

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

Wednesday, August 6, 2014
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 for Peg Booth
Marrie Bottelson
Dawn Bly
Kevin Dawson
Pamela Hoopes
David R. Johnson
Eric Kloos
Jim Lovold
Barb Lundeen
Lynne Megan
Alexandra Morrissey
Mary O'Hara Anderson
Carolyn Perron
David Quilleash
Mary Raasch
Robbie Reedy
Bonnie Jean Smith
Mike Stern
Wendy Velzke
Katheryn Ware
Melissa Winger

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Peg Booth
Mary Hauff
Steve Kuntz

GUESTS

Peter Beierwaltes, Intern, The Arc Minnesota
Aaron Hustedde, The Wallace Group
Karin Johnson
Scott Johnson
Shelley Madore
Dan McCarthy, Department of Human Services
Tom Olin, Disability Rights Photographer
Leslie Sieleni
Barb Troolin, Department of Education, Special
Education Division
Jerrod Vincent, staff support for Robbie Reedy
Roy Wallace, The Wallace Group
Julie Wegscheid, Metropolitan Center for
Independent Living
Jonah Weinberg, Autism Society of Minnesota
Tim Wheat, ADA Bus Tour driver

STAFF PRESENT

Colleen Wieck
Mary Jo Nichols

Dan Reed introduced Spencer Cronk, Department of Administration, who recently announced his resignation as Commissioner. Reed presented three paintings as a gift of appreciation and Commissioner Cronk selected a painting that said, "I eat hot sauce on my hot sauce."

Cronk said that the Department of Administration has worked with the Council for a long time as a neutral agency. He has had the good fortune to work with the Council and privileged to have been here for three and one half years. He extended thanks and appreciation to the Council and Council members on behalf of the Governor. In his new position, he will be working for Mayor Betsy Hodges and the Minneapolis City Council as City Coordinator.

Colleen Wieck said that, at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 4, 2014, Governor Mark Dayton issued an Executive Order to increase the employment of people with disabilities in state government. This is an effort that began two and one half years ago with the small disability agencies.

The Obama Administration issued an Executive Order to increase the federal employment of individuals with disabilities and the Delaware Governor made employing people with disabilities a key initiative.

The employment rate of people with disabilities in Minnesota has steadily declined and was reported at 4% in 2013. All agencies are now called upon to do a better job. The Executive Order goal is set at 7% by 2018 and feeds into the Olmstead Plan.

Cronk added that we need the Governor and Cabinet leadership, and a commitment from state senior leadership to make this happen. The Governor has issued few Executive Orders so this is important. He's thoughtful and intentional about where he places his Executive Orders and wants this to be successful.

COUNCIL PROGRAM

Wieck provided background on the special education experience study that was just completed. A year ago, MarketResponse International experimented with an innovative narrative research method for a qualitative study on special education. Over 200 stories were collected and specific themes emerged.

Following that study, we met with Barb Troolin, Department of Education, Special Education Division. The Department wanted to turn to a different way of evaluating special education programs so there was an opportunity to work together on this year's study to help them meet new requirements.

We relied on Barb to assist in getting information out about the survey and were successful with support from PACER, the Autism Society of Minnesota in connection with their annual conference, and The Arc Minnesota.

MarketResponse International will be presenting a high level report as there is more analysis to do

Tom Pearson introduced the study results and said this is a draft report; there was so much information gathered. A qualitative study was done last year and over 200 stories collected. A quantitative study was done this year with the themes from those stories converted to questions. A total of 1,705 responses were received.

Barb Troolin and Eric Kloos helped field the study. Letters were sent out to Special Education Directors and parents with a link to the online survey. The survey was also available in Spanish.

Pearson then walked through the results and highlighted sections of the report.

Lundeen asked about the percentage of students eligible for the free lunch program. Kloos said that, statewide, it's just under 40%. The survey respondents were at 24%.

Winger asked if the data could be accessed. Pearson said that the data is not yet available but it will be.

Pearson said there were 1,611 detailed responses received from the open ended survey question that asked respondents why they were satisfied or dissatisfied with a student's special education experience, a remarkable response rate. Of that total, 54% were positive and 43% were negative.

Specific words were also selected by respondents who were satisfied or dissatisfied and these are noted in the survey results.

Pearson then talked about the quality drivers, those elements that have the most impact, that drive the quality and satisfaction of a student's education experience. A total of 39 statements were identified, 15 were action items, and five were rated as having the most impact on determining and improving the overall quality of a student's education experience.

The top five words used to describe the student's education experience are supportive, improving, caring, accepted, and thriving.

Comments from Council members and guests followed Pearson's presentation –

Reed said that special education doesn't appear to be educating parents about how to educate our kids.

Bly said that some parents are satisfied if their child is gone for those school hours. Parents have to understand the process. This is a good baseline. Pearson noted that satisfaction is a limited concept. There can be high satisfaction with low expectations.

In response to Quilleash's question about what was surprising about the survey results, Pearson said the extent of the thoughtful responses to the open ended questions. They didn't know what to expect regarding satisfaction levels; the scores are low.

Smith said she was disappointed that there were not many responses in the Twin Cities metro area. Pearson explained the extra efforts made to get more respondents.

Karin Johnson said it would be good to do a survey at graduation and then a year later.

Pearson said that these are benchmark measures of satisfaction and a rating of overall quality. A total of 43% are very satisfied and 38% gave a rating of better than good. Goals can be set to increase percentages and progress can be measured over time.

Reedy said that the deeper you go, you see that this is not just about behavior supports. We have to all be working together. We need a new way of thinking and doing.

Madore noted that it's easy for parents to have low expectations and wondered if there is some point where, depending on the age of the student, their expectations don't match with the parents' expectations any more.

Lundeen expressed a thank you for the survey and getting all of the information to start making improvements, a wonderful portrait for developing strategies and identifying which ones would have the greatest impact. She added that she was very inspired.

Reed thanked MarketResponse International for their presentation. The survey results are posted at <http://mn.gov/mnddc/extra/customer-research.htm>

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dan Reed, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone present introduced him/herself.

Megan noted that the next Department of Human Services Partners Panel meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2014. She is not able to attend and is looking for someone who can be there in her place that day and represent the Council.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Reed asked for approval of the Agenda.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 4, 2014

Reed asked for approval of the Minutes as written for June 4, 2014.

MOTION: Velzke moved, seconded by Reedy to approve the Minutes as written for June 4, 2014. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

The order of the Agenda was changed so that votes on motions could be taken when all Council members were present.

V. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

A. Reaffirm Five Year State Plan Strategies and Goals for FFY 2015

Stern said that the Council's Five Year State Plan goals and objectives need to be reaffirmed or updated on an annual basis. No changes are being recommended for FFY 2015.

MOTION: Stern moved on behalf of the Committee to reaffirm the current Five Year State Plan strategies and goals for FFY 2015, seconded by Quilleash. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

B. Grant Allocations for FFY 2015

Council members received the Allocations memo in their Council packet. Stern said the Committee reviewed grant activities and projects, and suggested allocations for each. A total of \$ 687,874 is available for FFY 2015.

Council members were reminded about the Conflict of Interest Policy since the Policy applies allocations. If anyone has a conflict, or thinks they may have a conflict of interest, with any of the grant areas, they would need to abstain when that particular motion is made.

Stern added that motions will be brought separately so that abstentions can be recorded. A PowerPoint was prepared with each of the grant areas, the goal contained in the Five Year State Plan, and the allocation recommendation.

MOTION: Stern moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 110,000** be allocated for **Self Advocacy**. Winger seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Bly, Dawson, Quilleash, and Reedy abstained.

MOTION: Reed moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 210,000** be allocated for **Partners in Policymaking, Graduate Workshops, and Follow Along Activities**. Lundeen seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Bailey, Bly, Dawson, Hauff, Quilleash, Raasch, Reedy, Smith, Velzke, Ware, and Winger abstained.

MOTION: Stern moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 40,000** be allocated for **Cultural Outreach**. Velzke seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Bailey, Dawson, Quilleash, and Smith abstained.

MOTION: Stern moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 80,000** be allocated for **Employment**. Bly seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Dawson and Quilleash abstained.

MOTION: Stern moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 20,000** be allocated for **Training Conferences**. Raasch seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Dawson abstained.

MOTION: Stern moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 157,874** be allocated for **Publications, EGS/Websites, and Online Learning**. Bly seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Dawson abstained.

MOTION: Stern moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 50,000** be allocated for **Customer Research**. Quilleash seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Dawson abstained.

MOTION: Stern moved on behalf of the Committee that **\$ 20,000** be allocated for **Quality Improvement**. Smith seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Dawson and Quilleash abstained.

VI. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Reed reported that Sean Burke, Minnesota Disability Law Center, facilitated a discussion with Committee members to gather comments and feedback on a series of topics related to the Final CMS Rule, including person centered planning, employment, control of your life, informed choice, home, and community involvement.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wieck provided the following updates and highlights from monthly reports:

1. The Executive Order to increase the employment of individuals with disabilities in state government was signed by Governor Mark Dayton. All state agency commissioners gave their approval. The Governor of Delaware promoted this agenda a year ago at the National Governors Association Conference.
2. Olmstead Plan updates:
 - a. A Comprehensive Plan of Action under the Jensen Settlement Agreement was submitted on March 18, 2014 and the Third Status Report was submitted on July 11, 2014. Comments are provided on all reports;

- b. A Quality of Life Survey is being tested;
 - c. The October 1, 2014 Council meeting will be devoted to a comprehensive review of all state policies, procedures, laws, and funding related to any barriers to integration and integrated settings. This is a key component of the Olmstead Plan. Judy Plante, Management Analysis and Development, will facilitate this meeting. All input will be submitted to the Olmstead Implementation Office.
3. The Humphrey School of Public Affairs will hold a recognition event on August 7, 2014 for state agencies that received a State Government Innovation Award. The Council received an award for the "Telling Your Story" app.
 4. Partners in Policymaking® Class 32 has been selected. Eight applications were received from parents in the Somali community.

A Partners graduate workshop is scheduled for the end of this month.
 5. Ashley Bailey received a Paul Harris Fellowship Award from the Plymouth Rotary Club for her advocacy work in the community.
 6. The July "Moment in Disability History" focuses on the concept of inclusion and the move from "least restrictive environment" to the "most integrated setting" concept in the ADA.
 7. The August "Moment" presents examples of stories of discrimination, including Lisa Carl's story that was told at the beginning of Justin Dart's cross country tour to collect stories in support of the ADA and specifically quoted by President George H. W. Bush at the signing of the ADA. Photos by Yoshiko Dart are also included with this "Moment."
 8. The Council serves on the National Coordinating Committee for the ADA Legacy Project. Tom Olin, national disability rights photographer, has just begun a cross country ADA Bus Tour as a kick off for this year leading up to the 25th Anniversary of the ADA. Two of the stops are here in St. Paul. Olin is with us today; the Bus will be at the State Capitol tomorrow.

Olin presented an enlargement of one of his famous photos to self advocates at today's meeting. The photo shows individuals with disabilities in support of the ADA and a raised flag, similar

to the US flag, but with stars forming the universal symbol for access rather than representing the 50 states.

Wieck said that she met Olin when he was working for *MOUTH* magazine. He has photographed ADAPT actions, was here for the SABLE Conference in 2012, and the ADA Bus Tour in 2010.

Olin noted that the Council websites are an incredible resource and refers others to the websites. He also introduced Tim Wheat who is accompanying Olin on the Bus Tour. The Bus Tour was previously in Iowa where they met with Senator Tom Harkin.

Following meeting adjournment, Council members were invited to see the ADA Tour Bus, parked outside of the Conference Center, and the ADA display; and personally meet and talk with Tom Olin.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Reed asked that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck
Executive Director