

## January 6, 2023 Legislative Committee Minutes

**Attendee Legislative Committee Council Members:** Roxanne Cogil, Hugh Kelly, Steve Steveson, Matthew Conaway, Carol Cross, Mark Smith, Rob Roozeboom

**Absent Council Members:** Brady Werger, Brittney Drinovsky, Kristen Aller

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

**Public:** None

### Welcome and Introductions:

All members introduced themselves

### Review of Virtual Open House / Discuss ideas on our agenda

Crowe kicked off the meeting asking everyone to share their thoughts on the virtual open house from the previous day and asked for input regarding our agenda based on the comments of those in attendance at the open house.

Crowe reminded the DD Council members to thank their legislators for attending the meeting yesterday and remind them about the legislative breakfast on February 1, 2023. Kelly stated he thought it was good that legislators liked our legislative agenda and the DD Council members gave advice on how to move things forward. Cross stated she thought the personal stories were very good. Cross suggested that the legislative agenda be present on the screen yesterday during the meeting so the legislators could see a visual of our agenda. Crowe agreed that this was a good suggestion. Smith stated he thought we captured their attention and the legislators asked for us to provide a transportation bill. He stated he didn't know how to go about this but suggested we look into this. Crowe stated she is looking for suggestions from this committee for innovative ideas and solutions to our priorities. Cogil stated she thought we had good bi-partisan support from the legislators. She also suggested we visit with the employees of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) in reference to the issue of there not being accessible public transportation and on demand services whether in the evening or when needed. Cogil stated that herself and Brooke are on the Transportation Coordinating Committee and they could bring up the issues discussed there. Cogil suggested that we find a way to speed up the process and help people get on waivers and off off waiver waitlists. Cogil stated Minnesota does not have a waitlist so someone should look at their model. Cross stated that Smith shared a positive story about Smith's son on a waiver and that was great. Cross is excited for the new legislator, Josh Turek, who has Spina Bifida. Lovelace stated that the DD Council has met with him already and Crowe is friends with him.

Crowe asked if we want to talk more about the transportation service issue. Cogil stated her daughter cannot use transportation after 5:00pm. Crowe stated that tying the transportation issue and the workforce issue together may make sense as an approach. Crowe stated we will do more research in this area. Lovelace stated that Representative Mike Vondran attended the legislative open house meeting yesterday and he stated that transportation was an issue he would like to address. Lovelace

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

asked Smith if Representative Vondran is his representative and he stated he is. Lovelace stated Representative Vondran may be someone who could introduce some bills for the DD Council. Smith stated he will visit with Representative Vondran at the breakfast and try to make a connection.

Crowe stated the wages and direct support professional area of our priorities are being worked on by other groups and we have a lot of data about this. Legislation was passed last year regarding this and it is a hot topic right now. The governor may address this in her speech next week. Cross stated she thought we should be more creative about ways to tackle the workforce shortage. She stated parents are an untapped workforce. If you are a guardian, you cannot be a direct care worker under the HD waiver. Allowing guardians to be direct care worker would be a good thing. Also, parents of children who are on waivers were able to do this during the pandemic and this should be a permanent option. Lovelace stated that this may be an easy win and is a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval. Lovelace stated that unless Health and Human Services (HHS) decides not to do it, then we would have to ask legislators to step in and mandate HHS to do it. Cross stated that parents want this and other states do this.

Crowe will reach out to members after next week's meeting to have a short phone call and get to know you better and find out what your priorities are and what your expertise is too.

### **Legislative Breakfast plans (Feb. 1)**

All legislators, key state partners, and DD council members will be invited. This will not be sent to our 9,000 member network. We will be educating legislators about the DD Council and our priorities. This will be held on Feb 1, 7am – 9:30am. Crowe asked if anyone has a creative idea to do at the legislative breakfast to make it memorable. Lovelace stated that one idea is to do some stress release activities like was done at the Make Your Mark! conference. Smith stated he will bring some of his sons, Peter's cards that he has created. Lovelace stated she would like committee members to reach out to their legislators to invite them personally to the breakfast.

### **Capitol Days grants**

Crowe stated we have had two applications so far and we have dates set for them. We would like more applicants. Lovelace stated \$500 is provided plus lunch. There is an application online that organizations can fill out. To fill out the application, go to:

<https://www.iowaddcouncil.org/capitol-advocacy-days>

### **Capitol Chats (monthly)**

January 27<sup>th</sup> is our next one scheduled.

### **Capitol Snapshots (weekly)**

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

The first one will be next week and these are done weekly. Some of the discussion will include what actions advocates can do. Advocates will be recognized during the Capitol Snapshots for their efforts as a “shout out” so if you have seen or done some advocacy work that could be recognized, let Crowe know so we can share what everyone is doing and what is happening.

Cogil asked that when the DD Council declares to be in support of legislation, is this information listed during the Capitol Snapshot? Lovelace stated this is not always discussed during the Capitol Snapshot but we can talk to Amy Campbell and can do this.

## Other Ways to Share Information and Updates

Cross stated she wish there was a way for the legislators to introduce themselves during the next legislative meeting with them to make them know they are seen.

Crowe asked if there are other ways to communicate with the DD Council members. Also, this committee is scheduled to meet every two weeks and would like to know if this works for everyone. Kelly stated every two weeks is helpful. Crowe suggested the meetings be 30 minutes. The committee stated they agreed 30 minutes would be good. Cogil asked for the calendar meeting invite for meetings through April to be sent in one invite. Crowe stated she would do this.

## Action Steps

Council members to thank legislators for attending the Legislative Open House.

Council members to invite their legislators to the breakfast on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Research the transportation issue more.

Crowe to reach out to members via phone after next week’s meeting.

Smith will bring some of Peter’s cards to legislative breakfast on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mention if there is DD Council support of legislation during Capitol Snapshot.

Send “shout out” ideas to Crowe

Crowe to send calendar invite for all meetings through April on one invite to legislative committee members.

Next legislative meeting is January 20<sup>th</sup>