

Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council Meeting Minutes January 12, 2023

Council Member Attendees:

In Person: Hugh Kelly, Mike Vratsinas, Steve Steveson, Mark Smith, Roxanne Cogil, Rob Roozeboom, Julie Bergeson, George Thompson, Scott Lyon, Paula Motsinger, Amber Gale, Kevin Harris, Kitty Hedderich

Virtual Attendance: Mike Hoenig, Matthew Conaway, Carol Cross, Kristen Aller, Eric Evans, Alecia Balduf, Brady Werger

Council Staff: Brooke Lovelace, Carlyn Crowe, Lindsay Hommer

Council Members Absent: Tiffany Poage, Jean Willard, Judy Warth, Brittney Drinovsky

Members of the Public: Amy Campbell, Marissa Eyanson, Cory Turner, Connie Fanselow, Maggie Ferguson, Amy Robasse

Call to Order:

Council Chair Werger called the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) meeting to order on January 12, 2023, at 10:32 AM. A quorum was established.

Welcome and Introductions:

All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Agenda Item/Approval of Minutes and Agenda:

Hoenig motioned to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2022 meeting, and Aller seconded. Motion approved. Lovelace stated one change to the agenda will be that Amy Campbell will present before the Executive Committee (EC) Report. Agenda motioned to be approved by Balduf and Gale seconded. Motion approved.

Legislative Session Review:

Campbell stated that the legislative session started on Monday. There is an inaugural party this week for the Governor. One bill introduced that is in line with our priorities is a bill for direct support professionals not to pay income taxes. It was introduced by Senator Zaun.

The legislative guide will be sent to the printer today. Important dates are listed in the guide. By February 10th all bills need to be introduced. There is a funnel date of March 3rd. March 31st, the committee work is basically done. The last day of session is April 28th. The governor presented her

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budget and priorities on Tuesday night. There is a lot of talk about education reform. The legislature wants to do property tax relief. The governor announced a major restructuring of government agencies. Thirty-seven state entities will combine into sixteen. An executive order was signed by the governor to end all rule making to make programs and services more flexible. The Health and Human Services (HHS) reorganization bill is between 600-1000 pages long. The governor announced that she wants to expand the health care apprenticeship programs. The appropriation for this will be \$15 million and will include direct support professionals, mental health, and behavioral health. There is a \$15 million appropriation for Medicaid. The federal funding we have been getting for the public health emergency will be going down. It looks as though this funding will go to nursing homes. They are putting a ramp in the House of Representatives chamber due to there now being a state representative who uses a wheelchair. Representative Josh Turek said there is a commitment to continue to make improvements to the capitol to make it more accessible for people with mobility issues in the House. Werger stated that Iowa needs to work to make everywhere accessible to everyone. Motsinger stated it is important to talk to all the new legislators about community-based services. Campbell stated there are 53 new legislators this year. Hoenig stated this is a challenging time with the Resource Centers closing and federal health emergency relief funding decreasing. Campbell stated there is a lot going on right now with work requirements, the review of the Medicaid waivers, the new Managed Care Organization (MCO) coming on board, provider reimbursement rates, and the Mental Health and Disability regions report is out. Campbell stated that last year there was an increase in rates to people who provide services but that funding was only for one year.

Tomorrow will be the first Capitol Snapshot of the year. Weekly reports will go out via email. Written reports get mailed four times a year. Werger asked if there is any advice for council members attending the legislative breakfast on February 1st. Crowe stated the overriding theme she has noticed is the importance of people telling their personal stories. Legislators want to hear what is possible if the correct supports are in place. Crowe stated the other theme she heard from the Senate HHS committee chair is "work." We need to elevate awareness. In response to a question from a previous meeting, Motsinger stated that the poverty level is updated by the federal government yearly for each program. Werger stated he and Lovelace are trying to get a meeting after the legislative breakfast with the Governor. Campbell stated personal stories really motivate legislators to promote bills. Hoenig stated he read notes from a disability committee about the 988 crisis line and someone on that committee was advocating for people to contact the Governor about long-term funding. Hoenig thinks this may be a federally funded program. Campbell stated she also heard a children's crisis center in Sioux City is closing so she will look into both of these programs.

Executive Committee (EC) report:

Actions and Recommendations since November Meeting:

Lovelace stated the legislative policy committee has met twice and minutes were provided from those.

Budget Review:

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Budget from October, November, and December were shared. Lovelace stated we will go over our out of state travel expenses this year. There is a disability summit conference in Washington DC that Crowe, Werger, and Lovelace will attend. In the future, Lovelace will not attend that conference.

Lovelace reviewed the obligation chart. The carryover funds from the 2021 award are earmarked for the University of Iowa Community Ambassador Program. We continue to be over obligated which is fine. All the work for the 2022 award must be completed by September 2023.

Annual Survey:

Lovelace reviewed the survey results. Hoenig stated the number of responses we received was great. He said it was great to read all the comments about how people feel empowered. Lovelace stated there were 433 respondents. Next year the survey will change because 135 respondents responded that they have not used the DD Council services. They will be directed to the DD Council services if they state they haven't used the DD Council services. Aller stated the report was cut off on some pages. Lovelace stated this report needs to be read online to see all the report. Bergeson stated she was shocked about the ethnicity reporting. Lovelace stated she wasn't sure that this was accurate. Aller stated that "other" and "chose not to answer" were popular answers. Lovelace stated this may be because 135 respondents don't use DD Council services. Hoenig stated he was not aware of the Take Action Center. Lovelace stated this is where people can go and send a message to their state legislators, the governor, or federal legislators. Lovelace stated we have had more people use this to send messages this year than ever before. Werger stated he has used the Take Action Center quite a bit and has even included President Biden in a message and received a response from him.

Respondents asked for more activities to be done regionally. Lovelace stated there are townhall grants that are available to apply for to have town halls in communities. We need to find ways to get more people to apply for these grants. Baldur participated in one of these townhalls with The Arc in October 2021.

We are hearing that people would like more information about IABLE and we will continue to partner with them. Lovelace stated that we have done a webinar with them in the past and will do more in the future.

Legislative Open House and Breakfast:

February 1st will be the legislative breakfast at the Capitol. It is 7am – 9:30am. An invite will be sent to Council members next week that can be sent to legislators. Gale offered to give Aller a ride to attend the legislative breakfast. Council members attending will be: Roozeboom, Kelly, Werger, Smith, Aller (maybe), Steveson, Gale (maybe), Cogil, Evans (maybe), Thompson, Vratsinas.

Workplan Review:

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Lovelace stated the workplan is October 2022 through December 2022. There are two areas that we need Council member's help on. There are three organizations signed up for the Capitol Advocacy Day Grants. There are two grants remaining that can be applied for. Lovelace did a voter training in Muscatine and there were 40 people that attended. We also did a voter training for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselors. We continue to share advocacy materials during capitol chats.

Aller asked for the highlighted color to be changed again.

Lovelace stated we continue to support the Community Ambassador Program. The intern position is on hold. The intern needs to be someone that is in school, high school or college. We have started planning for the Youth Leadership Academy that will happen in July. Talent Bank presented at MYM! Conference. Lovelace stated we have been wanting to train boards and commissions about inclusivity. Monica Stone, Department of Human Rights, suggested we reach out to Director Garcia about doing this training in-person for them. We hosted a voter education in Iowa City that was led by people with disabilities. There is a new group called Allies in Advocacy that is led by Zach Mecham, Jenn Wolfe, and Garret Frye. We are in the forming process of this group. Thompson asked if we collected emails from the people that took the survey. Lovelace said we did. Thompson said that we could reach out to people to do more community events. In regards to our targeted disparity goal, Hoenig has gotten us in contact with a school in southeast Iowa that seems promising. Gale said she has contacts in Benton community schools that she can get in contact with. Lovelace stated that one area we are struggling with is making sure policy makers are gathering input from people with disabilities. Motsinger asked if we could offer a session brief for legislators on how to gain input.

MYM! planning committee:

Volunteers are: Kelly, Hoenig, Aller, Thompson

Werger said that the 2022 MYM! conference was a success and Werger received an email from the Black Hawk County chamber visitors bureau. Waterloo/Cedar Falls would like to host the 2023 MYM! conference. There is a new hotel and event center. The hotel is wheelchair accessible. Lovelace explained that Capture Marketing does the conference setup for the DD Council so they will be handling this component.

Consent Decree and Department of Justice Investigation:

Marissa Eyanson (Iowa HHS Director for Behavioral Health and Disability Services) and Cory Turner (Superintendent at Cherokee Mental Health Institute, the Superintendent for the Civil Commitment Program for Sex Offenders, and the State Operated Facilities Director) – Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Werger stated that there are people that are not ready to move out of Glenwood but are being forced to. How do we help them find the right services for them?

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Eyanson stated she will outline what a consent decree means and what happens next. The Department of Justice (DOJ) came to investigate a few years ago and found that there was human experimentation, deficits in clinical care, and our care wasn't integrated. Since then, the State of Iowa and the DOJ have been in a process of coming to an agreement to fix these problems. We now have an agreement, a consent decree, and it was filed by DOJ in December. There are 300 items that the State has to address. Turner stated that Glenwood had to be closed due to resources, staff, and expertise. Hoenig stated that when he read about sexual exploitation he was shocked. What kind of oversight do these facilities have? Turner stated that oversight starts with him and they are building out the teams to oversee the facilities on a daily basis. There are checks and balances now so that these things can't happen again. Eyanson stated that Institutional Review Boards are much stronger now. We are doing work now that focuses solely on transitions and this was not happening before. Turner stated we have been working with the University of Iowa to hire a Chief Medical Officer. Eyanson stated we have been engaged in work for the last three years with the consent decree and will continue for the next five years. Also, consent decrees are often extended. Eyanson stated she would like the DD Council to be a source of information for them. Lyon asked if the consent decree is available to the public. Turner stated it is. Lyon asked what exactly is being done to help people transition into the communities. Eyanson stated they are working with providers to bring more Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) sites online, made changes to the HCBS waiver to provide more reserved capacity slots, holding frequent provider fairs, and created a collaborative integration working group. Eyanson stated that in the collaborative integration group, they address problems and work through them. Lyon stated that the people transitioning from a facility that are assigned to a reserved capacity slot, are those people going to be assigned to a Managed Care Organization (MCO) or will they be overseen by separate funding? Eyanson stated there is no separate funding and they will primarily be assigned to an MCO. Hoenig stated he worked for University Centers for Disabilities and Development (UCEDD) and worked with a small pool of money called the Conner Training Connection. It pertains to public education and provides opportunities for people to move into community settings. They have worked with Money Follows the Person (MFP) to provide extra funds for people moving to the community to help them get necessities. Is there an opportunity to re-examine the funds for the Conner Training Connections to increase these funds? Eyanson stated the consent decree does not specifically address the Conner Training Connection but that may come in the next phase. Werger asked if there will be cameras installed at Woodward to protect the clients and staff. Turner stated there are a lot of cameras at Glenwood and they are looking into adding them into the Woodward system. Cross stated she is confused how the people in Glenwood are getting a waiver slot and asked if they are bumping others on the waitlist. Eyanson stated the people being moved from Glenwood are going on a reserved capacity slot which does not bump anyone as these slots are for people moving from facilities. Eyanson stated she provided a website to get to the DOJ report and other news related to the investigation and consent decree. <https://dhs.iowa.gov/doj> Eyanson stated there is a one-pager they will send to Lovelace to distribute that is a brief summary of what was talked about today. A key hire is a Community Integration Manager that will be on Motsinger's team.

State and DD Network Updates:

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Motsinger and Bergeson

Bergeson stated that the Department on Aging is moving into HHS. The programming is similar to HHS so this makes sense. Their fiscal unit has started training. The draft legislation is being worked on. Master Plan on Aging is being worked on and is a roadmap to help states transform the infrastructure and coordination for aging populations. The Department of Aging would like to present to DD Council at some point and get feedback on this plan. Legislatively they will follow workforce issues. Motsinger stated it's important to understand that all programs need funding. Motsinger sent someone from her team to attend the Alzheimer's summit. Bergeson stated that younger onset dementia has a huge gap with not many resources available to them.

Motsinger stated that 33% of people under current MCO's will redistribute to Molina. Open enrollment is from March 1 to May 18. Lyon asked if there is a continuity of care for services if someone gets reassigned to Molina. Motsinger stated that there is. People have 90 days after July 1 to choose their MCO. An informational letter will go out to everyone about this. For the legislative session, they are working on session briefs. They are doing an entire waiver redesign and will try to do away with the inequity between waivers. MFP will be available for all waivers. HHS launched a new website that went live today at 12PM. American Rescue Plan Act funding was distributed for a total of \$113 million. \$87 million went to provider agencies. This has made an impact in stabilizing the workforce. Health Information Technology Grant was \$29.7 million. Motsinger they thought it would be closer to \$79 million. They are working on figuring out how to distribute the funds.

Council Updates:

Kelly participated in Hoenig's podcast talking about his work on the Council. Kelly, Werger, and Lovelace were on a radio show this past Sunday talking about the Council and it went well.

Werger stated his email got hacked and emails went out to the Council asking for gift certificates.

Cross stated she serves on Congenital and Inherited Advisory Committee in Iowa and was selected to be on a sub-committee to review and recommending disorders. She is the only parent advocate on this committee. Cross stated she feels honored.

Public Comment:

None

Adjourn: Kelly made a motion to adjourn, and Lyon seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Action Items:

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Campbell to look into 988 Crisis line funding and the children's crisis center that is closing in Sioux City. She will get more information about both programs.

Change highlight color on workplan.

Lovelace to reach out to Director Garcia about in-person training on inclusivity for boards and commissions.

Gale to reach out to Benton County schools about voter training.

Send out one-pager from Eyanson about DOJ report and what is happening moving forward once it is received.

Motsinger suggested to offer a session brief on how to gain input to legislators.

Evans and Lyons will give state agency updates at the next meeting