

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Council Members

Kristine Dreckman – Chair
Al Fagerlund – At Large (late arrival, present for voting)
Hugh Kelly – At large
Brady Werger – Vice Chair
Mark Schneider – At large

Staff

Brooke Lovelace
Lindsay Leonetti
Bill Kallestad

A meeting of the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) Executive Committee (EC) was held on October 7, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Council Chair, Kristine Dreckman.

Goal One: Advocacy

Strengthen advocacy and leadership skills of people with Developmental Disabilities and their families so that they can create change and be their own voice.

Objective one: Increase the number of Iowans with Disabilities and family members who engage in the civic and political decision-making process.

Discussion: Lovelace shared that we will be hosting Local Capitol days again. The Council will also continue to host the Make Your Mark! Conference and are also hoping to sponsor other conferences with other organizations that focus on self-advocacy. Lovelace shared that Covid has hindered many of the conferences and events that were supposed to have taken place this year, but hopefully will not be an issue in the future. Dreckman suggested publicizing the voter and advocacy trainings so that more people can attend the training and utilize the tools they learn.

Objective two. Increase the number of Iowans with Disabilities including young adults, and their family members, that lead and mentor others and take on leadership roles in projects that increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in community living

Discussion: Some of the projects and events are being focused on the young adult age group. Recently the Youth Leadership Academy was held. Town hall meetings would take place instead of Advocacy Days at the Capitol. Possibly have this

offered before Christmas and after the election so that when people have new legislators they can meet and discuss before the legislative session starts. Werger suggested that we can have events that will also help people connect with their city officials and to help City Councils understand the issues that people with disabilities have on a local level. Dreckman suggested having trainings on how to apply to be on a board and commission and also what serving on a board or commission entails. Schneider suggested to add the words awareness, recruiting, and training to this objective. Lovelace said that she thinks it is important to have someone with a disability to lead the trainings that we offer. We will need to investigate a way to pay someone in that position. The council could work with U of I REACH program, Vocational Rehabilitation and DMACC to help recruit students. Dreckman suggested having benchmarks to make sure these projects actually get off the ground and are being held. Schneider suggested that we could build in time to our Council meetings to share how the projects are coming along.

Kallestad conducted the Youth Leadership Academy this year with 6 young adults with disabilities. The program taught these individuals how to advocate and Kallestad thinks these individuals would be great mentors as well. Kallestad and suggested that perhaps we can have a “mini council” where members discuss advocacy, mentoring, empowerment, etc. and eventually form goals and objectives to help people with disabilities. Werger said he is interested in participating in something like this.

Objective three: Increase the number of Iowans with disabilities that successfully advocate for their own health care needs.

Discussion: This is a new objective. It was discovered that health is an important issue through the surveys and focus groups. Lovelace shared that we could work with Iowa Department of Public Health and the UCEDD in helping people advocate for their healthcare needs. Training on helping people advocate at the doctor’s office as well as with their MCO case manager. Also a training with EMS workers could be held to help them understand health issues and medications that people with disabilities are facing. Dreckman since this is a new goal and it is a very targeted goal and timeline is realistic.

Goal Two: Systems Change

Advocate for and with people with disabilities and other disability network partners to improve policy and practice that positively impacts people with disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in their communities

Objective one: - Annually, target at least three key policy proposals (e.g. legislation, Executive Orders, or regulations being promulgated) for identifying opportunities to educate policymakers about the impact of specific policies and make recommendations to ensure policies align with the principles of the DD Act and the legislative priorities of Council members.

Discussion: Dreckman expressed excitement able to build relationships with policy makers, help advocate for issues and for specific legislation. Kallestad shared that work centered around this goal will help the council educate lawmakers understand what specific issues people with disabilities face, and that way they can better understand the changes they want to see.

Objective two: With the use of DD Council resources, people with disabilities and/or family members will annually propose new legislation about an issue important to them.

Discussion: The council assisted family members last year with two bills that were proposed during session. Activities in this objective would help do more of this.

Goal Three: Capacity Building

Through training, technical assistance and resources the Iowa DD Council will strengthen community services and supports for people with disabilities and their families so they can live, work learn and play in their communities.

Objective one: The DD Council will collaborate the DD network, state agencies, and community programs to improve competitive employment outcomes for people with disabilities

Discussion: None.

Objective two: By September 30, 2027, the DD Council will partner with the DD Network, state agencies and/or other community programs to invest in at least two projects to demonstrate new approaches to direct services, enhance systems, or eliminate barriers to access and use of community services (such a transportation, housing, health, education, emergency preparation)

Discussion: Schneider shared that this is a broad objective and leaves room for different types or work and activities.

Targeted Disparity Objective: In collaboration with our DD network partners and the Iowa Department of Human Rights, develop relationships with African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Native Americans and other underserved populations in rural areas of Iowa to increase the number of people aware of the Council, use the Council resources and participate in Council activities.

Discussion: Werger shared that his church has events that underserved populations are invited to. He suggested that the Council have a booth at these events so that people in these populations can be able to understand what the DD Council is and begin to form relationships. Lovelace stated that Brady as a council member could start these conversations now and help the Council establish relationships. Werger shared that he is available to share his story with local groups and organizations, similar to the community ambassador program. Fagerlund said we should be clearer about how we are serving and meeting with each group in person and not to lump all of the underserved populations together. Fagerlund also suggested working with agencies like DHR to have them help us learn the best ways to reach out to them. Schneider said building relationships with these populations first is very important and that way the Council can better understand what they need. Schneider also suggested that in that respect, perhaps this goal should be listed under Capacity Building, and Fagerlund agreed. Lovelace suggested asking Council members, especially those members in rural areas, how they can help the Council to get meetings with the leadership groups so we can begin to form relationships with those populations. Lovelace suggested steering this idea towards action on the part of Council members, and not just Council staff.

The Executive Committee agreed that a draft of the discussion and goals can be presented to the Council at the November meeting. Lovelace may change the format in order to be better understood.

Other business:

The Council has over \$400,000 that needs to be spent by September 20, 2021. Lovelace suggested doing another round of Employment Transformation Grants for 5 grants of \$25,000(changed from \$20,000 from this year). Schneider motioned to approve, Werger seconded. Motion carried.

Lovelace shared information on a pilot project with UCEDD to look at giving grants to providers with strategies to help with employment and recruiting for direct care workers. Lovelace stated that by partnering with the UCED we wouldn't need to do an RFP and the UCEDD would have staff they could dedicate to the project. Kallestad shared that retention and recruitment is a huge issue and a huge barrier and puts a burden on the whole organization. The grants would be \$25,000 to help incentivize employees. \$140,000 project budget. Kelly motioned to approve, Werger second. Motioned carried.

Lovelace shared that the web camera system is now installed in the Council office. If any EC member would like to come to the Council office for the November Council meeting, they can attend in person if they wish.

Motion to adjourn by Werger, Kelly seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:29.