



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

**August 7, 2024**

Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain  
2025 East River Parkway  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lee Shervheim, Chair  
Lisa Gemlo  
Lisa Jemtrud  
Heather Kainz  
Lesli Kerkhoff  
Joel Liestman  
Elizabeth Marsh  
Abdi Matan  
Katie McDermott  
Alan Morrison  
Christine Mueller  
Mike Nichols  
Mary Raasch  
Connie Rabideaux  
Erin Schwab  
Bonnie Jean Smith  
Sumukha Terakanambi

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Jenny Arndt  
Jason Blomquist  
Dupree Edwards  
Amy Hewitt  
Chris McVey  
Garrett Petrie  
Jenn Purrington  
Jenny Santema

**STAFF PRESENT**

Paul Nevin  
Stephanie Nelson  
Colleen Wieck

**GUESTS**

Rilyn Eischens  
Lisa Harrison-Hadler  
Elaera Knutson  
Suleiman Noor  
Roberta Opheim  
Savrina Possia  
Dan Reed  
Aubree Reiland  
Carol Russell  
Emie, Katie, Ann, and Karen Shervheim  
Erin Vasseur

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lee Shervheim at 12:23 pm.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Shervheim invited all present to introduce themselves.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Shervheim called for approval of the agenda with one modification (per diem policy).

**MOTION:** Morrison moved, seconded by Terakanambi to approve the agenda.  
Motion carried.

**IV. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES (June 5, 2024)**

Shervheim requested the Minutes be approved from the June 5, 2024 meeting.

**MOTION:** McDermott moved, seconded by Liestman to approve the Minutes.  
Motion carried.

**V. THE TREAT PEOPLE LIKE PEOPLE CAMPAIGN UPDATE**

Roberta Opheim began the program by explaining the background of the *Jensen* Settlement Agreement, the Olmstead Plan, and the Prevention of Abuse Plan that came from the Olmstead Plan. Because Roberta Opheim had some available funding her office was able to write a Request for Proposal and select the Russell Herder agency to develop the public education campaign in 2019. Appreciation was extended to Lesli Kerkhoff who helped find funding in 2022 through the Moving Home Minnesota division to revitalize the campaign.

Erin Vasseur and Carol Russell provided a PowerPoint presentation. Because it is a very large file their presentation is summarized below.

The contract with the Council was executed in February 2023 and will continue through September 30, 2024.

The website was revamped and simplified to major sections such as Listen, Learn, Stories, and Resources. The results are 37,175 unique visitors; 36,883 new visitors; and 44,196 visits.

Social media decks are prepared every month and from March 2023 until July 31, 2024 there have been 120 posts for Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. The results are 617,820 views; 518,652 people liked comments; and 1,318 followers.

Over 2.8 million people viewed the paid ads and over 104,258 people then visited the website.

Erin then showed videos of people with disabilities from five different waiver programs. These videos can be viewed at the Treat People Like People website.

## **VI. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Grant Review Committee reviewed the allocation memo and is bringing forward eight separate motions that reaffirm the Five-Year goals and the funding levels. The memo is attached to the official minutes.

### **Self-Advocacy**

On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Nichols to reaffirm the self-advocacy goal at a funding level of \$140,000. Motion carried.

### **Cultural Outreach**

On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Smith to reaffirm the cultural outreach goal at a funding level of \$140,000. Motion carried.

### **Leadership Development**

On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Morrison to reaffirm the leadership development goal at a funding level of \$210,000. Motion carried.

### **Employment**

On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Terakanambi to reaffirm the employment goal at a funding level of \$90,000. Motion carried.

### **Training Conferences**

On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Smith to reaffirm the training conference goal at a funding level of \$20,000. Motion carried.

### **Customer Research**

On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Morrison to reaffirm the customer research goal at a funding level of \$100,000. Motion carried.

### **Publications, Online Courses, and Websites**

On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Rabideaux to reaffirm the publications, online courses, and website goal at a funding level of \$156,966 Motion carried.

### **Continuous Quality Improvement**

On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Smith to reaffirm the continuous quality improvement goal at a funding level of \$20,000. Motion carried.

**FFY 2023 Allocation.** The Grant Review Committee also recommends that \$3030 be allocated to the program goal of publications, online courses, and websites because those funds must be encumbered and spent by September 30, 2024.

**Motion:** On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Smith that \$3,030 from the FFY 2023 allocation be designated for the publications, online courses, and website program goal. Motion carried.

**Per diem policy.** The Council has a per diem policy that authorizes payment of \$55.00 for attending Council meetings and specific events mentioned in the policy. To be more flexible the policy can be amended so that the per diem can be provided for “training events, conferences, and the State Fair.”

**Motion:** Kainz moved, seconded by McDermott that the Per Diem Policy be amended to allow per diems and travel expenses for any authorized training events, conferences, and the State Fair. Motion carried.

## **VII. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Sumukha Terakanambi reported on the focus group that was facilitated by the Olmstead Implementation Office staff. He reviewed the questions that were posed about integration, choice, examples of feeling excluded or included, and where should the state be in five years. Additional information will be shared with the Council members about the community conversations, the hiring of people with lived experience to serve as consultants, and the public meetings that are being planned.

## **VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT --Wieck**

- Abdi Matan has been reappointed to the Council.
- Minnesota Public Radio named three Partners graduates as Changemakers and honored them during Disability Pride Month. WCCO honored Council member, Dupree Edwards. A Disability Pride event was held on the State Capitol grounds and at the White House.
- The Partners in Policymaking Class 42 has been selected.

- Treat People Like People merchandise was given away at the Disability Pride event and the ARRM Conference. Thousands of tote bags will be given away at the State Fair.
- The Mobile Museum made stops at the Department of Administration, Ramsey County Libraries, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and the University of Wisconsin, Stout has asked if the traveling exhibit can be displayed on their campus.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Shervheim invited any final comments and announcements.

The Self-Advocates are hosting a summer picnic on August 13, 2024. Contact Katie for more details.

The India Fest will be held at the State Capitol grounds on August 17, 2024. Sumukha will send out more information.

We need volunteers for the State Fair. Contact Stephanie Nelson for more information.

The October 2, 2024 meeting will feature presentations by grant recipients, and we will meet together with no committee meetings scheduled.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Shervheim called for adjournment of the meeting at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Colleen Wieck, Executive Director



**DEPARTMENT OF  
ADMINISTRATION**  
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

**MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
FIVE YEAR PLAN GOAL STATEMENTS (FFYs 2022-2026)  
FFY 2024<sup>1</sup> total allocation is \$1,152,808 and 70% allocated for program goals= \$806,966  
August 7, 2024**

**Goal #1: SELF ADVOCACY. (Required Federal Goal)**

Develop a statewide network of well trained and informed self-advocates by fulfilling the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act) requirements –

- A. Establish or strengthen a program for the direct funding of a state self-advocacy organization, led by individuals with developmental disabilities.
- B. Support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders.
- C. Support and expand participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in cross disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions (Public Law 106-402, Section 124); and
- D. Assist in identifying alternative/other funding opportunities.

Grantees: Advocating Change Together (SAM Network)  
PeaceMaker Minnesota (Ambassadors for Respect)

ACT facilitates a statewide self-advocacy network known as Self-Advocates MN (SAM). There are six regions. The GCDD funds two regions and the Department of Human Services and other sources fund the remaining regions. GCDD's grant supports a community organizer in the Northwest and Central SAM regions who coach and provide technical assistance to the self-advocacy groups in their regions. ACT's Leadership Circle of 24 self-advocates provides statewide planning for SAM as well as promoting collective actions on public policy initiatives, including the implementation of the Olmstead Plan. Training sessions are held with the Leadership Circle and ACT offers multiple Disability Equality Training Series (DETS) 12-session courses throughout the year in addition to offering the Olmstead Academy (a 12-month program).

<sup>1</sup> The project period for work completed using the FFY24 federal grant award ends on September 30, 2025.

Teams from the SAM Central and Northwest regions are participating in the 2024 ACT Olmstead Academy (OA). The teams discuss OA integration projects, as well as preparing for upcoming Leadership Circle meetings. The SAM Central Region planned to host the Leadership Circle in June. Self-advocates from the Central and Metro regions planned and presented the agenda. They were considering topics such as voting, elections, and remembering with dignity as possible areas of focus.

Two DETS trainings cohorts have been meeting in 2023-2024 in the SAM Central Region, and one started in mid-April. Two training cohorts began meeting in mid-April in the SAM NW Region. Earlier this year, new Self-Advocacy basic trainings were offered in Cambridge, Hutchinson, and Big Lake. The Self-Advocacy group in East Grand Forks has been working with the University of ND to provide training for incoming med students to learn more about how to work with and counsel people with disabilities and how to interact with support staff and or family without disregarding the individual.

PeaceMaker Minnesota facilitates the Ambassadors for Respect/Bullying Prevention Program (A4R). The program trains self-advocates (adults and transition students who have experienced bullying) with developmental disabilities from partner programs. These Ambassadors plan, prepare, and make presentations to fourth grade elementary school students to help them address bullying and inclusion issues. For the Ambassadors, the intended outcomes are to show an increase in Independence, Productivity, Self-determination, and community Integration & Inclusion (IPSII). After the training, fourth grade students are expected to indicate that they can 1) Include others; 2) Use Person First Language; and 3) Advocate for oneself and for others.

PeaceMaker Minnesota partnered with and supported staff at the following agencies in preparing their clients in becoming Ambassadors: Merrick, Inc. (Vadnais Heights); CHOICE, Inc (Maple Grove and Eden Prairie); COMPASS (Elk River); FOCUS House (Willmar); BUILD Program (Bethel University, Arden Hills); WACOSA (St. Cloud); Cannon Valley Special Education Cooperative (Faribault); and STAARS Transition Program (Hastings).

During the 2023-2024 school year, **63** A4R Ambassadors, provided **75** trainings in which **1719** fourth grade students were trained. Significantly, the Council's grant to PeaceMaker MN allowed **\$16,952.66 in stipends** to be provided to the Ambassadors as compensation for putting on the in-person trainings. 54% of Ambassadors were from urban areas and 46% were from rural areas of Minnesota.

**Current funding level=\$140,000**

**Proposed funding level for FFY 25=\$140,000.00 (\$100,000 for ACT and \$40,000 for PeaceMaker MN).**

**Goal #2: CULTURAL OUTREACH (Required Targeted Disparity Goal).**

Support the development of leadership skills in culturally diverse communities through collaborative efforts with organizations in these communities. The purpose of this effort will be to increase knowledge and develop skills that will encourage participation in the *Partners in Policymaking*<sup>®</sup> program and joining the larger disability justice movement. Recognize the public health disparities, inequities, and intersectionality facing people with disabilities who are also Black, Indigenous, and persons of color (BIPOC), members of immigrant communities, and other groups experiencing marginalization to further encourage and support their participation in training, leadership, and advocacy.

Grantee: Autism Sibs Universe- \$70,000

Autism Sibs Universe (ASU) will provide 24 hours of targeted training to three cohorts in racial and ethnic communities. Each week of trainings will provide personal support to participants who are learning about services and delivery systems, what services are available, and how to access those services; and beginning leadership skills. As a result of the trainings, at least five people annually will enroll in the Home and Community Based Waiver System.

Specifically, each cohort will learn about the following topics:

1. Views and perceptions of disability in the selected communities, and cultural barriers;
2. Best practices in the areas of inclusive education; customized employment and self-employment;
3. The role of the county in providing services and how to access county services, including home and community-based waiver services;
4. The state legislative process, current state legislative issues, speaking with government officials and legislators, and preparing and presenting testimony;
5. Beginning leadership skills including communication and networking skills, and developing and strengthening partnerships with elected officials to influence positive systems change for people with developmental disabilities and their families;
6. An introduction to the Partners in Policymaking<sup>®</sup> leadership training program.
7. An understanding of inclusive education, inclusive housing, and inclusive employment.
8. An introduction to the benefits of assistive technology. Provide resource links to the Minnesota “STAR” program, which provides Minnesota residents with information and access to assistive technologies.

In FFY 2024, Somali Community Resettlement Services (SCRS) provided trainings to two cohorts of Somali (East African) immigrants and one training cohort was offered in Spanish to Latinx populations. 2024 ended the fifth year of services provided by SCRS. A new “targeted training” RFP was posted in 2024 and ASU was selected as the grantee. Initially, ASU will target training for three cohort communities: Andhra Pradesh/Telangana (two states that speak the same language but different dialects), Punjab, and Gujarat.

**Current funding level=\$70,000**

**Proposed funding level for FFY 25=\$70,000.00**



**Goal #3: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.**

Support and promote the development of leadership skills for families of children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities as advocates, spokespersons, and members of the larger disability rights movement.

Educate people about rights, self-determination, engagement in public policy advocacy, and learning best practices in the areas of education, technology, housing, employment, and other aspects of community participation.

Provide face to face training, online learning, blended learning, and graduate workshops as a means of reaching people and strengthening personal leadership skills.

Grantee: The Odyssey Group

Odyssey coordinates the implementation of *Partners in Policymaking*<sup>®</sup> that was created by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities in 1987 and has been offered nationally and internationally. Through informative and interactive sessions, *Partners* teaches leadership skills and the process of developing positive partnerships with elected officials and other policymakers who make decisions about the services that individuals with a developmental disability and their families use. There are eight weekend sessions. Odyssey conducts six-month follow-up and longitudinal studies of Partners graduates and plans and carries out graduate leadership training. The GCDD website also has five online courses available to anyone.

This past grant year, Class 41 had 76 applicants and began with 35 participants and 29 graduated on May 18, 2024 after eight weekend sessions. After 41 classes, there are nearly 1200 PIP graduates advocating throughout Minnesota.

Across Classes 37-41, 100% of the respondents indicated an increase in advocacy. Across all classes 37-41, the average IPSII score was 4.4 on a scale of 1-5.

**Current Partners funding level=\$210,000.00**

**Proposed funding level for FFY 25=\$210,000.00**

#### Goal #4: EMPLOYMENT (Required Collaboration Goal with DD Network)

Increase opportunities and the supports needed by individuals with developmental disabilities to be employed in integrated settings at or above minimum wage and benefits by:

- A. Providing individualized, person led, and person centered supports that may include technology and are necessary for a broad range of employment options prioritizing competitive, customized, or self-employment.
- B. Increasing and improving access to inclusive postsecondary education and other career focused training opportunities.
- C. Educating and building the capacity of employers and providers and implementing employer incentives that contribute to workforce development. This should include an introduction to disability culture and equity.
- D. Raising the expectations of individuals and families about the importance of having work experiences prior to and during high school (transition years). Increase their involvement by using and building their relationships and personal networks to reach public and private sector employers and identify job experiences in the community.
- E. Educate individuals and families on how to navigate the disconnects between large systems as they pursue employment, and support efforts for large systems to work more seamlessly for individuals and families.
- F. Increasing long term sustained employment for adults with job opportunities and careers, including follow up with individuals on careers and job transitions.
- G. Encouraging and developing robust person led and person-centered profiles for integrated and competitive employment training opportunities for youth ages 16-21 through K-12 school programs, school-employer partnership, and other options to promote workforce development into adulthood consistent with Minnesota Statutes.

#### Grantee: MSS

MSS helps to place adults and transition age young adults in employment settings where the business pays at or above minimum wage. The goal is to place at least 20 adults and transition age annually and MSS exceeded that goal in the previous project year. The grantee makes many business contacts (**over 300** businesses in the previous grant year) to find new work locations. A discovery process is used to create an individualized employment profile for each person with developmental disabilities. Training sessions are held with businesses and with individuals and their families. Post-secondary college options, mentorships, and collaborations are cultivated to assist students navigating post-secondary education. MSS was selected as the Council's continuing grantee after an RFP was posted in 2024. Besides using the Council's grant funding to improve access and capacity for transition-aged youth and adults, MSS seeks to expand participants' knowledge base in traditional, non-traditional, and academic areas of interest. Beginning in FFY 2025, MSS will enhance or begin the following project activities:

- Expand a self-employment program (including arts employment) with a focus on creating an accessible and understandable process for small business planning and implementation.
- Create a research and pilot program to investigate the gaps in knowledge around post-transition options and resources. Education and engagement with guardians and family members about post-transition steps and resources to make an informed and person-centered decision regarding available supports.

- Develop a paid summer internship program that allows students to explore careers, understand the nature of work, build foundational work skills, and enhance future opportunities for competitive integrated employment.

**Current MSS funding level=\$90,000.00**

**Proposed funding level for FFY 25=\$90,000.00**

**Goal #5: TRAINING CONFERENCES.**

Provide ongoing education and training that reflect and address the outcomes (independence, productivity, self-determination, integration, and inclusion) as found in the DD Act into programs and supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families. These conferences will lead to greater networking and partnering with others across the state through a variety of delivery modes.

In FFY 2024, the Council provided 12 co-sponsorship grants for training events such as conferences, workshops, and educational events. One grant was voluntarily canceled by the grantee. Grant funds were available to reimburse the cost of presenter fees, ADA reasonable accommodations, or scholarships. Specifically, statewide conferences were awarded to Autism Society of Minnesota and Special Olympics MN. Training sessions were funded with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Fraser, MNprov, Great River Homes, and The Arc MN. Finally, Cow Tipping Press creative writing workshops were funded with MSS, Pillsbury United Communities, Light in the Well, and RISE.

**Current Co-sponsorships funding level=\$20,000.00**

**Proposed funding level for FFY 25=\$20,000.00**

**Goal #6: CUSTOMER AND MARKET RESEARCH.**

Conduct or commission statewide research studies to measure and assess quality outcomes (independence, productivity, self-determination, integration, and inclusion) of the DD Act through annual qualitative and quantitative surveys on new topics or issues or further research on topics or issues previously studied.

Contractor: MarketResponse International (MRI)

MRI worked on two separate survey projects during FFY 2024:

- 1) Study Regarding Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities by Government Agencies in the State of Minnesota.
- 2) Study Regarding Life Experiences of Young Minnesotans with Marginalized Identities (Intersectionality Study III)

**Current MRI funding level for two studies=\$100,000.00**

**Proposed funding level for FFY 25=\$100,000.00**

**Goal #7: PUBLICATIONS, WEBSITES, AND ONLINE LEARNING COURSES.**

Provide information, education, and training that increases knowledge, skills, and abilities of end users through a broad range of multiple media formats by:

- A. Promoting accurate historical archiving of resource materials.
- B. Continuing to adopt the latest technological advancements in communications that may include social networking.
- C. Showcasing the positive roles and contributions of people with developmental disabilities.
- D. Increasing marketing efforts to ensure accessibility and wide dissemination of Council products; and
- E. Exploring new technology that is focused on the individual and saves the user's preferences and choices and suggests additional resources or learning courses based on those preferences and choices.
- F. Where possible, increase language access.

Contractor: Mastcom

Mastcom completed a significant amount of website features and video work so far during FFY 2024. Mastcom maintains and updates the Council website, the Disability Justice Resource Center website, the Project SEARCH website, the Partners in Policymaking website, the five online courses for Partners in Policymaking, and two apps—Emergency Planning and Telling Your Story.

The two main websites maintained by the Council ([www.mn.gov/mnddc](http://www.mn.gov/mnddc) & [www.mn.gov/mnddc/pipm](http://www.mn.gov/mnddc/pipm)) generate a significant amount of local and national traffic. As an example, in June of 2024, there were a total of 101,595 visits (**an average of 3,385 per day**). These visits resulted in almost **10,000 page views per day** and 265,203 PDF downloads in June alone.

Minnesota IT Services (MNIT) is the State's central IT organization. It is currently in the process of a new competitive solicitation among its registered vendors to award a contract to provide web content management services for the Council.

**Current funding level=\$160,484**

**Proposed funding level for FFY 25=\$156,966**

**Goal #8: QUALITY IMPROVEMENT.**

Identify and implement an approach that promotes continuous quality improvement and apply those principles to all Council work.

Quality Improvement projects will help to ensure that the Council’s Five-Year Plan goals and activities will Align with The Olmstead Plan Goals, Malcolm Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, and Administration for Community Living (ACL) Performance Indicators.

Contractor: MH Consulting Group

MH Consulting assisted with the preparation of the Program Performance Report (PPR) that the GCDD is required to submit to the federal Administration for Community Living. The contractor also completed benchmarking studies on Council products and services, created customized reporting data forms for satisfaction and IPSII surveys, monitors Council websites for accessibility requirements, and updates staff on federal reporting changes. In addition, a human-centered design project was recently completed regarding the 245D Bill of Rights.

**Current funding level=\$20,000.00**

**Proposed funding level for FFY 25=\$20,000.00**

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**Worksheet Summary of Grant Goal Funding Levels  
FFY 2024 federal grant award – Projects ending September 30, 2025**

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
1. Self Advocacy		
a. SAM/Statewide Self Advocacy Network	\$100,000	\$100,000
b. Ambassadors for Respect	\$40,000	\$40,000
2. Cultural Outreach	\$70,000	\$70,000
3. Leadership Development (Partners)	\$210,000	\$210,000
4. Employment	\$90,000	\$90,000
5. Training Conferences	\$18,706	\$20,000
6. Customer Research	\$100,000	\$100,000
7. Websites, Publications, Online Learning	\$160,484	\$156,966
8. Quality Improvement	\$20,000	\$20,000
	<b>\$806,190</b>	<b>\$806,966</b>

Program Goals --70% of allocation of \$1,152,808 is \$806,966.00.