

Meeting Notes

May 9, 2019
Iowa DD Council Meeting
700 2nd Avenue, Suite 101, Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Members Present:

Kristine Dreckman
Robert Fisher
Rick Samson
Elyn Holton-Dean
Roxanne Cogil
Drew Manatt
Jennifer Jacob
Al Fagerlund
Kelley Rice
Brian Majeski
Brian Wines
Russell Wood
Hugh Kelly
Thomas Mayes
Kristen Aller
Jane Hudson
Mark Schneider

Members Absent:

Jason Goulden
Judy Warth
Jennifer Olson
Kittie Hedderich
Jean Willard

Staff Present:

Lindsay Leonetti
Brooke Lovelace
Rik Shannon

Visitors: Marsha Fisher, Connie Faneslow, Sheryl Matney, John McCalley

Call to Order: Dreckman called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. A quorum was not present and Dreckman decided to wait to see if more members would show up. Wood voiced his concern over the meeting minutes available online from the March meeting. Dreckman and Lovelace acknowledged his concern and let him know that, although there was a very robust discussion last meeting and we wanted to be thorough, we have a duty to keep the meeting a safe place where members are free to voice concerns and opinions.

Attendance was taken by introductions and a quorum was present. Mayes made a motion to approve the Executive Committee and Council meeting minutes from the March 14, 2019 meetings. Seconded by Kelly. Motion passed.

Executive Committee Report: Lovelace discussed the new guidelines from ACL. Why, and when we use the different years of money. Lovelace heard directly from ACL in April that Personnel/Administrative costs need to come out of the current year of funding. Starting with Fiscal year 2020, Councils will have two years to obligate funds and to do the work and the third year to pay the bills. Personnel costs can no longer come out of 2018 funds and for that reason, the Council budget has about \$342K to be obligated before October 1, 2019. The Executive Committee approved to recommend the following projects to obligate the funds:

The mentoring Project with UCEDD was approved last meeting, but the budget has changed. The new budget is \$70,000 which includes the University's indirect costs and match. Wood moved to approve this project, seconded by Fisher. Motion passed.

Lovelace requested an increase lowans with Disabilities in Action contract by \$10,000. The reasons for the increase 1) Make Your Mark Conference will be held in Coralville this year, and there is increased cost with that 2) We want to keep the Make Your Mark a free event 3) We want to be able to get good quality keynote speakers. 4) We would also like to have another print run for the Legislative Guide. Fisher moved to approve this increase, Samson seconded. Motion passed.

Lovelace provided information on another project, the Employment Transformation Grants. Lovelace recommended to award up to five grants up to \$20,000 to providers to help increase their employment outcomes. This would be done through an RFP process, which we would be released on May 20, 2019, with a start date of projects on October 1, 2019. Cogil moved to approve, Jacob seconded. Motion passes.

Lovelace recommended extending the Vocational Rehabilitation contract to be able to provide customized employment training in other communities. This is a \$50,000 contract. Motion to approve this project made by Wood. Seconded by Kelly. Hudson opposed; Kelly recused herself from voting. Motion passed.

Lovelace recommended to also continue the Department of Human Rights project to help in the further development of the talent bank project and the needs assessment for diverse populations. Wood proposed to have the Council provide more information in the September meeting. Motion to table the approval of the DHR project until the September meeting by Wood, Aller seconded. Motion passed with Mayes opposing.

Council Member Update: Aaron Anderson and Rick Samson's terms with the Council are ending and both were recognized for their contributions.

Election for Executive Committee and Reasonable Accommodation Committee: The Election Committee met on March 29, 2019 to present a slate of candidates for voting. Manatt made a motion to elect the following individuals, Mayes seconded. Motion carried.

Kristine Dreckman – *Chair*

Elyn Holton-Dean – *Vice Chair*

Al Fagerlund – *Member at Large*

Hugh Kelly – *Member at Large*

Russell Wood – *Member at Large (newly appointed)*

Reasonable Accommodation Committee: New committee formed to determine if a reasonable accommodation request is warranted and granted. Manatt proposed the committee be made up of Jane Hudson, Drew Manatt, and Mark Schneider. Manatt made a motion for these individuals to be elected. Seconded by Wood. Motion passed.

Public Comment: John McCalley from AmeriGroup. AmeriGroup's Stakeholder Advisory Board is seeking new members. It's a board made up of members and providers which meets on a quarterly basis. If you need more information you can contact DD Council staff and they will get you more information. AmeriGroup is driving toward a 5% increase in the employment related services they are offering has partnered with IVRS to create their own apprenticeship program. They are also planning activities for October (which is National Disability Employment Awareness Month).

Technical Assistance Presentations:

Sheryl Matney is from the National Technical Assistance Organization. Her presentations are available on the Iowa DD Council Website here: <https://iowaddcouncil.org/about/minutes/>

Lobbying vs. Educating: Matney presented the Council with ways to distinguish the characteristics of lobbying vs. educating policymakers and explained what council members and staff can and cannot do. Hudson asked if members can go as private citizens? Matney answered that we must be very clear that we are coming as members of the public if we come to elected officials. Council members need to be clear but not confuse them. If the council would like to ask for votes or to sway them a certain way, then they must be clear we are coming to them as a member of the public. Mayes asked for guidance on how to take a neutral position on issues. Matney said that we can take a position on an issue as long as we present facts on both sides of the issue. Councils need to making sure to put forward facts as well as addressing the opposition. Matney also noted that we as a council can participate in coalitions and training on issues as well. The Council can also host a candidate forum as long as we invite all candidates. Matney said that Councils need to be very careful on social media as well, especially if your social media indicates you are a Council member. When talking with legislators, educate them on how this legislation would affect members' lives personally, educate policymakers on the council's decision on why this is a policy item and how this impacts people with DD.

Financial and Budget Information: Council members were presented with the basics of the Council Budget. Hudson asked what amount have we paid this year to our designated State agency. Lovelace stated just over \$6,000. The Council is obligated to pay the DSA a percentage every year. Technically the Council has been charged \$12,000 this year but have only paid back 50% of that (which is what federal regulations allow). Woods asked what types of activities are included in the State plan money. Lovelace said that we have done a time study to determine what percentage of time is time working on the state plan activities. Matney reiterated that it is important for the council to approve a budget so that funds can be allocated correctly and the budget not only needs to be approved by the council but it also need to be in line with the State plan and also be legal. Funds must also be available to public and private companies to projects and activities.

Orientation and Training: Matney presented leading practices on member orientation and training. Training and orientation is best when staff and members work to together, make it organized and present it in a way that is not confusing for a new member. Dreckman shared that in the past few years, there has not been much training and the orientation was more of an information session. Matney suggested that seasoned council members mentor new council members. The EC and Staff do plan on conducting an orientation for the new members in August. Jacob asked if there was a way or event where executive directors can share information and projects. Matney shared that there is a Council Consortium where Councils are evaluated and they can talk about how they can better help people with DD. They are studying things such as people with DD and the opioid crisis and the people with DD and their caretakers aging.

Council Member Engagement: Planning must occur for engagement to result. Forming committees and work groups are a good way for members to be more engaged. Recruitment is a good way for council members to remain engaged. Dreckman and Lovelace reminded the council that it is in the bylaws that there is an expectation that member participate in council recruitment.

Council Member Update: Intelligent Lives event was held on 4/30, and Dreckman attended, along with about 50 other people. One of the actors in the documentary and the producer are going to be speakers at MYM 2019. There are other screenings planned around Iowa. Cogil shared that in Guthrie Country Mosaic is partnering with Vocational Rehab to provide a career readiness camp this summer.

Kelly moved to adjourn, Dreckman seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:00.