

Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council Meeting Minutes September 8, 2022

Council Member Attendees: Hugh Kelly, Kristen Aller, Mike Vratsinas, Alecia Balduf, Jean Willard, Judy Warth, Brady Werger, Kitty Hedderich, Paula Motsinger, Steve Steveson, Carol Cross, Mark Smith, Eric Evans, Roxanne Cogil, Rob Roozeboom, Julie Bergeson, Brittney Drinovsky, Mike Hoenig, Michael Conaway, Kevin Harris

Council Staff: Brooke Lovelace and Lindsay Hommer

Council Members Absent: Tiffany Poage, George Thompson, Scott Lyon, Amber Gale

Members of the Public: Liz Matney, Ed Palmer (Brady's support staff), John McCalley, Connie Fanselow, Morgan Casey

Call to Order:

Council Chair Werger called the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) meeting to order on September 8, 2022, at 10:30 AM. A quorum was established.

Welcome and Introductions:

All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Agenda Item/Approval of Minutes and Agenda:

Balduf motioned to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2022 meeting, Steveson seconded. Motion passed. Aller motioned to approve the agenda with the correction that sixteen Council members are required for a quorum, seconded by Hoenig. Motion passed. The agenda was changed due to Liz Matney attending at 1:30pm instead of 12:30pm as originally noted.

Executive Committee (EC) report:

Actions and Recommendations since July Meeting: Lovelace stated the EC met to make the changes to the bylaws. We also had the DD Council Orientation last week. The policy committee met as well since the last meeting in July.

Budget Review: Lovelace stated the council budget is what we are spending each month on our administration costs and contracted costs. Lovelace stated we have spent our 2020 award. The work for the 2021 award has to be completed by the end of September but we can use these funds to pay bills for work that was completed through September. The Administration on Community Living (ACL) granted us permission to carry over \$50,000 to the 2022 budget. We will use some of this for the Make

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Your Mark conference and we are contracted with the University Centers for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) to spend some of these funds. There could be a few thousand that does not get spent but most will be spent. The only expenses coming out of 2022 award right now are administrative costs. Hoenig asked how much of the 2022 award is remaining. There is approximately \$428,000 remaining. There is about \$4,000 of vaccine funding that will not get spent. There is also funding for our new project we are doing with UCEDD pertaining to public health outreach. Lovelace shared the obligation chart. The DD Council is over obligated for 2021 but some of the vendors were not able to spend all their amounts obligated. We are also over obligated for the 2022 award. Hoenig asked if there is extra funding left, could we spend the extra funds on the Make Your Mark conference. Lovelace stated that if we wanted to give more funds to a vendor, we would have to do an amendment to their contract.

2023 Budget Approval: Lovelace shared the 2023 draft budget. Administrative costs have to come out of current year funding. We are not sure yet what our award will be for the 2023 award. Council support was increased by \$1000. National dues and out of state travel were increased by \$1000 to pay for an increase in travel costs and the dues to National Association of Councils of Developmental Disabilities (NACDD). NACDD helps with technical issues, training, federal lobbying, and support. Staff generally go to three conferences out of state that also comes out of this budget line. Lovelace stated that we would like to send a council member to the policy conference in Washington DC in April. Personnel costs were increased by \$3,445 due to the cost-of-living increase of 1%. Landline and cell phone budget was decreased by \$900 due to phone lines that were disconnected that were not being used. Staff travel budget stayed the same. Department of Administrative Services Human Resources (DAS HR) monthly fees increased by \$180. Office supplies and copier maintenance remained the same. The Website hosting and Readspeak budget was eliminated due to our website being all on one now. Office rent went up by \$139 yearly. Department of Human Services (DHS) costs were increased by \$1000. We can only spend 30% of our appropriation on administrative costs and we are complying with this. We are able to deduct any time spent on state plan activities from the administrative costs. We get approximately \$35,000 yearly from DHS as an appropriation.

EC provided first motion to approve the 2023 budget. Vratsinas seconded. Motion passed.

Bylaws Amendment Approval: In Article II, Section II, a duty of Council members was added that states "Actively participate, within their maximum potential, in council meetings, initiatives, and events." Article II, Section III now addresses that if Council member reappointments are not approved by the Governor's office by July 1, they will act as active Council members until the reappointment is confirmed or denied. Article III, Section II, stated previously that there was a Reasonable Accommodation Committee. This committee is abolished in the new bylaws. Article III, Section III adds the policy committee as a sub-committee. Also, this section adds that as part of the EC members duties that they are to encourage engagement and participation from all council members. Article VI, Section IV, previously the Executive Director had the discretion to approve expenses up to \$10,000 for conference

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sponsorships. The change to this section would be to increase the discretion of approval for sponsorships, small grants, and emergency purchases to \$30,000 per Federal Fiscal Year (FFY). Lovelace stated that our prior bylaws stated that everyone had to attend meetings in person. In Article VII, Section IV, the amended bylaws state that council members are expected to be in person unless they receive prior approval from the EC to attend meetings virtually. Conaway asked how someone would request the exemption. Lovelace stated they would send an email to Hommer and we would get the request to the EC. Hoenig asked if the intent of the revision is to have council members attend in person. Lovelace stated that is correct. Cogil suggested that we move the last sentence of this paragraph to after the first sentence. Harris asked if this changes any ad hoc meetings. Lovelace stated this does not change those, this is just for the council meetings. Lovelace stated we also need to make a version of the bylaws in plain language.

Hedderich seconded the motion to approve changes to bylaws that the EC motioned. Cogil abstained from voting. Motion passed.

Policy Updates and Legislative Agenda:

Lovelace shared the legislative agenda from last year. Kelly stated that there were two meetings of the policy committee after the last legislative session and they met during the session several times. Members are Roozeboom, Kelly, Willard, Werger and Cross. Legislative priorities will remain the same as last year. The stories will be changed to involve Conaway, Robert Fisher, Smith, and Nancy Baker.

Lovelace stated there was a survey completed by direct support professionals and they said that a living wage does matter. Lovelace stated that a statement under the call to action will read, "Wages matter. Continue to support living wage increases for direct care professionals. Conaway's story will be the one highlighted in this piece. Lovelace stated that the 6% pay increase will be removed.

For the 2nd story we will add "accessible." The call of action has changed #2 to include, "Invest in physical structures such as changing tables. #3, Invest in Iowa businesses that hire people with disabilities. Diversify Iowa's workforce." The stories for this section will highlight Balduf and Robert Fisher. Hoenig stated that he hopes at some point we consider the issue of accessibility of the communications act access. Lovelace asked for Hoenig to come up with a bullet that we could add to this about that. Harris asked if communication accessibility is already part of state code. Hoenig stated that there is federal code. Harris asked what we would ask the legislatures to do. Hoenig said he would think about what we be our ask for the legislators to do.

Lovelace stated we are changing the 3rd story to ask for legislators to eliminate all waiting lists. We are adding Smith's story. Also, Nancy Baker and her son will be highlighted. Harris asked if we are asking for waiver waitlists to be eliminated. Lovelace stated this is correct and we want investment in community services.

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Aller seconded the motioned to approve changes to legislative priorities.

State Plan – Workplan Update

Lovelace stated that in March the Administration on Community Living (ACL) came back to us and told us we had to make changes to our state plan and we needed to add language. We also changed our targeted disparity goal and our leadership goal. We submitted the updated plan in June. We have yet to get approval for that plan. We have been going forth and doing work as if we have approval of our state plan.

Changes since last time include the voter trainings we are doing in Sheldon, Spencer, and Sigourney locations. Harris asked if we advertise our trainings on Facebook. Lovelace stated that we do share them there. Werger stated that he really likes the new DD Council website. Cogil asked if anyone has had time to reach out to the agencies that serve people with disabilities. Lovelace asked Roozeboom if he had shared with providers. Roozeboom stated that Vocational Rehabilitation has been sharing it.

Make Your Mark is next week.

Next capital chat is in October.

We are still doing the Community Ambassador project.

Lovelace would like the DD Council to hire an intern to work on public policy but we need to focus on hiring a Public Policy Manager right now.

The inclusion document that we developed is being shared and we are hoping that boards and commissions will reach out to do trainings.

We are doing a leadership summit after the Make Your Mark Conference this year. We have thirteen participants for this. ACL asked us to add objective 1.3 which states that “with the support of our disability network of advocates, annually support to strengthen self-advocacy organizations led by individuals with developmental disabilities so that there are more leaders with developmental disabilities and a more unified self-advocacy movement.” We have not had much success in starting one ourselves. It is in the DD Act that we support an organization led by people with disabilities. Lovelace stated that we are doing the Leadership Summit as a roundtable to have an initial meeting about starting such an organization.

Lovelace stated our position statement on voting was released. Lovelace shared the voting position with the council. This position statement was shared as a press release. It states that when there are changes to the voting rules, it makes it harder for people with disabilities to vote.

Lovelace stated we are still hoping to work with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) on the Customized Employment Project in the fall.

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Lovelace stated that we are sponsoring a take your legislator to work day and it would be great for Kelly to participate in this. Roozeboom asked if he could ask federal or state legislators to come. Lovelace stated that he could.

Lovelace stated we are starting conversations about doing a media campaign to address the workforce crisis by highlighting the jobs of direct support professionals. Roozeboom asked what kind of creative campaign we are doing. Lovelace stated it is a national publication company called N & R. They have helped other DD Council's with similar campaigns. It will be an eight-page publication that would highlight the stories of direct support professionals, why it is a valued career, and why for some people it can be a career starter. Roozeboom asked if we could do a Public Service Announcement (PSA) instead of a publication. Lovelace stated we could not due to the expense of a PSA. Aller stated that she thought a PSA would be great and asked how much it would be. Lovelace stated she did not know the exact cost. Roozeboom stated that he would like to be in the discussions about this. Warth looked at N & R's website and said it looks like they do written publications and podcasts.

Make Your Mark Conference Update:

Lovelace thanked everyone for attending and volunteering for the Make Your Mark conference that is coming up. Lovelace stated we have 120 registrants. We are doing a movie night. Hoenig asked if there is anything that identifies council members on their name tags. Lovelace stated that there is not but that is a good idea for next year. Werger asked if he could bring his award to display. Lovelace stated that he could display it on the DD Council table. Lovelace stated that Balduf is marked down to announce the winner of the prize on the last day of the conference. Warth stated Balduf is also helping her and Aller during their presentation.

Council Updates:

Hoenig asked if there is an update about hiring a public policy manager. Lovelace stated that there have been five applicants. Lovelace will be working with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to see if the position can be re-evaluated to change to a higher classification and re-posted. Harris asked if someone is not hired by the time the legislature is in session, could we contract someone to do the job. Lovelace said that is a possibility.

Werger had a self-advocate reach out to him on Facebook. The self-advocate, Kim Justice, lives in Omaha. She found a DD Council video on Youtube that Werger was in. Kim is an author and wants to interview Werger and a couple other people with disabilities. Please let Werger know if you are interested in speaking with her.

Hoenig said that there is expected to be a 2023 Seeking Opportunities for an Advocacy Revolution (SOAR) conference. They be asking for people to serve on their planning committee.

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Public Comments:

John McCalley stated that Amerigroup Iowa was awarded a contract by the state. They will be providing services through the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise. John stated that if anyone has any questions for him, they can email him at john.mccalley@amerigroup.com

Medicaid Update:

Liz Matney, Medicaid Director and Emily Evans, Medicaid Communications Manager

Liz Matney asked what people know about the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule. These rules come from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and it's putting a new layer of requirements and oversight to make sure that HCBS are provided in home-like settings. These rules want to allow for access to food with no restrictions, no locks on the doors, and limits on the number of people that can live in the residence. These rules have been in the process for a number of years. Letters will start going out this month stating that providers need to be in compliance by November 2022. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will be working with providers to get them into compliance. Cogil asked what is happening to the places that have a staff shortage. Liz Matney stated that \$106 million will be given to direct care providers for recruiting and retention. Hoenig asked if the Settings Rule goes beyond residential programs and address day habilitation programs. Motsinger stated that it does apply to other programs. Lovelace asked if there is still time to put in public comment. Motsinger stated that public comment time has closed. Cogil stated that the bonuses for the direct support professionals that they received recently were helpful. Roozeboom stated there is a shortage of male staff in this industry. Liz Matney said we need more people overall and this is a great point that gender does matter sometimes. Warth said that educationally there is a lack of paraprofessionals. Liz Matney said there are employment recruitment efforts under way and she will bring these points up. Cogil stated that her family moved away from agency services to Consumer Choice Option (CCO) services this summer to get higher pay to help retain their staff. Cogil did not realize that when they switched over to CCO, they had to submit the budget by service. It would be helpful if they could if there were more flexibility. Motsinger will check into this.

Case management training and evaluation: Liz Matney stated we contracted with Mathematica to do an overall evaluation. The goal was to find out if there is a better way to configure the waitlists and should we restructure our waivers. That evaluation will be finalized by the end of the year. Then, we will be looking broader to see how the Medicaid services intersect with child welfare, department of education, and disability behavioral health services. One thing that came up repeatedly is that we need to do some work on our case management system. Step one was to identify roles and responsibilities between different parties. HHS will be working

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with hospitals to gain consistency and we are working with the Department of Education to get referrals faster. We are also starting a focus group with managed care case managers that will not include any supervisory staff and will run for 4-5 months. Harris asked if fee for service will be included. Liz Matney said that it would.

Department of Justice Investigation: We still do not have a final consent decree but we are working on transition. Iowa Department of Economic Development has provided funds to help build housing to support these transitions. Medicaid will also be providing grants to be used for housing. There are also talks with the Iowa Finance Authority about affordable housing options. Werger asked how the closure of Glenwood is going to affect HCBS waiver programs. Liz Matney said there are not plans right now to expand HCBS by the state in the Glenwood area. Cogil stated that for the HCBS rent subsidy program, you have to be 18 years old and be on a HCBS waiver. There is a long waitlist to get on the HCBS waiver, so what if the state did a presumptive approval for the HCBS waiver so people could utilize the rent subsidy program while on the waitlist. Liz Matney said that this is a great idea. Liz Matney said that there was a survey put out several months ago to direct support professionals asking how many people on their caseload were on the waitlist for HCBS and needed rental assistance and the results were high.

Liz Matney said the waivers that have waitlists right now are Intellectual Disability (ID), Brain Injury (BI), Health and Disability, Physical Disability, and Children's Mental Health (CMH). The waivers that don't have waitlists are Elderly, AIDS/HIV, and Habilitation Program. Of the waivers that do have a waitlist, ID, BI, and CMH waivers are the only ones right now that have reserved capacity slots which are really defined to help people transition out of institutional settings. Liz Matney stated that they would like to change this so that those reserved capacity slots are available for anyone.

Medicaid Managed Care: Amerigroup contract was ending at the end of June 2023. Molina Healthcare of Iowa and Amerigroup just received contracts from the state.

Hoenig asked if Medicaid sends mailings in different forms for people with reading disabilities or visual impairments. Emily Evans said that they are working on it.

Balduf stated that she lives by herself and she is working more and her SSI is going down.

HCBS Final Settings Statewide Transition Plan
[2022 STP Final Draft - 7.8.2022.pdf \(iowa.gov\)](#)

Adjourn: Cogil made a motion to adjourn, and Smith seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 2:29 PM.