

**MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

12:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Continuing Education and Conference Center
University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus
1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Reed, Chair
Ashley Bailey
Alex Bartolic
Dawn Bly
Marrie Bottelson
Mary Hauff
Pamela Hoopes
David R. Johnson
Barb Lundeen
Lynne Megan
Alexandra Morrissey
David Quilleash
Robbie Reedy
Bonnie Jean Smith
Mike Stern
Wendy Velzke
Kathie Ware

STAFF PRESENT

Colleen Wieck
Mary Jo Nichols

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Eric Kloos
Steve Kuntz
Jim Lovold
Mary O'Hara Anderson
Carolyn Perron
Mary Raasch

MEMBER ABSENT

Melissa Winger

GUESTS

Peg Booth, Jensen Implementation Office
Highland Friendship Club -
Cindy Backberg
Libby Backberg
Dawn Goldschmitz
Barb Jenkins
Brian Jenkins
Charlie Jenkins
Duane Jenkins
Pat Leseman
Dusty Thune

GUESTS, cont'd.

Nancy Miller, Metropolitan State University
Stephanie Nelson, Southside Services
Conor O'Meara
Shamus O'Meara
Quinnitina Williams, staff for Marrie Bottelson

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dan Reed, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone present introduced him/herself.

COUNCIL PROGRAM

Dan Reed welcomed the Highland Friendship Club members and introduced Pat Leseman, a Partners in Policymaking® graduate and one of the co-founders.

Leseman said that the Club began with two young men; now 60 individuals are participating. The Club provides a broad range of experiences for young adults and adults with developmental disabilities, ages 14 and up. Leseman then introduced Dusty Thune, the Club's first employee, and creator of the Movie Magic Program.

Thune said that Movie Magic gives young adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to learn about and experience film making, and become actors in a production. The original *Underland* film, written by and for people with disabilities, offers insights into the social pressures that face young adults with disabilities. It was filmed over an 11 week period during the summer of 2014 on a set located at the Crosby Farm in St. Paul with a \$10,000 budget. The plot addresses bullying; the characters were developed around the lives of individuals. The premier was held at O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, University of St. Catherine in September 2014; nearly 1,000 people attended.

Underland II is in process. This production will be filmed over the next two years and address issues that people with disabilities face each day. It will speak about a

movement, a paradigm shift, and address the types of taboos that people with disabilities have experienced in navigating life over the past 100 years. Thune showed a trailer for *Underland II*.

Thune shared some background about the House of Thune, the artistic studio that came about from his formal training as a special education teacher. His ambition was to teach employment and life skills, and he decided that he could teach theater skills. The Movie Magic Program was created six years ago; this will be the sixth summer that young adults with disabilities will gain a sense of personal empowerment by learning all aspects of theater.

Libby Backberg and Charlie Jenkins, two actors from the Movie Magic Program, were introduced. Thune explained that a lot of time is spent in making props and costumes, and doing makeup. It takes perseverance for these actors to speak in front of a camera.

Backberg attended the first year of the Program and also played a role in *Underland II*. She said she never dreamed she would be in movies but has now played a role in five movies. She's with many interesting and talented people, and doesn't focus on the things she can't do. Theater isn't work for her. Through acting, she realizes that she can overcome obstacles.

Jenkins said that he has been with Movie Magic Program for five years. When he sees himself on the screen, he feels a sense of pride and accomplishment. Other people in the Program have to take chances and share their talents. Jenkins added that he has gained confidence to speak in public. He would like to see the Program expanded to other communities.

Reedy said that he's an actor himself but he never expected to see anything like this. Everyone has a lot to be proud of, and he encouraged them to keep going and keep doing what they're doing.

Thune talked about another individual who is into video games and likes flying. He now has a drone and is getting job offers to be a cinematographer. He will be doing some real video work on a film this summer.

Reed shared some information about the Reel Abilities Film Festival this summer. He said he has seen what films can do to change people's perceptions about people with disabilities. He also mentioned a new shorts program this year that's being introduced

this year; films of five minutes or less in this category will be considered for a tpt MN documentary. Opening day is June 11, 2015 at the Union Depot. A Call for Entries for this year's Film Festival is attached to the Minutes.

Reed asked for comments from the parents of some of the Highland Friendship Club participants.

Cindy Backberg said that she has seen changes and improvements each year in Libby's acting as a results of her experiences in the Friendship Club.

Barb Jenkins said that the Friendship Club and the movie making experiences have helped Charlie to know that his real talents can be realized. He is a natural performer and likes every job, including doing music; he had a singing role in the last movie. These opportunities have also meant an enormous amount for his family because we see that he can do something that's satisfying.

Pat Leseman provided some background on the origins of the Friendship Club. The concept started at a kitchen table with parents who were frustrated about what wasn't happening in school systems. It's amazing how the organization has grown and what Dusty Thune has done is fantastic. The messages that the films convey are all things that we can relate to and the dreams of what young adults want to do in their lives can be realized.

Thank yous were extended to everyone from the Highland Friendship Club.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Reed asked for approval of the Agenda.

MOTION: Bly moved, seconded by Hauff to approve the Agenda. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 4, 2015

Reed asked for approval of the Minutes as written for February 4, 2015.

MOTION: Reedy moved, seconded by Johnson to approve the Minutes as written for February 4, 2015. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

Reed reported on the following:

1. Judge Donovan Frank will be honored at The Arc Minnesota Public Policy event on May 26, 2015 for his work to ensure that the rights of individuals with disabilities are recognized and respected.
2. The flyer for the Reel Abilities Film Festival has been handed out.
3. Copies of the 2014 Annual Report for the State Rehabilitation Council were also handed out.

VI. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Stern reported that performance reviews were done for the Partners in Policymaking® program and Employment.

For the Partners program, in addition to program highlights, three members of Class 32 also made presentations about the impact of the program on their lives. What they each experienced was very inspiring; the self advocate who presented said that he's also gained confidence in social situations.

For the Employment project, Kaposia shared employment success stories. They are also working with some schools to increase employment outcomes for transition students.

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for Customer Research Studies was reviewed. The RFP will be finalized at the June meeting.

VII. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Reed reported that Senator John Hoffman, and Steve Larson, The Arc Minnesota, provided legislative updates. Senator Hoffman has introduced more than 60 bills and most are still alive; his daughter, Hope, wrote her own bill to change “handicapped” terminology still used for parking and signage.

There was good discussion about the ABLE Act, MA-EPD to reduce premiums, a TBI research project, a pharmaceuticals bill that would give people more choice about where prescriptions can be purchased (certain drugs are only available through larger pharmacies), and CDCS.

The “Telling Your Story” app is a successful tool for communicating with legislators about policy issues; this technology is “the way to go.”

A summary of the discussion about the Training Consortium will be sent out separately.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Wieck provided the following updates and highlights from monthly reports:

1. Our final allocation for FFY 2016 was received in the amount of \$ 1,012,073.
2. The Governor’s budget includes a line item for a Star of the North Fellowship Program;
3. A request was submitted for Legacy funding.
4. We’ve worked on the Central Accommodations Fund bill and sent a letter in support. The bill is moving through committees but the dollar amount is being debated.
5. Assistance was provided to the Ombudsman Office for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities regarding two individuals discussed at the previous meeting.

6. Regarding the Olmstead Plan:
 - a. A backlog of 39 reports was approved at the February and March Subcabinet meetings;
 - b. The Department of Human Services (DHS) requested clarification and an extension on a deadline included in a Court Order for submitting modifications to the Olmstead Plan. The Court did not grant an extension and no clarifications were given;
7. The Jensen Implementation Office submitted the 7th Status Report; DHS will begin compliance reviews in June.
8. Regarding the Positive Support Rule:
 - a. The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) directed several questions to DHS; responses were submitted on March 16, 2015;
 - b. The Rule is on schedule for adoption by the court date of August 2015.
9. Regarding the ADA Legacy Project:
 - a. The March “Moment in Disability History” features the Capitol Crawl, the Gallaudet University Student Protest, and a full page ad that was placed in *The Washington Post* urging approval of the ADA legislation;
 - b. Various drafts of the ADA bill will be featured in the April “Moment;”
 - c. A letter was received from former President George H. W. Bush who said that he never realized he would be receiving the benefits of the ADA. The June “Moment will include his letter;
 - d. The US Business Leadership Network has put forth \$25,000 to sponsor a mobile museum; the Bush letter will be included here also.

10. A CLE about the 25th Anniversary of the ADA was presented to the Attorney General's Office; 185 individuals attended. A colleague of Pamela Hoopes commented that he learned so much. The CLE was presented by a four member panel and each person approached this history from a different perspective. Greg Brooker, United States Attorney's Office, talked about some ADA related cases and the results of the accessibility reviews of hotels.

A modified version of this history was presented at the State Self Advocacy Conference with Mary Raasch.

11. Tom Nelson, Stinson Leonard Street, wrote an article about the ADA history for the Hennepin County Bar Association magazine, *The Hennepin Lawyer*. An article was also submitted to *The Federal Lawyer*, the Federal Bar Association magazine about passage of the ADA.
12. Former United States Senator Dave Durenberger will speak to the Council at the June meeting on Minnesota's role in the passage of the ADA.
13. The Disability Justice Resource Center website was transferred to the Council's website.
14. Judge Donovan Frank will be honored at The Arc Minnesota Public Policy Recognition event in May. Testimonials will be prepared.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. David R Johnson announced the release of the *Impact* newsletter that is dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the ADA. Viewing is best online. Copies will be sent to the Council. Pamela Hoopes added that Bud Rosenfield did the legal analysis of the ADA; this was a joint effort with the Institute on Community Integration and the Council.
- B. Mike Stern noted that recruitment is underway for Class 33 Partners.
- C. Marrie Bottelson will be showing her art work at the St. Paul Art Crawl, April 24-26, 201 in Lowertown.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

Reed asked that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION: Stern moved, seconded by Quilleash to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck
Executive Director