

# IOWA DD Council

Preparation, Participation, Power

## DD Council Meeting Minutes, June 11, 2020

### Attendees:

#### Council Members

Alecia Balduf	Al Fagerlund
Kelley Rice	Rob Fisher
Mark Schneider	Judy Warth
Rob Roozeboom	Jason Goulden
Kristine Dreckman	Drew Manatt
Brady Werger	Hugh Kelly
Jean Willard	Kitty Hedderich
Elyn Holton-Dean	Roxanne Cogil
Al Fagerlund	Jane Hudson
Brian Wines	Kristen Aller
Carol Cross	

#### Staff

Lindsay Leonetti  
Brooke Lovelace  
Bill Kallestad

#### Members Absent

Thomas Mayes  
Brian Majeski  
Russell Wood

#### Members of the public

Scott Hedderich	Connie Faneslow
John McCalley	Lore Solo
Lisa Yunek	

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### Call to order:

Council Chair Dreckman called the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) meeting to order on June 12, 2020 at 10:04 a.m. via Zoom.

Agenda Item/Welcome and Ground Rules: Please stay muted, unless you are sharing. Use the chat function or raise your hand or wave if you would like to share. Iowa Department of Human Services Director Garcia will be participating in a question and answer session about DHS's response to Covid-19 next Thursday. This meeting will be held via zoom. Leonetti to send invite after meeting. Introduction of Bill Kallestad, the new Public Policy Manager to the Council.

Agenda Item/Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Motion to approve March 12, 2020 minutes by Goulden, Willard seconded. Minutes approved. Fisher motioned to add Kristen Aller's name to those in attendance to the March 11, 2020 meeting. Mannatt seconded. Motion approved to add Aller's name to those in attendance. Motion to approve June 11, 2020 agenda by Kelly, seconded by Aller. Motion passed.

### Agenda Item/Approval of slate of candidates for the Executive Committee:

Fagerlund presented the slate of candidates for approval by the full Council.

- Kristine Dreckman, Chair
- Elyn Holton-Dean, Vice Chair
- Brady Werger, Member at Large
- Al Fagerlund, Member at Large
- Mark Schneider, Member at Large, to replace Russell Wood (term ends 6/30/2020)

Werger seconded the motion to approve the new appointments. Motion passed. Fagerlund will be the next Chair-Elect, to replace Dreckman, which is in line with the bylaws.

Agenda Item/Developing the DD Council's 5 Year plan: Lovelace gave some general info about the state plan. The State Plan is due August 15, 2021. Information has been gathered via surveys and community conversations to assist in the formation of the plan.

**Priorities:**

Solo reviewed that the top priorities identified through the survey were: Employment, Health, Housing, and Community Living. Solo explained that Self-Advocacy is mandated for Councils to address.

**Transportation:**

Many council members expressed that transportation is very important to them, but it was not reported on the surveys. Specific issues with transportation are: access to and training on how to use public transportation, the fact that some providers cannot afford transportation in their daily rate, and non-emergency medical transportation. Willard said transportation is a tool to meet the other priorities and suggested we incorporate transportation as a strategy to meet all of the other goals. Cogil and Aller also agreed with Willard's idea. Werger said that there are a lot of people who may not know how to call for a taxi or how to ride on public transit, and it would be helpful just make sure people are aware what is out there. Cross shared that she runs an adaptive sports program, and many individuals cannot attend because of transportation issues.

**Employment:**

Cogil mentioned the pilot program with Vocational Rehabilitation program and expanding on customized employment because were very successful and she would like to see something similar to those again. Goulden and Schneider commented that more work and training is needed with employers who hire people with DD. Roozeboom said there is a need for physical accommodations and a person (besides a relative) who can physically help him, beyond what he normally finds for people who have a disability. He has found programs like this in Colorado and Minnesota, but cannot find a program that helps in this way in Iowa. Roozeboom added that benefits planning is very much needed as well. Aller believes employers do not give people with DD more opportunities. Education is also needed on the rights people with disabilities have in a job search.

**Health:**

Cogil said there are a lot of barriers in access to health care for people with DD, and there have been some benefits seen with the telehealth options that are happening as a result of the pandemic. Others like the telehealth option because of the convenience and the access to their physicians. Goulden shared his positive personal experience with his telehealth visit. Fisher said that a member of his family has used telehealth and his experience has also been positive. Telehealth removes the transportation barrier that is usually there. Willard stated if telehealth ends up being part of the state plan, to connect with Child Health Specialty Clinics as they have this in their state plan for children with disabilities.

**Housing:**

Fisher believes it's important to have a house, to learn responsibility and maintain independence. Werger said housing is very important to him because he plans to move out of Glenwood soon to be on his own. He asked what supports are there for him and others who will be in his shoes? Balduf has safety issues with her condo; who do people contact for that? Warth said that Balduf makes a good

point about helping people learn the skills and have the support to deal with choosing, firing providers, choosing and moving from homes, etc. Cogil said that there a lots of people who don't qualify for the waiver. Low income housing isn't safe, there are wait lists, and there are less supports for this.

### **Community living:**

No comments were offered. Solo suggested that most Community Living comments were covered in the previous sections.

### **Targeted Disparity Goal:**

Solo stated that something that came from the surveys was that people in rural areas are underserved, and we do not have a lot of rural people who are on the Council. Dreckman said that with the last state plan, the goal targeted the African American and Latino populations, but nothing has ever come of it; there was a lot of lip service and nothing was ever done, no action or follow up. Dreckman said that most of Iowa is rural and we do struggle with reaching the rural populations too, but she is not sure if it is the same type of "underserved" as the African American or Latino communities. Holton-Dean said there is a need to serve rural areas but this is also an area where there are a lot minorities are living as well, so serving the two at the same time is feasible. Holton-Dean said many minority populations don't know where to go for help and there is a lack of information and lack of dissemination of the info. The Council must find better ways to serve rural areas and minorities.

### **Iowans with Disabilities in Action and InfoNet:**

Solo asked the council members about Iowans with Disabilities in Action (ID Action) and InfoNet. She stated that not a lot of people know that these are two projects are DD Council Projects. Warth said that these are not very well branded and it was not very apparent to her that they are related to the Council. Hudson said that DD Council should be more present with the activities that ID Action and InfoNet. Hudson asked if there was a reason why the DD Council would not be front and center with activities they do. Solo stated that when ID Action first started it was to make the focus on the individual and not on the government agency. Lovelace shared that there really wasn't a statewide self-advocacy group run by people with disabilities. The council supports ID Action but it is still separate from the Council. Fisher said that he thinks InfoNet should be available in other group homes and have more subscribers.

### **Review of current activities**

1. Solo asked whether everyone thinks we should continue focusing on the same areas under the Advocacy goal which are: Community and political engagement, training and leading community groups to help community living, working and learning and assisting individuals with disabilities from various minority groups. There was a group consensus that the Council will still work on these goals.

2. Solo asked whether everyone thinks we should continue focusing on the same areas under the Systems Change goal which are: Policies and practices to strengthen community living, learning and working, Community employment, and State and federal policy changes specifically for individuals with autism, which has been the targeted disparity goal. Additional Comments: Dreckman asked if autism really considered a disparity. It seems like an autism diagnosis is much more common than when this plan was created, and perhaps we should be focusing more on the rural community. Warth said that this would be a good time for focus on minorities and there are many opportunities to serve those

communities. Kallestead said that the terms “systems change” and “capacity building” are often interchangeable. And “systems change” sounds more like “advocacy” and “capacity building” sounds more like supporting agencies and innovative practices. Hudson agreed with Kallestead and added that in the past the Council helped teach people how to do legislative advocacy but didn’t really take a stand on any legislation. She thinks we are moving towards the council taking more of a position on legislation, but more grassroots action is needed to come together on certain positions and we need to talk to legislators about those positions. Hudson asked if the Council is going to be moving towards taking a positions on issues and then doing legislative advocacy for those who can. Lovelace shared that yes, the Public Policy Manager position was updated to reflect this.

#### **Additional Issues:**

Solo shared that some states have added disaster recovery to the State plan to provide special services to people with DD and to help them recover. Lovelace shared we haven’t considered disaster planning in the past but with what is going on currently we are seeing a need to assist people in emergency situations. Dreckman added that other states have disaster plans that considered hurricanes, floods, wildfires and natural disasters. They work with other agencies to set up shelters, and more specifically what shelters will need to help people with disabilities, assistive devices, medications, special education in schools, and even having active shooter trainings that take people with DD into account when planning. Dreckman recommended that we do focus in the area of disaster planning for the next state plan. Hudson agreed and added that Iowa Legal Aid, as well as other agencies, are very much involved with disaster planning already. Fisher and Balduf agreed disaster planning should be an area of focus.

Health Rights: Lore shared that there were survey responses that included health rights. Lovelace said that perhaps these responses are in regard to people advocating with their managed care entity, but it was not specific in the survey. Warth said that there is definitely a need to help people understand their health care rights, whether it’s from managed care or their private insurance perspective.

#### **Public Comment:**

Connie Fanselow: When doing outreach to underserved populations it’s been her experience that it’s important to reach out to leaders in specific groups first, and then find out the best way to get out the information.

Lisa Yunek: The Council needs to develop ways to help people with DD get better in being a part of meetings and being involved in discussions.

Brady Werger: Would like a list of the council members. Lindsay will email list to Brady.

Brian Wines’ and Drew Mannatt’s last council meeting: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE! We will update council member list and then send out to everyone.

Scott Heddrich: Asked about having Zoom be an option for every meeting that we have to encourage participation. What is the best way to have these meetings in the future and meet everyone’s needs?

Motion to adjourn by Werger, Holton-Dean seconded. Adjourned at 11:58