

March 10, 2022 Executive Committee Minutes

Attendee Council Members: Judy Warth, Brady Werger, Hugh Kelly, Mark Schneider, Al Fagerlund
Council Staff: Brooke Lovelace, Bill Kallestad, and Lindsay Hommer

A meeting of the Iowa Developmental Disability Council (DD Council) Executive Committee (EC) was held on March 10, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 9:03AM by Fagerlund

State Plan Corrections from Administration on Community Living (ACL):

Lovelace said that ACL did not think we clearly identified our targeted disparity objective in our analysis of the needs in the comprehensive review analysis (CRA). We weren't targeted enough on what we wanted to accomplish. We were first going to assess the needs then address them, but they thought we should already know what those needs are. We do know that there is a need in rural areas for engagement and advocacy. Sheryl Matney suggested we target a couple of areas and not try to do everything. She suggested we target a couple rural areas. We have updated the CRA to have it align with what we are changing the targeted disparity goal to.

ACL made us add more detail to the goals. Lovelace believes once the goals are revised, we will have to put it out for public comment.

Goal one advocacy we changed to include timeline of 2026 completion date. Sheryl Matney said we also needed to put in our goal what we wanted to accomplish so we added "so people with developmental disabilities live inclusive lives." The word "developmental" was added. ACL did not want the plan to say just "disabilities." The expected goal outcome was something we did not initially have in the plan. We added this to say, "people with developmental disabilities create positive change so they can live inclusive productive lives." Objective 3 was added to state "with the support of our disability network of advocates, annually invest and support leadership training by state self-advocacy group led by individuals with developmental disabilities." Lovelace believes Sheryl Matney will ask why the DD Council is not starting our own self-advocacy organization like other council's do. Lovelace stated we have tried this in the past, but it hasn't worked. That doesn't mean we couldn't try again if we decide to. Kallestad stated there is a group called Upgrade Medicaid and he and Werger go to those meetings. There is also a group called Iowa Disability and Aging Network (IDAN) which is supposed to be disability driven but its very provider based. Mosaic has a group called Happy that we have done a lot of training for. We have done a lot of training for small groups over the last two weeks for advocacy. Being supportive of many of these groups could be something we do. Warth stated we have very fragmented self-advocacy in Iowa. Would it be possible for the DD Council to play a role in doing a leadership summit where we bring them all together? If people with disabilities would have a unified voice, instead of each group having their own story line, we would have a much more powerful voice. Could we do something like that, and would it address this objective by doing a leadership summit? We could plan a day to bring the groups together to do some shared learning and reach that goal. Lovelace stated that

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could be an activity that we do under this objective. Fagerlund stated we would need to decide what the overall goals would be for this activity. Kallestad stated that Iowa Disability and Aging Network (IDAN) used to run a larger disability network just like what we are talking about. They are very self-advocate driven, but there has been a change in leadership. Warth wondered that if we pull the self-advocates from other groups and bolster them. We could teach people how to be a good board member, how to play a role there, we could be more of a trade association for the self-advocacy groups. We could plan a day to bring the groups together to do some shared learning and reach that goal. Lovelace said we could possibly do a leadership summit after the Make Your Mark conference in the afternoon. Fagerlund thinks the written goal is good. Warth stated that maybe there needs to be a statement that maybe our goal is not create a self-advocacy group but to more unify the self-advocacy groups that already exist. Sheryl Matney suggested we take the old objective 3 out that reads “By 2026, increase the number of Iowans with developmental disabilities who successfully advocate for their own health care and have healthy lives.” Lovelace stated we could add this as an activity on our work plan under objective one.

Goal two, we added the year 2026 and the words “developmental disabilities” and stated that we are wanting a positive outcome. For objective 2 we added that we are educating people. We changed objective 3 to “in collaboration with our DD network partners, annually the DD council will provide advocacy and voter training to young adults (18-26) with developmental disabilities across all populations in two rural communities. The council will reduce the lack of civic engagement and increase self-advocacy in rural areas for youths with developmental disabilities. This is our targeted disparity goal.”

Goal three we added the year 2026 and Sheryl Matney suggested we put that we “strengthen so that people with developmental disabilities will have the supports they need to live and thrive in the community.” We then added what the outcome will be. ACL wants all DD Council’s to have an objective to respond to all emergent needs so that there is something in our plan in case we go through a pandemic or derecho again. Sheryl Matney suggested we lay the goal out simply and say we will respond to emergent needs that impact individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. This could apply to any emergent need including health advocacy work.

Warth stated they are working with the LEND program and will be hiring four people to work with minority populations. Warth stated the DD Council may have an opportunity to partner with them.

Werger made a motion to take these changes to the full council. Kelly seconded the motion.

Lovelace will clarify with ACL on Monday if there needs to be a plan for the public and a separate plan for ACL. Lovelace will see if public comment is needed. We may not have to put it out to the extent that we did the first time though. Lovelace will get clarification.

2022, 2021, and 2020 Budget Review:

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The administrative information was provided so you can see where the Council is against the administrative cap. The EC reviewed the spending chart. The 2020 allocation is almost spent, and the 2021 allocation is all obligated. Both 2020 and 2021 funds need to be spent by the end of September. The 2022 allocation so far has administrative costs only coming out.

Lovelace stated we did apply for the public health funding, and we did receive \$95,319.00. We have two years to spend it and we are going to partner with UCEDD and do outreach with their Covid recovery staff. They will hire a person to do that. They will be submitting a proposal. We may need to have an executive committee meeting to approve spending the funds. The purpose of the funding is to address workforce and public health for two years. The DD Council does not have the funds to hire someone which is why we are partnering with UCEDD. The person will go out in the field and meet with providers and people with disabilities that don't have a provider. Fagerlund asked if these issues are already being looked into at the University. Lovelace stated she was not aware that anyone is going out into the field currently so this would be new.

Lovelace stated we do still have a little funding left from our vaccine fund that we received last April in the amount of approximately \$10,000. Capture spent about \$6000 of this to do a video and updated our toolkit.

Council members and EC Helping with Trainings and Presentations:

Werger has been helping with our capitol chats recently and we are going to ask for others to assist in the future with presentations and trainings. Warth asked that we make a push for persons on the council that have a disability to engage in this way. She stated we will have to support people to do this.

Diversity Retreat Workshop:

Lovelace asked for input about having a retreat workshop in the summer. This would address implicit bias, race, and other subjects. Werger liked this idea. Warth asked if more diverse groups could be invited to council meetings and recruit from these groups. Lovelace asked if people thought council members would participate in this. Warth stated she could reach out to other people at the University to see if they could assist with this. Kallestad stated he is on the Able up Iowa board. He said this group gives loans to people. This group has been having implicit bias trainings that have been great. Lovelace stated we could do the training over time and not in one day. Fagerlund stated we have had minorities on the council in the past and perhaps we could reach out to them for input. Lovelace stated the Talent Bank does not track the race of people who apply for boards and commissions. She would like more inclusion on our council. Department of Human Rights does an awareness event that Lovelace will look into. Lovelace stated all suggestions are welcome.

EC for Next Year/ Recruiting New Members:

Lovelace would like a more diverse group. Fagerlund and Schneider will be coming off the EC soon. Lovelace asked who we would want to recruit for that. Funston has expressed interest in being on the

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EC. Kelly and Fagerlund suggested Roozeboom. An election committee needs to be chosen during the Council meeting today and it is comprised of three people. It would choose who would be appointed to the EC. Lovelace stated we need two family members and two self-advocates for our Council due to people coming off in June. Werger stated he may know someone from Glenwood whose father may be interested.

Social Media and Email Promotion:

We are trying to fix the issue that some people are not receiving InfoNET emails and other mailings. We are asking for everyone to like our Facebook posts and share InfoNET emails. Lovelace wants the Council's help to spread the word about the DD Council.

State Plan Evaluation – Review Workplan:

Warth enjoyed the updates, and it was easy to read. No one had any questions about it.

EC Member Updates:

Werger suggested a new position be created called "community outreach." This person could attend events and share what the DD Council is about. Kallestad stated this person could be an influencer. Kelly shared when he helped with the SOAR conference on Facebook.

Werger is going to reach out to Madison County due to the seven people killed in the tornado. He is going to find out what parts of the county were hit and if the Council could provide funding. Kallestad and Werger went to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) event and several people have asked for his contact information. He would like funding to get business cards. Kallestad stated he spoke with Lovelace about this, and she wasn't sure if this would be possible. Kallestad stated they are trying to figure out a way to possibly make this happen. Werger stated his worker Rich can get him business cards and wondered if he could put DD Council on these cards. Kallestad stated Werger may want to put all the projects he is involved in on these cards. Lovelace stated he may not want to include the DD Council and just put self-advocate.

Adjourn: Kelly made a motion to adjourn and Werger seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM.

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