



## MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

April 5, 2023  
12:15 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

The Masonic Institute on the Developing Brain  
2025 East Riverway Parkway  
Minneapolis MN 55414

### MINUTES

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lee Shervheim, Council Chair  
Dan Reed, Vice Chair  
Wendy Berghorst  
Jason Blomquist  
Dupree Edwards  
Kay Hendrikson  
Brittanie Hernandez-Wilson  
Amy Hewitt  
Lesli Kerkhoff  
Mary Martin (virtual attendance)  
Katie McDermott  
Chris McVey (virtual attendance)  
Jillian Nelson  
Garrett Petrie  
Jenny Santema  
Reid Scheller

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Michelle Albeck  
Jenny Arndt  
Lisa Emmert  
Abdi Matan  
Kate Quale  
Connie Rabideaux

#### **GUESTS**

Lisa Gemlo

Susan McCullough  
Tom Pearson  
Lynn Schreifels  
Bonnie Jean Smith  
Jennifer Purrington

**STAFF PRESENT**

Stephanie Nelson  
Paul Nevin  
Colleen Wieck

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Lee Shervheim called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Shervheim asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Shervheim asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

**MOTION:** Nelson moved, seconded by Edwards to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

**IV. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

Shervheim asked for a motion to approve the February 1, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION:** Nelson moved, seconded by McDermott to approve the Minutes from the February 1, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

**V. PROGRAM DISCUSSION OF STATEWIDE EMPLOYER SURVEY**

Tom Pearson, and the MarketResponse International team gave an update on the statewide employer survey. Copy of the PowerPoint is attached to these minutes or can be found at [Employee Opportunities Study April 2023 \(mn.gov\)](https://www.mn.gov/employee-opportunities-study-april-2023) . The Council discussed the following points:

- VRS – There is a change in attitudes of employers because of a 10-year investment in working with businesses.
- Were any of the persons responding to this survey living with disability?
- The Council can work on a joint media release with DEED about the results.
- Need for competitive integrated employment to expand, but what is the definition of hours to be considered competitive integrated employment?
- When cuts in business are made people with disabilities are laid off first.
- There is underemployment of people with developmental disabilities.
- Part-time employees and myths about benefits being impacted should be addressed.
- Job sharing should be viewed as a new solution.

- Many members expressed hope that this report goes public soon so it can be shared widely.
- We can also ask about attitudinal accommodations that are neither physical nor process accommodations. The cost is zero.
- The ratings of employers about employees with and without disabilities are very close. The results are similar to the findings of the 2005 Employer survey.
- The responders had to have authority or responsibility for hiring decisions.
- The response rate was good because of the collaboration between DEED and the Council.
- This study is all about inclusion.
- Myths about fiscal disincentives still exist.

**VI. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

Wilson reported the Grant Review Committee had a lively discussion about the Request for Proposal for the Ambassadors for Respect program.

**VII. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Scheller reported the Public Policy Committee discussed ideas for the upcoming 245D Bill of Rights videos. Nelson requested information about the need for a plain language version of any Bill of Rights. Petrie reported on the MDE discussion highlighting resources on page 15 of the MDE PowerPoint. The MN Report card and SLEDS are also helpful resources. Results driven accountability is a focus of MDE. There is currently legislation regarding reduction of restraint and seclusion in schools. He encouraged members to apply for the State Special Education Advisory Panel. He invited members to the MDE Open House on May 8, 2023. Petrie also discussed graduation rates.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

1. The current allocation for our Council is \$1,123,234.00 and FFY 2023 is \$1,151,656.00 which means approximately \$20,000 will be available for program goals.
2. The Council appointment process has begun, and recruitment is underway for the consumer category and the Board on Aging.
3. The Vaccination report was submitted on March 29, 2023.
4. Meetings are underway to assist the U.S. District Court with a Disability Law Outreach project.
5. Recruitment is underway for Class 41 Partners in Policymaking.
6. The Council sponsored a booth at the Minnesota Social Services Association with 4000 attendees.
7. Anna Perng works in the White House Engagement Office and has been working closely with ICI and the Council on disability issues.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Shervheim asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** Nelson moved, seconded by Hewitt that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck,  
Executive Director