
Meeting Notes

January 10, 2019
Iowa DD Council Meeting
DD Council Office/ Conference Call

Members Present:

Kristine Dreckman
Judy Warth
Jean Willard
Russell Wood
Roxanne Cogil
Jen Jacob
Elyn Holton-Dean
Al Fagerlund
Kelley Rice
Brian Majeski
Brian Wines
Kittie Hedderich
Hugh Kelly
Thomas Mayes
John Kleigl
Kristen Aller
Jane Hudson

Members Absent:

Rob Fisher
Jason Goulden
Rick Samson
Drew Mannatt
Mark Schneider

Staff Present:

Lindsay Leonetti
Brooke Lovelace
Rik Shannon

Visitors: John McCaulley, Amy Campbell, Connie Fanselow, Scott Hedderich, Anne Matte

Call to Order: Dreckman called the meeting to order by at 10:30 a.m. Attendance was taken by introductions and a quorum was present. Wood motioned, Willard second, to approve minutes from the September EC and Council meeting minutes and Mayes motioned, Cogil seconded, to approve the November EC and Council meeting minutes. Both motions carried.

Legislative Priorities: Shannon went over the 2019 priorities, and explained that the list is not exhaustive by any means and there will be more issues we will support and not support. The priorities will be distributed to all legislators. Changes that will be made: Adding the words “children and adults” to the description; change “Assure” to “Ensure” in all descriptions; under priority #2, change sentence to “Ensure that costs for transportation, including non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT), continue as benefits under the state’s Medicaid program”; Change Priority #3: “Implement development of a statewide Children’s Mental Health system that continues the recommendations from the Children’s System State Board Strategic Plan submitted to the General Assembly on November 15, 2018.” Council staff will make recommended changes. Wood motioned to approve with the identified changes, Aller seconded to approve priorities with changes discussed. Motion passed.

Advocating for Change Day (ACD): The final Advocating for Change day will be held on April 10, 2019. The event is for people with Development Disabilities to come to the Capitol to interact with legislators. There will be a training held at the Lucas building as in previous years, but we will not be providing a lunch this year. After this event, the DD Council is going to focus on helping people interact in their local community, and facilitate a relationship with local policy makers. There are opportunities to volunteer for ACD as well, and the Council was directed to speak with Brooke or Rik about this.

2019 Legislative Session: Campbell updated the Council on the 2019 Legislative session and what is anticipated to be discussed this year. Coalitions are being formed for individuals to talk to their legislators. The Iowa Hospital Association formed a coalition regarding Medicaid and the common issues that recipients are facing. The issues and information will be brought to the attention to the legislators. There is a lot of discussion/issues about bringing on a new MCO and what that does to individuals. There has been a lot of discussion about work requirements for people on Medicaid and Campbell thinks something will pass this session. There has been a lot of push to fund mental health services and to fund programs for children. The possibility of raising the sales tax may be a barrier to getting some of this passed. The Governor will be on board with funding this system, and her Condition of the State address will show her support for this. Individual agency budgets will be going up to provide these services. Governor is still working on Future Ready Iowa, but is also talking about other job priorities. Tax cuts are being discussed and implementing these before the next election. Campbell stressed the importance of council members meeting with and talking to local legislators. Encouraged council members to look at our legislative guide that InfoNet publishes, which will be available soon.

Executive Committee Update:

- The EC approved and recommended to the Council for a vote to increase total dollar amount of sponsorships from \$3,000 to \$10,000 (these are distributed in increments of \$1,000) and also recommended to approve sponsorship criteria which give DD staff the authority to approve sponsorship. Motion by Holton-Dean, second by Warth, for DD Staff to make determinations for dispersing sponsorships based on the eligibility criteria. Motion carried. Motion by Wood, second by Mayes to increase the total dollar amount to \$10,000, not to exceed \$1,000 at time. Motion carried.
- The bylaws committee has been working on updating the bylaws and the process is nearing completion, at which time they will then they will be presented to the full Council. Changes are being made to how we elect the Executive Committee, and forming an Election Committee to make that process more formal and included in the bylaws. The amended bylaws should be ready for review in February and will be discussed and approved in March meeting. The Mission and vision statement will also be changed and voted on in the March meeting. Lovelace and Dreckman stressed the importance of having a quorum for the March meeting to be able to vote on the bylaws, and Mission and Vision statement. An email will be sent in February to the Council so that they may vote on the bylaws at the March meeting
- Lovelace was evaluated and passed probationary period successfully. The EC is hoping to adopt a more formal evaluation for ED in the future.
- Dreckman asked for volunteers to help with content on the website for the DD Council. The website and the content will be evaluated annually. Jacob, Warth and Cogil volunteered to be on the website committee.
- The July 2019 meeting will be cancelled due to conflicts with the Council staff, and instead will meet in smaller groups to help transition and orient new members.

Financial information update: Lovelace presented the 2019 Council Budget current statement, and why the funds are coming out of two different fiscal years. Lovelace explained how the money is divided and spent according to the State plan (47%) and Administration (53%) cost. These percentages will be looked at again in February. We received our federal award as well which is the same amount as last year. Hudson asked for clarification about the VR and IDHR contracts, and Lovelace provided a brief explanation of each. Went over obligations for 2017 and 2018, and explained how the amount may change after we do our time study and also explained we are planning on extending the VR and IDHR contracts for one more year.

Project/Priorities update: State Sweep is underway and more information will be sent out. Lovelace shared the board memberships and councils that both Lovelace and Shannon participate on, Lovelace encouraged council members to bring issues to the council or Lovelace's and Shannon's attention so that they may share them on behalf of the Council at the various meetings. Lovelace is meeting with the Governor's office about increasing our presence and is looking for other ways for us to be more involved. Cogil suggested that the council should develop a relationship with the Iowa Medicaid Director. Lovelace will reach out to the Director Randol.

Mission Update: Mission and Vision Statement committee has had a couple meetings to discuss changes. Lovelace directed the Council to review the handout that provided the final two recommendations for our Mission. These will be voted on in the March meeting. Our Vision will be decided upon after the Mission is finalized.

Council Member/ Staff Member updates: Kleigl discussed the issue of Medicaid recipients losing benefits because they are making too much money and asked what resources are available to help people in this situation. Hudson shared the assistance that Disabilities Rights Iowa can provide.

Cogil reminded the Council of two events: Autism Advocacy and Acceptance Day at Capitol is February 20, 2019 and March 7, 2019 is Iowa Epilepsy Advocacy Day at the Capitol.

Council Staff will be scheduling a time for a Council photo but it may not be after new members are appointed in the summer

Sheryl Matney from ITACC will be visiting in May for the Council meeting to provide technical assistance, and will address issues such as council engagement.

Mayes discussed changes to state requirements for graduation. The new requirements will make sure that people with DD have access to a broader range of content. Mayes will send Lovelace more information on this to send out to the full council

Adjourn: Kelly motion, Kleigl second to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m. Next meeting will be January 10, 2019, at the DD Council office.