

IOWA DD Council

Preparation, Participation, Power

DD Council Meeting Minutes - May 13, 2021

Attendees:

Council Members

Alecia Balduf	Al Fagerlund
Kelley Rice	Rob Fisher
Mark Schneider	Judy Warth
Rob Roozeboom	Hugh Kelly
Kristine Dreckman	Roxanne Cogil
Brady Werger	Kitty Hedderich
Paula Motsinger	Mark Smith
Carol Cross	Thomas Mayes
Jean Willard	Jason Goulden
Jane Hudson	Mark Smith

Staff

Lindsay Leonetti
Brooke Lovelace
Bill Kallestad

Members Absent

Amber Gale
Kristen Aller

Members of the public

Connie Faneslow	Julie Bergeson
Jacob Mescher	Lindsey Jones
John McCalley	Lisa Yunek

Call to order:

Council Chair Dreckman called the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) meeting to order on May 13, 2021 at 10:34 a.m. via Zoom. A quorum was established after meeting was called to order.

Agenda Item/Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Motion to approve the March 11 2021 minutes by Kelly, seconded by Werger. Motion passes. Motion to approve March 11, 2021 agenda by Kelly, seconded by Werger. Motion passes.

Agenda Item/ Executive Committee Report:

2021 and 2021 DD Council Budget Status: Dreckman directed the council to look at the budget materials, and ask if any council members had questions. No council members had questions.

Vaccine funding proposal: The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is providing grants to DD Council's to increase access and awareness and to address barriers that are preventing people with disabilities from getting vaccinated. Iowa DD Council received \$36,536 from ACL. Lovelace had a meeting with DHS Director Kelly Garcia and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to discuss how the Council can utilize these funds. Director Garcia suggested that the Council use the funds to tackle individuals who are hesitant to get the vaccine. Lovelace shared that Capture Marketing's budget to implement a marketing and education campaign would be \$29,990. Their current contract would be amended so they would be able to assist the Council with the campaign. The campaign would include Facebook posts, developing a toolkit that providers and others could use, emails to the DD Network,

direct mail and Public Service Announcements. Hudson shared that Disability Rights Iowa is also receiving a grant and asked for input on how DRI can use these funds effectively. Dreckman shared that she is seeing a lack of Direct Support Personnel who are vaccinated, and suggested that this may be a focus of a campaign. Fisher seconded the motion to approve Capture marketing campaign. Motion carried.

Future Council meetings: The July Council meeting will take place via Zoom. There will be more discussion about how to move forward with Zoom and/or in-person meetings soon.

Request for Proposals for InfoNet and Advocacy Management Update: Leonetti shared that she has gotten three Intent to Bid letters for the Advocacy Management RFP, and one Intent to Bid for the Public policy Partnership RFP. Proposals are due on June 23, 2021, with evaluations happening shortly after. The successful bidders will be announced on September 1, 2021 and services will begin on October 1, 2021.

Designated State Agencies: Lovelace shared that she has been a part of some discussion regarding Department of Human Services (DHS and the Iowa Department of Public Health merging into one entity.) If this does happen and there is even a name change, ACL would need to approve the new entity as our Designated State Agency (DSA). The DD Act of 2000 has a regulation that states that the State DD Councils cannot have a designated state agency who provides direct services to people with Developmental Disabilities which DHS currently does but Iowa's DD Council was grandfathered in to use DHS. Warth asked about what other council's designate as their DSA? Lovelace shared that it is varied across the country and that changing of the DSA would be a difficult undertaking. DHS handles paying for our bills, human resource activities and technology. Hudson asked which DD Councils are independent. Lovelace said 5-8 councils are, and said she can provide a list at a later date. Willard asked about Department of Administrative Services and if it would be appropriate to be under. Please see addendum one for more information for a list of the States' designated state agencies.

Council Member status update: As of June 30th the Council will have 9 openings. The Department of Aging Representative – Julie Bergeson has applied but is not appointed yet. Vocational Rehabilitation Representative – Vienna Hoang has applied but has not been appointed yet. The Department of Education Representative Thomas Mayes, will not be applying for a second term. We also have two family member opening and self-advocate opening. Council members Aller, Cogil and Gale will be ending their first term, but have reapplied for a second term. Mayes shared that he has a new position and has not been able to devote the time to the council that he would like, and a new representative will be appointed.

Agenda Item/ Approval of Slate of candidates for EC

The EC will have several members coming off of the Council as of July 1st. Fisher presented the details of the Election Committee meeting that was held on April 6, 2021. The proposed appointments are below.

Al Fagerlund – Chair July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Brady Werger – Vice Chair/Chair Elect - July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Mark Schneider – Member at large July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Hugh Kelly - Member at large July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Judy Warth – (New) Member at large July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

Motion to approve the new members by Werger, seconded Hudson seconded. Motion passes.

Agenda Item/Policy updates: Kallestad gave an update about the legislation the Council is following on State and Federal level. A Mental health funding bill is in the Senate and it will determine how funding will be distributed. There is a Direct Support Advocacy Professional registry bill that has some advocacy opportunities to surrounding it. There was a bill presented that would add adult changing tables in rest areas around the state. This did not go through the whole process however, the Department of Transportation did add the cost of adding changing tables in next year's budget. This is still successful in the fact that he believes that stories of advocacy really help with lawmakers understand the issues.

Capitol Chats have been well attended and the number of attendees has been increasing each month. 50 advocates have sent messages. There have been many people who have sent messages to legislators on the State and Federal level as well as many messages to President Biden and Governor Reynolds. There are 2 more Capitol Chats that are scheduled for this year on June 4th and July 9th.

The Youth Leadership Program was successful last year and will be taking place again this year. The project helped participants set goals and give them guidance to help get them involved on State and local levels. Warth said she has had several applications for the new sessions and anticipates a great group of people participating.

Agenda Item/ State Plan updates: The State Plan has not changed since the last meeting Lovelace presented the summary of comments so far and how we received the feedback from the public.

Via State plan email:

- *We should consider adding education partners as one of our partners in areas where this makes sense* – the Council is addressing this and adding it.
- *Consider having a goal about ending Managed Care.* – the Council does hear this and it is an issue that is important to many people, but this will not be a goal.

Listening sessions: The council conducted 3 listening sessions. Below are comment received from those sessions.

- *Consider more partnership agencies such as ASK Resources, Center for Independent Living and the Department of Transportation* – This will be added to the State Plan.
- *Consider more mentoring projects and opportunities* – The Council does have many projects that will be continued and new opportunities and projects will also be started.
- *Consider developing fact sheets and white papers about specific issues such as housing, employment and transportation to educate state policy makers on Iowa specific issues.* – the State Plan does address educating policy makers in Goal Two, Objective One, and the DD Council will be develop these additional tools.
- *Provide outreach to rural areas as well for deaf and hard of hearing communities (referring to the Target Disparity Goal)* – Does the Council want to change the targeted disparity goal to add more underserved populations to the goal? Or do we just want to be able to provide more outreach?
- *Consider putting DD Council resources in multiple languages including the website* – The Council will add Spanish translation. The Council will add more languages in the future.

- *The plan should be simplified and recorded.* Based on this suggestion, we did record Lovelace reading the plan and providing additional clarification. This recording included an ASL interpreter.

Comments received via informal discussions and emails with DD Council Staff

- State plan is not in plain language
- More detail needed with some objectives.
- InfoNet and our other resources need to be in plain language or have options
- We should educate legislators not only on the importance of gathering input from people with disabilities but educate legislators on how to do that.
- The Council should consider a diversity workgroup to help with the reaching the underserved populations

Balduf asked via chat *“Will you offer a lower age level reading for those with ID as long as you offer other languages, too?”* Lovelace shared that the Association of University Centers on Disabilities offer guidance and tools on this, and this is something that we will start to implement.

Fagerlund asked about other pieces of the plan and when would those be ready. Brooke would like to have another document out in the next couple weeks based on the comments received today and send this to the Council before the July meeting, so the council can vote on the final State Plan.

Balduf asked what *“targeted disparity”* is – identify a sub-population who has needs that are not being addressed and address the needs with activities. Willard and Fisher said to not focus on one community and to keep objective broad. More detail would be added in the activities. Lindsey Jones shared via chat *“Brooke, I am sitting in today but I strongly agree you need to build the relationships first in the various communities. Maybe the objective could also be based on the number of partnerships made such as 7 agencies will be reached, bi-annual meetings will be held.”*

Cross asked if we are reaching out to a certain group of folks with a disabilities, how do we go about doing this? Cross shared that this is very broad and unspecific.

Kallestad shared that we need to identify needs before we can actually address the needs.

Roozeboom asked what activities do we have planned to build the relationships? Lovelace responded with Community Conversations and doing work with the Department of Human Rights (DHR) because DHR has some relationships built and groups formed. Roozeboom said that there should be concrete goals and outcomes. This is a part of the work plan and we will have specific activities after the plan is approved.

A Diversity Work Group could be formed with DHR staff and Council members. Fisher and Werger volunteered to be on this. Lovelace asked the group if this should be as an activity. Fagerlund said a diversity work group is a good plan and thinks some organization should be put into planning it.

Mayes shared that we should consider newer lowans, who just moved here and the barriers they come across. Newer lowans who just moved here may be able to provide more information on what we can do better.

Lovelace shared that it’s important to educate legislators about issues, and an activity will be added about training for legislators on how to gather information.

Other feedback was to have a way to share the progress made on projects and initiatives.

Lovelace will create a new state plan document and a markup the PDF and then send out to the Council to review for final approval at the July meeting.

Agenda Item/DPS seminar: The Disability Policy Seminar took place virtually last month. Lovelace, Kallestad, Werger, Roozeboom, and Balduf attended. There were a number of topics that effect people with disabilities. Attendees were able to meet with legislators to share who the DD Council was and what we do. Werger shared that he really enjoyed this opportunity and he had an opportunity to share about making sure that services are available who need them. Being able to share his story really makes a personal difference with the lawmaker.

Balduf- Shared that she learned a lot and it was interesting. She learned more about SSI. Balduf shared with Senator Earnst about how she lives on her own, and how important her independence is to her. She also has direct support persons assist her with some activities, so an important issue for her is a wage increase for direct support professionals.

Roozeboom – He got a lot out of the sessions about direct support professionals. It was impactful to meet directly with the legislators. He shared his needs for direct support professionals, and how they are important to him and how he can continue to have his independence. Colorado and Minnesota have special allowances they offer for direct support professionals.

Council Updates:

Kelly shared that SOAR2 conference which will be held in September, will have Tom Harkin speak on the first evening of the conference.

Cogil shared that her daughter has been competing in the Miss Amazing Pageant, which is a self-esteem movement for girls and women with disabilities. She won the pageant this year, and will be competing in the national pageant! Cogil said that her daughter is looking for events where her daughter can make an appearance or do some volunteer work.

Fisher shared that there is still no accessible button on the Adel Post office door. Lovelace suggested that he contact the Adel newspaper.

Public comment:

Lindsay Jones from Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Title X Family Planning Program, is working on making sure that services are available, and will be sending a questionnaire about reproductive health and overall health to members of the council. The DD council and the IDPH will be collaborating in the future.

Motion to adjourn by Werger, Kelly seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:00.

Addendum One: On May 13, 2021 Lovelace requested information from the Information & Technical Assistance Center for Councils on DD about the designated state agencies for each state. Click here for more information states' designated state agencies : <https://itacchelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/DSA-State-Chart-2018-with-estab-info-July-2018.pdf>