

September 14, 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 September 14, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM by Werger.

Council Budget:

Hoenig asked what the purpose is of the EC reviewing the budget. Lovelace stated it is to monitor the budget. Right now we have \$101,000 unspent. We will probably spend another \$25,000 in September. We will have about \$75,000 because we were understaffed for a couple months. 2022 has \$43,000 remaining and a no-cost extension was submitted in case there are funds remaining but, Lovelace believes there will not be any. Awards have two years to be spent. Hoenig asked why 2021 Administrative funding was so much lower than 2022 and 2023. Lovelace stated that in 2021 the DD Council was allowed to use leftover funds from the 2020 budget to pay for administrative costs due to Covid. After that we were not allowed to do this.

Lovelace stated that the 2022 obligation chart will be changed to reflect that conference sponsorships and projects budget. Administration costs on 2023 obligation chart will have actual administration costs put in once FFY23 is complete at the end of September. Werger asked if the DD Council funds the Allies in Advocacy group. Lovelace stated we do pay for the interpreter costs but there are no other expenses.

2024 Budget Approval:

National dues and travel costs were increased by \$1,100 for FFY24. Books and subscriptions cost was lowered. Phone costs were decreased due to switching from a landline to Microsoft Teams. Lovelace stated our award may be decreased this year from Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Hoenig moved to approve the FFY 2024 budget. Kelly seconded the motion. This will need a second from the full Council.

Bylaws Discussion/Policy Committee:

Lovelace stated the EC needs to decide to keep the bylaws the same or change the bylaws to include a "Public Policy committee" and rules for the committee. If the bylaws are going to be changed, they need to be amended. Duties, how a chair is elected, how members are chosen, etc. If the EC chooses to change bylaws there will need to be another meeting in the next couple of weeks to be able to vote on this by the November meeting. Hoenig stated the committee is doing good work now. Hoenig asked if they are feeling the need to have more guidance. Cogil asked how many Councils have policy committees in their bylaws. Lovelace stated that 10 out of 12 of the Council's she contacted have policy

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committees in their bylaws. Crowe stated that having people from the public attend the meeting is helpful. Roozeboom asked Crowe what would be best for her since she is the staff person for the committee. Crowe stated that it would be helpful to have a formal committee that would provide guidance on policy initiatives to the Council and be able to more quickly respond when guidance is needed by staff to carry out the initiatives. Roozeboom motioned to amend the bylaws to include a public policy committee. Hoenig seconded. Hoenig asked if the editorial board needs to be in the bylaws. Lovelace stated that this does not need to be because this committee is in Amy Campbell's contract. Lovelace stated that once the amended bylaws ready for review, Council members have 30 days to review the bylaws and can make other recommendations for changes if necessary. The date, September 20, 2:30-4:00 was set for the EC meeting about the bylaws. Lovelace sent calendar invite and will send Zoom link later.

Legislative Agenda:

Werger stated that the agenda needs to be approved by the EC in order to go to the full Council. Crowe asked if the committee wanted to review all of the recommendations in detail or just take questions. Hoenig stated that he could not read the PDF in its entirety on his screen reader so would like to review the second page in detail. Crowe said that was good because she sat in on the Autism Council's meeting yesterday. She stated that they support the DD Council's priorities but made some recommendations for stronger language in that section. Priority #3 is: Iowans with disabilities live independently in their community by getting the support they need. The first issue is a living wage for direct support professionals (DSP). The second issue is: prioritize home and community-based services (HCBS) by eliminating gaps in waiver services and waiting lists. The third issue is: revise evaluation requirements for an intellectual disability (ID) diagnosis by allowing for additional trained medical professionals to administer tests and evaluate skills. Referencing the Department of Justice (DOJ) directive, we should ask to make sure the state is reallocating funds to support HCBS. This is where the Autism Society has asked for us to strengthen our wordage. Autism Society would like to just include our recommendation in this area so, we are making the same recommendation. Also suggested we call In-school programs, we refer to teachers as educators Lovelace stated the Council does not need to wordsmith the document, just needs to vote on the overall priorities. Hoenig stated he has a couple concerns about priority #2 which states: Make competitive integrated employment the only option for publicly funded employment services for Iowans with disabilities. He believes that there are people for whom competitive employment is not an option and this seems a little drastic in our priorities. Lovelace stated that this is the direction that the state is going which is why we support this. Hoenig stated that he has heard that if people end up with too many hours, they lose other benefits. Lovelace stated there are a lot of myths out there about benefits. The Council will continue to support benefits planning education Crowe stated that Representative Turek introduced the "Work Without Worry" act that would ask for asset limits to be amended. Werger stated that he struggled to find employment in the past because he was told if he worked too many hours he would lose benefits. Cogil stated we should have a benefits planner come speak at a Council meeting to dispel the myths.

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Cogil motioned to approve the legislative agenda. Kelly seconded.

Workplan Update:

Lovelace asked if there were any questions about the workplan. There were none.

EC Updates:

None

Action Steps:

None

Adjourn: Kelly made a motion to adjourn, Hoenig seconded. Motion is approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:11AM.