

January 7, 2022 Executive Committee Minutes

Attendee Council Members: Judy Warth, Brady Werger, Hugh Kelly, Al Fagerlund, Mark Schneider

Absent Council Members:

Council Staff: Brooke Lovelace, Bill Kallestad, Lindsay Hommer

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A meeting of the Iowa Developmental Disability Council (DD Council) Executive Committee (EC) was held on January 7, 2022 via Zoom. Policy Committee members were also present: Robert Fisher, Kristen Aller, Carol Cross, Roxanne Cogil, Rob Roozeboom, Brittney Funston
Meeting was called to order by Fagerlund at 3:03 pm.

2022 Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council Legislative Agenda:

Kallestad shared the following document and stated that Capture Management will create a more formal document for the legislative open house. Kallestad explained that the document is set up in this order: Ask, Story, then Call to Action.

Wording to be reviewed by the EC to be approved for legislative open house on January 14, 2022:

Kallestad reviewed the first agenda item.

Cross stated that she is passionate about family members being able to be direct care support workers. Many families and parents want to do this. She is part of a group of 1800 people in Iowa that want to do this. And, specify that is for people that are on the waiver system who are under 18 years old. Cross asked the wording to be changed to “Allow family members and guardians for adults and children” to be paid for providing care services through Iowa’s self-direction options. In other states this is permanent thing where family members can be a paid direct-care support workers, but it is only being extended in Iowa due to the pandemic. Lovelace stated that we could make the changes to the wording to include family members.

Kallestad stated that later in the year, there will be phone calls with legislators that will do a deeper dive into all of the issues.

Aller asked if there is way to look at another state to see what they are doing so Iowa can work off of what they are doing. Lovelace stated that there is and that DHS is looking into this.

Werger stated that when person’s apply for a host home provider, he was told that guardians cannot get paid for this and that it has to be somebody besides your immediate family. Lovelace stated that is why we are asking to change this.

Fisher paraphrased Werger’s comments and wanted to know if his mom and dad could get paid.

Kallestad stated there are different scenarios where some family members could get paid but we are trying to improve Iowa’s options for being a caregiver.

Roozeboom wanted to emphasize the importance of compensation for family members for caregiving. Warth asked that natural supports be included also and add education loans to low-interest and loan consolidation programs. Kallestad stated he spoke with Amy Campbell and she suggested that this document be broad to present to the legislators. Later on when there is a deeper dive, more detailed ideas could be brought up. Lovelace suggested we insert the words “such as” before the bullet points to

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indicate these are some ideas and there also more ideas.

Kallestad reviewed the second agenda item.

Kallestad stated that transportation and accessible restrooms were 2 major issues that have been brought up in the past and still need worked on.

Fisher stated he has been working to get more accessibility in Adel where he lives. He also wondered if Yellow Cabs are accessible. Lovelace let him know there are a few but they are expensive.

Werger stated he has been working with someone to try to get grants so he can get a reliable vehicle to get around.

Kallestad reviewed the final agenda item.

Cogil suggested adding bill numbers if there are any bills alive that address these issues. Lovelace stated she liked this idea and will attach bill numbers once we have them for all points. Lovelace stated that in the future we should have the legislative priorities conversation in the fall and have them approved at the meeting to allow the opportunity to partner with a legislature to sponsor something prior to session starting, that's when we need to do it.

Lovelace stated that the comment about having over 17,000 on waiting lists is similar to the workforce issue and we should also add a comment on that issue. The comments should read something like, "direct-support professionals should be a value in the community." Next sentence, "Many lowans also rely on caregivers and natural supports that are unpaid and that's a hardship too."

Cross asked if we could quantify with numbers the amount direct-care support workers that are needed right now that are not being filled? Lovelace stated she wasn't sure if these numbers are tracked.

Kallestad said that the Iowa Association of Community Providers has tried but will need to re-look it.

They address the amount of turnover but is not certain if they state how many openings but will check.

Cogil asked if healthcare/telehealth should be added to the first issue with Tucker under #1. Lovelace stated this issue is really supposed to focus on workforce issues and Cogil asked that this be made more clear. Lovelace said we will clarify this is related to the workforce crisis.

Lovelace stated the following changes will be made:

We will specify that the workforce crisis is the focus of the first issue.

We want family members and guardians to be able to be paid for their support permanently.

Make a statement that direct-support professionals should be a valued profession.

Warth made a motion to approve with the changes discussed. Kelly seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

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