seeking Opportunities for an Advocacy Revolution (SOAR) conference and did an excellent job. Hoenig would like to advocate that we continue funding for this program. Hoenig stated we could tap into some of the ambassadors and get them involved with the planning of the 2025 SOAR conference. Lovelace suggested having some of the ambassadors join the podcast in Iowa City. Lovelace stated we remain over obligated for 2024.

Lovelace reviewed the October 2023 budget. She stated that the phone costs are usually not that high but, three phone bills were paid at once by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). State plan contracts 2022 is higher than usual due to MYM! conference expenses. Cogil asked what the cost of MYM! was. Lovelace stated it was about \$45,000. Hoenig asked what the public health grant is. Lovelace stated that the public health grant is the mental health ambassadors project. Hoenig asked that Hommer send him the budget sheets in Excel form instead of PDF in the future.

Bylaws Discussion/Policy Committee:

Werger stated that the Bylaws are approved by the EC and now need the full council to vote on them. Lovelace stated that most of the changes are about the Public Policy Committee. The changes involve the EC appointing a chair of the public policy committee and at least four other members each July. Also, the Conflict of Interest policy will be updated annually.

Appoint Chair and Members:

Lovelace stated that Harris still wants to be the Chair and we will need four other members. She asked if there were members of the EC that want to be members of the committee. Cogil and Kelly said they

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would like to see if members of the full Council would like to be a member first. Roozeboom stated he would like to be a member. Hoenig stated he would like to serve in other ways. Lovelace stated that appointments need to be made today and asked members of the EC if they can stay on after 2:30. Hoenig stated he cannot meet after 2:30. Cogil suggested that the people that are here vote today.

Workplan Update:

Lovelace stated that this is the final one for 2023 and does not include any activities that were done in October.

Lovelace stated that we have partnered with University Centers for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and Realizing Educational and Career Hopes (REACH) to each host a townhall meeting on November 2nd. There is also a townhall planned in Council Bluffs in November. We haven't historically had a lot of townhall meetings.

The DD Council supported four people to attend the SOAR conference in October.

We created a QR code to hand out at conferences for people to join the DD network. Crowe suggested putting these QR codes on a business card- sized hand out. Cogil asked if when people go onto the DD Council website, does "Join the Network" pop up. Lovelace stated it does not pop up but is in the upper right-hand corner. Lovelace will check into the pop-up option.

We are funding a small portion for the Community Ambassadors. Werger stated he thought we were not funding this anymore. Lovelace stated we aren't funding at the level we were. We are now funding \$5,000 for next year. Hoenig asked if ambassadors were paid in the past. Werger stated they were. Lovelace stated they will not be paid in the future unless conferences pay for them to speak. Hoenig stated he hopes ambassadors do get paid if they present at a conference.

Cogil asked if 81 people that applied on the Talent Bank were for boards or commissions. Lovelace stated they were. With all the changes with the boards and commissions activities under this objective may be on hold. Ann Crotty, the newly hired Americans with Disabilities (ADA) coordinator with Health and Human Services is going to come to our meeting in January and speak. Hoenig stated that there was a bill, that Nebraska is working on, that would require state agencies to create impact statements about how their own policies affect people with disabilities. This may be a good way to create awareness about how the combining of boards and commissions affects people with disabilities. Lovelace stated they met with Dax, public policy advisor to the Governor, and he said that just because they came out with the boards and commission recommendations, doesn't mean the Governor has to follow them.

Lovelace stated the Council needs assistance with hosting rural events pertaining to voting and advocacy. There is one scheduled and hopefully will get one or two in the Spring.

A summary was provided of the boards and commissions recommendations on Infonet with Amy Campbell's help.

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Lovelace stated we are currently working on the employment data for the Blueprint for Change grant.

Derrick Willis, Catherine (with Disability Rights Iowa, DRI), and Lovelace met with the new director of the Harkin Institute. Lovelace stated they have also met with the new director of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR).

The DD Council shared Sarah Young-Bear Brown's story about why the Commission on Deaf and Hard of Hearing needs to exist and, as a result of their advocacy, it was not recommended that that commission be eliminated

Six advocates participated in Take Your Legislator to Work Day this year (more legislators attended)

Lovelace asked if people look at the workplan outside of the meetings. EC members stated they do look at it outside of meetings.

Executive Director Evaluation due in January:

Werger stated Lovelace's evaluation is due in January. Werger would like to do Brooke's evaluation with all of the EC members. Hoenig asked if there is a template in place. Werger stated there is. Lovelace will forward her last year's evaluation to the EC. EC will meet on December 19 at 3:00PM. Cogil will send out a Zoom link.

Meeting times/ Add 30 minutes

Lovelace asked if 30 minutes needs to be added back on to the full council meeting. Hoenig asked if state agencies all have to present at all meetings or highlight one. Lovelace stated she thinks they all need to present. March and January agenda put time (15 minutes) for them to talk about what their agency does for people with disabilities. Hoenig stated this is really helpful to do. Meetings would go until 3 PM. Hoenig stated he is okay with extending the time. Roozeboom is okay with this also and would like state agency presenters to be in person. Hoenig agreed. This will be shared with the full council that meetings will be extended until 3 PM starting in January.

Updates

Lovelace needs a volunteer from the EC to join her at the virtual Community Partnership Advisory Council (CPAC) meeting on December 8th from 10 AM – 12 PM. Lovelace needs someone to talk about their experience being on the DD Council. Cogil and Werger volunteered for this. They have requested 11 AM.

Historical Society has an exhibit called "Civics in Action" and it features Mia Peterson and Sarah Young-Bear Brown. The State Historical Society is wanting to do a proclamation with the Governor's office declaring November 24th as Mia Peterson Day. This would have been her 50th birthday. Reading of the proclamation will be on November 21st at 11 AM or 2 PM. Werger will be helping with the reading and

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Lovelace asked if anyone else can attend. Kelly stated he can attend and Hoenig will check. Hoenig stated that Leo Landis, curator at the Historical Society, is working with Iowa Council of the Blind to make the exhibit very accessible. Lovelace stated that the people coming are wearing the advocacy shirts if they have them. Terry Branstad may read half of the proclamation if the current Governor can't.

Action Steps:

Lovelace will check into the pop-up option on the website regarding joining the network.
Cogil to send Zoom link for meeting on December 19 @ 3 PM.
Cogil and Werger will join Lovelace at CPAC meeting on December 8th @ 11 AM.
November 21st there will be a proclamation at the Historical Society. Kelly and Werger will attend.
Hoenig will check into attending.

Adjourn:

Kelly made a motion to adjourn, Cogil seconded. Motion is approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 AM.

EC Meeting Regarding Public Policy Member Appointments

Werger called the meeting to order at 2:37 PM. Present were Cogil, Werger, Roozeboom, and Kelly.

Nominated members for the committee are:

Chair - Kevin Harris

At Large: Kristen Aller, Rob Roozeboom, Emma Bouza, George Thompson, Caitlin Owens.

Kelly motioned to accept the nominations, Cogil seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 2:39 PM.