

Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council Meeting Minutes September 9, 2021

Council Member Attendees: Hugh Kelly, Kristen Aller, Mike Vratsinas, Alecia Balduf, Brittney Funston, Amber Gale, Al Fagerlund, Jean Willard, Scott Lyon, Julie Bergeson, Carol Cross, Judy Warth, Mark Smith, Colin Priest, Brady Werger, Rob Roozeboom, Kitty Hedderich, Paula Motsinger, Robert Fisher, Steve Steveson, Roxanne Cogil, Tiffany Poage, Mark Schneider

Council Staff: Brooke Lovelace, Bill Kallestad, and Lindsay Hommer

Council Members Absent: Jason Goulden

Members of the Public: Connie Fanselow, Morgan Casey and Lisa Yunek

Call to Order:

Council Chair Fagerlund called the Iowa Developmental Council (DD Council) meeting to order on September 9, 2021, at 10:32 a.m. A quorum was established

Welcome and Introductions:

All meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Agenda Item/Approval of Minutes and Agenda:

Fagerlund said that for a quorum, we now need 16 members. Motion to approve minutes and the change to the agenda to state 16 members are now needed for a quorum was made by Kelly and seconded by Werger.

Executive Committee report:

Actions and Recommendations since July Meeting: Fagerlund stated that the EC Council has met once since July in which they decided to make the September meeting virtual. The next full council meeting is November 4, 2021. The EC Council will meet on October 12 to decide if the November 4th meeting will be in-person or virtual or have the option of both.

2020 and 2021 DD Council Budget Status: Lovelace stated that the 2019 award is spent and the budget reflects that. Most of the 2020 and 2021 awards have been obligated. Federal partners are giving us another year to spend the unused funds from the 2020 award due to Covid. We have until Sept 2022 to spend these funds. There is about \$50,000 unspent at this time. Lovelace thinks most will be spent by the end of September due to projects. We also have another year to spend remaining \$23,000 funds from the 2021 award. Aller asked if the funds can be used for MYM next year. Lovelace said that MYM is

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already funded through Capture Management Solutions (Advocacy Management.) For informational purposes, the Public Policy Partnership is the InfoNet contract. Conference Sponsorship funds are for used when the DD Council sponsors conferences to help people become better advocates, better leaders, and help people with disabilities attend conferences. The Special Projects can be used for unexpected things such as Covid or Derecho. The administrative costs are used to pay for personnel, office supplies, rent and travel. The University of Iowa Mentoring is the Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD) contract for community ambassadors. The Vocational Rehabilitation Contract is for increasing employment opportunities

Approval of 2022 Budget: Lovelace stated that the federal fiscal year is October through September There is a little money left over from last year due to not having an Administrative Assistant for two months, no travel, and no in person meetings last year. The National dues amount was increased by \$1000 because the national dues are increasing. This year personnel cost went up due to hiring Hommer. In-state travel was reduced to \$5000. Land line, cell phone, and internet charges were reduced to \$5000 also. The biggest change is DHS costs. Department of Administrative Services Human Resources monthly fees is for managing payroll. DHS costs are drawing down federal dollars, paying bills, contracting staff, and the help desk. The EC motioned and needed a second to approve the 2022 budget. Cross asked who is in personnel. Lovelace stated personnel is Brooke, Bill, and Lindsay. These costs include wages, health insurance, retirement, workman's comp, and others. Mark Smith asked what DHS costs are. Lovelace said that this is what DHS charges us. Kallestad clarified that DHS costs are for everything they do for us such as accounting. Some DD councils do their own, but it is expensive and that is why we utilize DHS to do this for us. Smith motioned to approve the budget. Budget is approved.

Lovelace said that for the November meeting we hope to have new charts made for the budget

Fisher asked where council staff would you travel. Lovelace said that we haven't been traveling lately. Kallestad said that we do voter training, and we may still have those, but they may not be in person and may be minimal compared to the past.

State Plan Submission and Approval Status: Lovelace stated that the state plan was originally due August 15, but a new web-based system has been implemented. The State plan is now due September 30. Kallestad and Lovelace need to give a final look through the plan and submit it. Stakeholders and peers on other DD Council's then review the plan and can request changes, updates, and give feedback. Next meeting, we will share the two-year work plan with the Council. We will start having this as a general agenda item to update progress. At the November meeting we should know if the plan has been approved and have a report about progress. The State plan is required every 5 years. Fagerlund said that the changes to the plan that were made are positive.

Make Your Mark Update (MYM): Lovelace stated that an In-person option is still available. Everyone was offered a virtual option and people now can only register for the virtual option. Only 14 people have changed from in-person to virtual and the hotel is promoting social distancing. There will be 113

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attendees, 26 speakers, 8 sponsors, and 3 professionals. Disability Rights Iowa and Dallas County Public Health is going to be having a vaccine clinic at MYM. Also, attendees can pick a bracelet color to indicate how close they want people near them.

Customized Employment Project with Vocational Rehabilitation:

An Update on Progress Made on our Employment Project with Vocational Rehabilitation: Ashlea Lantz, Vienna Hoang, Jill Daniel, Jess Kreho (guest presenters) - The project is working to improve employment outcomes for persons with disabilities and improve employer trainings. Hoang stated that customized discovery has improved outcomes for job candidates and promoted social change. This program has pushed the employment first concept forward and customized discovery will take over October 1. Lantz said that customized employment is negotiating a job for a person with a disability with a company. These jobs are not traditional jobs and are customized for the employee. This program changed the authorization of discovery from 12 hours to 40 - 50 hours and a higher rate of pay. The new customized discovery process will be state-wide starting October 1. After discovery comes customized job development. There is now a new training requirement for employers. Employers now must have training for 40 hours. Kreho stated that this program has expanded possibilities of employment. Hoang said that the DD Council has enabled them to provide technical assistance and guidance. Customized Discovery takes more time and has made the program more successful for candidates. Daniel said she worked with New Hope and Imagine the Possibilities. This program was a big change from the way it used to be. This program is far more time consuming but is much more beneficial to the participants to finding jobs. Businesses are open to this new program and are willing to customize jobs for employees with disabilities. One success story is about Robby. He graduated from high school and had no desire to go on to college or a tech school. He was good at welding though and took some welding classes. When he applied at big welding companies there were no jobs for him. He then went to small town with a one-man company and did discovery activities with the employer. Robby was hired as part-time while he trained him. Now Robby is getting more hours and learning more about welding. Kreho said Robby made a connection with his new boss and doing well. Jill had another success story about Ian. Ian struggled once he was out of high school. Ian was good with technology, and he started on the new Discovery Project when traditional services were not working for him. The project worked with him and now he has been hired by TechZone. TechZone customized the job for him. Schneider asked if the program works in both urban and rural areas? Lantz said that this Discovery program works in a community of any size and Jill said she uses it in rural communities currently. Daniel said that It's easy to make connections in small towns. Funston asked if the program is for people 18 years and older only because people can start working at 14. Daniel said that 80% of the caseload is high school students. They usually start people in their junior and/or senior year. On October 1 they are starting statewide with many providers.

Lantz provided link to document that provides overview of Customized Employment and that knowledge, skills, and abilities an Employment Specialist should embody to deliver the service. Below is the link:

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<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/odep/pdf/2011cecm.pdf>

Department of Human Services and Public Health Update by Director Kelly

Garcia:

Director Kelly Garcia said the spending plan is the main focus. Director Garcia said that we are in another wave of Covid with a new variant that is more contagious. We need to focus on vaccinations. As ambassadors, please have conversations with peers, family, anyone you encounter. Department of Public Health has changed their reporting and have created a dashboard. The dashboard has recent case counts and hospitalizations. It also has the percentage of how many hospitalized people due to Covid are unvaccinated. Director Garcia stated that progress needs to be made with Iowans getting the vaccine.

Currently work is being done to bring together the Department of Public Health and DHS. There will be a new organizational structure. Right now, they are gaining stakeholder input. Some of the questions that are being asked are: Where is it hard to access information right now? Where are the barriers? What are the problems? How can we reorganize to solve issues? Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) they received funds. They want to invest more funds into home-based services, and they have more money now to do this.

Liz Matney – Medicaid (guest speaker): The plan is focused on improving home and community-based services and focusing on improving provider training and education opportunities. They need Medicaid member feedback on how to make health care providers better. There is also money for scholarships and grants for education and they are also investing money in making sure to provide additional training to mental health crisis providers. They are providing money to build out resources for persons with disabilities who have children and supporting parents who have children with disabilities. One of their main goals is to expand access for services. Another goal is therapeutic foster care, residential services for children with complex behavioral needs, and community-based neuro behavioral rehabilitation services for children. They are going to hire an expert consultant to look at the Medicaid system for the entire state and ultimately the result could include changing waivers which should help with long waiver waitlist. Night Owl is a technology that allows people more freedom and safety mechanisms. This is a technology that may improve independence. Liz Matney stated they want to provide financial reward for people who have worked through the pandemic, and they want to give businesses funds to provide bonuses for hiring people. Also, there has been a desire for the state to put together a registry for direct care staff. They would like feedback from people who would be receiving services and people who provide services. Werger stated he participated in a video to promote the Covid vaccine. He asked that as an advocate in the state of Iowa, what can advocates do to get the word out to get more people vaccinated? Director Garcia said that personal connection points are the key. Continue to have conversations with everyone and use social media platforms. Werger asked if the Night Owl Technology could assist him if he does not have staff around all the time. Motsinger said the technology could help in the event of an emergency. Gale asked if people under 12 will be approved for vaccine? Director

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Garcia said the vaccine for people under is in the trial stage now. She doesn't have a timeframe, but it will be closer to the new year. Fisher asked Director Garcia what to tell people when they don't believe in vaccinations. Director Garcia said the approach we have taken is that we give clear fact-based information. There was no step missed in the approval process of the vaccine. Liz Matney reminded everyone that Medicaid holds monthly town halls and the next one is on Sept 23.

I-START Program:

We Will Learn About What This Program is Doing and Who They are Serving: Felicia Bates (guest speaker): Felicia Bates showed a power point presentation to the Council. Felicia Bates has been the I-start program Director since 2015 when the program began in Iowa. This program supports individuals with disabilities and mental health needs. Their goal is to create a support network that can respond to crisis needs at the community level. It is a national program that is used here in Iowa. It provides services such as 24-hour crisis response, training, education, and patient-centered services. The program has become a Nationally Certified Program in June 2020 and they are trying to get sustainable long-term funding.

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Policy Updates:

Kallestad Will Share Information on Policy, What the Council Has Been Working on and Future

Activities: Kallestad said in August they did a Youth Leadership Academy. The DD Council, Department of Human Rights and the University of Iowa (Center for Developmental Disabilities) developed a curriculum 2 years ago on leadership for young adults in Iowa that have a disability. There were 18 participants. The young people believe they should have a strong voice on what affects them, and they are engaged in their communities and schools. There was a graduation at the end of the academy. In October there will be a follow up meeting with the participants. They are going to be doing a marketing piece. They are also working on a video of the graduates. People that participated in the YLA were from all over Iowa since it was virtually this year. The numbers are growing of participants.

Kallestad stated that Iowa Medicaid town hall meetings are happening for both providers and members. Providers are from 4pm-5pm and the member ones are 5pm-6pm and they are always the 4th Thursday of the month. Motsinger stated that her department is planning to provide updates and questions and answers on their website, and she will provide these to the Council. Kallestad said when information is shared with the Council, it is placed on the Council's social media platforms quickly.

Kallestad stated that redistricting is happening now. People may have a different senator or representative based on how the redistricting goes. The redistricting does not go into effect until the

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election of 2022. Kallestad said that people can reach out to their new person prior to 2022 though. There are also going to be special elections in Ankeny and Jasper County.

Kallestad said that the John Lewis voting rights advancement bill is moving onto the Senate after passing the House of Representatives. Also, there is going to be strong advocacy going out about the Reconciliation Bill.

Currently there is a review of InfoNet happening and an editorial board is going to be put together. Also, Kallestad said that they will be forming a legislative policy group. Lovelace said that Amy from InfoNet would like to put together a stakeholder group that would meet one time in October. Lastly, Kallestad said that he and Amy Campbell from InfoNet will be doing weekly videos with up-to-date information.

Council Updates:

Lovelace stated that there is a Mia Peterson self-advocate of the year award. Mike Hoenig who works for Iowa UCEDD joined the meeting and let Werger know he won this award. Werger will be announced as the winner at MYM. Kelly informed the Council that the SOAR 2 event is happening in 8 days and former Senator Tom Harkin will be speaking. Cross stated she has 2 children with Leukodystrophy and if anyone would like to learn more about this disease, they can view her YouTube video.

Public Comments: None

Adjourn: Kelly made a motion to adjourn and Aller seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:48pm.

Motsinger provided email after the meeting with information about Medicaid member/provider town hall meetings below:

Here is the link to the member/provider town hall meetings. We will add the Q&A when they are finalized. If you scroll down on the agenda (middle of page) you will see the recordings under "Previous Meetings: August 26, 2021, Member Town Hall (audio only). Please let me know if you have questions.

<https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/advisory-groups/townhall>

Previous Meetings:	August 26, 2021, Provider Town Hall (audio only)
	August 26, 2021, Member Town Hall (audio only)