

IOWA DD Council

Preparation, Participation, Power

DD Council Meeting Minutes, March 12, 2020

Attendees:

Council Members

Alecia Balduf	Al Fagerlund
Kelley Rice	Rob Fisher
Rob Roozeboom	Jason Goulden
Kristine Dreckman	Judy Warth
Brady Werger	Jason Goulden
Jean Willard	Drew Manatt
Al Fagerlund	Hugh Kelly
Brian Wines	Kitty Hedderich
Brian Majeski	
Russell Wood	

Staff

Lindsay Leonetti
Brooke Lovelace

Members Absent

Thomas Mayes Mark Schneider
Jane Hudson

Members of the public

Scott Hedderich	Marsha Fisher
John McCalley	Josh Ellis
Cathy Goulden	Kelly Garcia
Lisa Yunek	Liz Matney
Maggie Ferguson	Jennifer Donavon

Call to order:

Council Chair Dreckman called the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) meeting to order on March 12, 2020 at 10:32 a.m. A quorum was present after introductions. Due to COVID-19 council members and guests were able to participate via conference call. Those who participated via conference call were Council Members, Jennifer Jacob, Roxanne Cogil, Carol Cross, Elyn Holton-Dean. Member of the public Connie Fanselow joined by phone call as well.

Agenda Item/Approval of minutes and agenda Motion to approve January minutes by Kelly, Balduf seconded. Motion carried. Fisher motioned to approve the March 12 agenda, second by Mannatt. Motion carried.

Department of Human Services Director Kelly Garcia: Garcia has been with DHS approximately 5 months. Garcia shared that she immediately faced some big challenges when she got here. She spoke about her work to improve Medicaid care for people with disabilities, and also is working with the Department of Justice about the cases in Glenwood and Woodward. To address the issues, cooperation is needed with community partners, employees and staff. DHS is very much cooperating with Federal offices and many other departments to make sure residents and are being well cared for and staff members are doing their job.

The Council had the opportunity to ask Director Garcia questions:

Rob Fisher: How will we know everything will be ok?

Garcia has been talking with people and asking herself that. It's going to take a while, and she has to make sure she is having conversations with people and asking questions. There are very new concerns about COVID-19 sanitary measures at Glenwood that are at the forefront right now. When people raise

concerns she is making sure they are addressed immediately. The office would like to be very involved, and has to be conscious of creating a safe space for families.

Russell Wood: He is thankful to the office for involving Brooke in these conversations so the council is aware and involved.

Al Fagerlund: Do you feel you're getting the correct info and enough info on MCO's?

Garcia said that DHS has the right info on the sets of data points and progress should be made in resolving provider claims issues.

Scott Hedderich: How are you making sure this failure never happens again?

What happened is very dependent on individuals and even turnover on the part of employees is a factor. They are trying to hire a Division Admin and has been turned down twice about this. It's upsetting that this is happening and it involves asking a lot of questions and a lot of follow up. The office has had Town Halls with direct care workers and people have never seen a DHS Director. Many new policies will have to be developed.

Roozeboom: This started with one person and trickled all the way down and bypassed many levels of employees.

This was a leadership issue (not a direct care worker issue). There was a desire to promote research, and that's not inherently bad, but all of the safety valves, including guardian consent, failed. DPS is working on this issue.

[Liz Matney, Health Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor](#) The Governor's office most important priority is to encourage healthy outcomes for all communities. The governor is visiting all 99 counties and suggestions for places to visit would be welcomed. Roozeboom asked for clarification on waivers. Matney said Medicaid waivers were developed to help people to be able to get services that are community and home based services individual services.

The Council had the opportunity to ask questions:

Judy Warth: Re: a raise for direct care workers. It's a good thing about increasing the pay but 1% doesn't even cover COLA.

The need to capacity build for direct care workers and a wage increase is critical. There is a very real workforce issue where there are not enough people. There is a dire need for direct care workers.

Al Fagerlund: People who have the disabilities can advocate so what is the most effective way to communicate with the Governor's office?

There is no bad way to approach the issues, and send it however you can. Matney's office as an open door policy. Garcia seconded this.

Kristine Dreckman: How are the offices communicating to people with disabilities?

Matney and Garcia both agree that it is best to just approach directly, doesn't matter who they are or how many. Important that they make sure they are heard. This includes hiring people with disabilities and this is very important to the end game.

Garcia would like to be at every meeting, but may have schedule conflicts. To continue to be involved with this you can email her: kgarcia@dhs.state.ia.us

Agenda Item / Council Member Presentations

Russell Wood, Mental Health Disability Services (MHDS): MHDS is responsible for planning, coordinating, monitoring, improving and partially funding mental health and disability services for the State of Iowa.

Suggestions for the Council as we put together the five year plan? Wood shared that members need to be out there and sharing what the DD Council does. He feels the State is not addressing issues with all disabilities and people who have brain injuries. Wood stated that the state needs to promise people with DD and brain injuries that they will be able to receive services. System development and advocacy are key. Wood also shared that he will not be reapplying for a second term to serve on the Council.

Brain Wines, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME): IME is the single state entity that manages Medicaid services. They have specific areas that they concentrate on to help them manage the Medicaid program. They have quality assurance programs, member services, provider services, pharmacy program, program integrity/payments, cost audits, provider rates, and revenue collection. 650,000 people receive Medicaid services at some point but 758,000 or 1 in 4 people will use Medicaid. Medicaid in Iowa spends 1 billion dollars every year. Medicaid consists of 19% children and 51% are aged and/or disabled. The websites that were used for the presentation are below:

Improve Iowans' Health Status report:

https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/3_Improve_Iowans_Health_Status_3.pdf?110120191802

Long term services and supports:

https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/MAAC_EC_010518_Handout_LTSS.pdf?030920202110

Comparison chart – HCBS waivers -

https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/MHDS_Medicaid_HCBS_Program_Comparison_Chart.pdf?030920202113

Iowa DHS LTSS webpage - <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/long-term-care>

Suggestions for the Council as we put together the five year plan Advocacy is the most important. IME supports people by living in the least restrictive environment as well as making sure there is an increase in employment for people with DD. Council members are helping by advocating for themselves and others

Rob Roozeboom: Is the waiver income based or asset based?

Waiver eligibility is income based and based on federal poverty rate. Funds are state and federal match and a new grant is offered every year every year. Funding at the state level comes from income tax.

Carol Cross: Daughter is on HCBS Medicaid as secondary insurance. She feels that Medicaid HCBS is the most confusing program. It's very difficult to get the correct info. Carol suggested IME partner with parents or care providers. The system causes people to give up, and then services are not given. There should be some sort of dialogue between care givers and IME.

Case managers are there to help, and there are HCBS specialists in the field that people can help people with questions. HCBS specialists are on the website that Brian provided.

Brian Majeski, Iowa Department on Aging and Jennifer Donovan, Office of the Public Guardian: Iowa Department on Aging is the designated state agency for the Older Americans act. They offer employment programs for people 55 and over options counseling, case management, and nutrition and health services. Priorities: they provide help for people return home from an institution with the proper supports, elder abuse services, home modifications services and assistance.

Jennifer Donovan, Office of Public Guardian: The Office of Public Guardian is part of Department on Aging, but serves adults 18 and over. The Office serves as a guardian for people who don't have one and helps guardians and caregivers with supportive decision making. Studies show that when people with DD participate in their lives, they live healthier lives.

Suggestions for the Council as we put together the five year plan They would like help with forming committees that will provide public education about guardianship, and specifics about it.

Judy Warth, Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD). CDD should be the resource for lowans with disabilities. CDD partners with a lot of agencies, and has a lot of divisions and services for a broad range of lowans with disabilities, at every age. CDD focuses on: Employment, health and wellness, education and community living. CDD and the DD Council already partner to help people get the lives they want. What can CDD do to help people with DD? People who receive services are key to the CDD. When they share and advocate for themselves, it helps the CDD understand what services they need to provide, and what really works for people with DD.

Suggestions for the Council as we put together the five year plan Judy encourages everyone to keep advocating and keep working to get the life they want.

Al Fagerlund: There are a lot of organizations who provide employment services. Does the UCEDD help with this?

There are Employment Coordinators in local communities and CDD also partners with APSE. Judy will give her contact info to those who want it after the meeting.

Executive Committee Report: DD Council has hired a facilitator, Lore Solo, to help with the 5 year plan. Lore will be helping facilitate the May meeting and help the Council and staff with obtaining input from the council for the formation of the 5 year plan.

The EC recommended the approval of the CDD contract extensions and increase in funding to \$117,000. Approval of this was seconded by Fisher, motion carries.

The Election Committee needs volunteers to develop a slate of candidates to serve on the Executive Committee. During the EC meeting, Al Fagerlund agreed to be on the election committee. Dreckman asked Rob Roozeboom and Rob Fisher to volunteer and both agreed to serve.

Dreckman asked for volunteers for the Reasonable Accommodation Committee members Jen Jacob, Judy Warth, Kelly Rice, and Alecia Balduf agreed to volunteer

Department of Human Rights contracts: Department of Human Rights (DHR) was not able to hire someone for the leadership program that was to take place every month during the summer. They are regrouping and proposing to be able to do 4 trainings in order to meet goals. We must spend the money by September 30, 2020. CDD is also wanting to do a youth leadership project as well, so a partnership with DHR, CDD and DD Council might be an option.

New Public Policy Manager: Bill Kallestad accepted the position of Public Policy Manager. He has over 20 years' experience with people with disabilities and public policy work experience at the state and federal level. He will be starting on April 20, 2020.

Council member terms expiring: Council Members whose terms are expiring in June but are eligible for a second term are Manatt, Willard, Wood, Warth and Wines. Lovelace asked that members not seeking a second term to let her know by the next meeting. Wines will be ending his second term and a new member representing Medicaid will need to be appointed. Lovelace reminded Council members that it was everyone's responsibility to recruit new members.

Here is the link where members can apply for a new term: <https://iowaddcouncil.org/New-Member-Application/>

July's meeting is cancelled. In August we will be having a new member orientation. Anyone who is new to the Council or anyone who needs a refresher about what it means to be on the Council is welcome to attend. More information will be sent about this as we get closer to the date. Lovelace reminded everyone that attendance for the May meeting is very important, as there will be a great deal of council business to be decided upon and the strategic planning with Lore Solo will also happen as well.

The state plan is due in August of 2021. There is a survey that has been distributed to gather feedback that will be used to determine goals and activities for the state plan. Please share the survey with your network and/or ask for paper copies, as we have them available in the Council office.

There are two upcoming community conversations in Waverly and Dubuque and we would like to host additional events similar to these four. We would like council members to consider hosting an event in their area. We are needing to get to the west side of the state. Also, we have the ability to do a screening of "Intelligent Lives."

Documentary called "Swim Team" about a swim team, all of whom have autism. Iowa Public Television owns the rights to the movie and are partnering with ASK Resource Center and The Autism Society to host a showing on 4/30 at The IPTV Office in Johnston. We also want to have a few volunteers to help people at the showing. More info to come on this.

State Plan Progress: Lovelace asked that the Council read the State Plan Progress document before the May meeting. The DD Act says we must designate a targeted disparity goal; this is a goal that we need to focus on for the next 5 years. 5 years ago the targeted disparity goal focused on supporting people with autism. Please think of a targeted disparity goal that you think we should focus on.

Council member update:

Alecia Balduf shared that "That's Medicaid" story is up on the internet. Lovelace shared this on social media.

Brady Werger will be a featured person for Iowa Advocacy Connection newsletter as a council member and will also be participating in the APSE day on the Hill on 4/15/20.

Hugh Kelly submitted his story for 50 people for 50 years.

Rob Roozeboom mentioned a "Beyond Limits" event in Sheldon in May. It helps people with disabilities find resources. It provides news and events for people with disabilities. Rob will contact council to get more info and it will be held on May 2, 2020.

Jen Jacob: Does the DD council help establish groups/organizations in Des Moines? She said there is nothing statewide for Down syndrome and she possibly like to start a group. Judy Warth advised that the University of Iowa Non Profit Resource Center could be of assistance with this.

Lisa Yunek: There is a bill that allows people have a special needs trust account to have those funds moved to their Iowa Able Account. This bill was moved out of committee, and will continue in the process.

Adjournment

Kelly motioned to adjourn and Fisher seconded. Meeting ended at 2:06.

Addendum:

On March 23, 2020 Brooke Lovelace sent an email to all of the Executive Committee members requesting the approval of a \$5,000 project with The ARC approach us with a unique proposal to put some funding together to offer small mini grants (\$500) to families and individuals with disabilities to pay for the costs associated with the virus, such as extra food and medical supplies, caregiving, respite, items to help deal with social isolation etc. The committee approved the purchase via email on March 24, 2020 with Fagerlund abstaining.