

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

Wednesday, February 1, 2017
12:15 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.
Continuing Education and Conference Center
University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus
1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ashley Bailey, Vice Chair
Alex Bartolic
Marrie Bottelson
Emilie Breit
David R. Johnson
Lynne Megan
Kate Onyeneho
Carolyn Perron
David Quilleash
Mary Raasch
Bonnie Jean Smith
Mike Stern
Kathy Ware

STAFF PRESENT

Colleen Wieck
Mary Jo Nichols

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Senator John Hoffman
Michelle Albeck
Mary Hauff
Pamela Hoopes
Eric Kloos
Jim Lovold
Jacqueline Rightler
Linda Simenstad

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robbie Reedy
Alan Wilensky

GUESTS

John Cundy, Merrick, Inc.
Steve Larson, The Arc Minnesota
Nancy Miller, Metro State University
Stephanie Nelson, Southside Services
Abby Hansen, Merrick, Inc.
Colleen Timbers, Merrick, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ashley Bailey, Council Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone present introduced him/herself.

COUNCIL PROGRAM

Colleen Wieck provided information about the most recent Minnesota Student Survey that was conducted in 2016. The report included the prevalence of various types of abuse among special education and non-special education students. Types of bullying behaviors and harassment were reported. There are 68,000 respondents without disabilities in Minnesota's public schools, and 10,000 to 11,000 students with disabilities who responded to the survey.

Regarding bullying and harassment, data showed that the incidence is four times greater for students with disabilities than for students without disabilities, the highest of all comparative data. This includes physical abuse by another student, although it's not known if the other student might be a special education student; threatening behavior; and students with disabilities threatened by another student.

We were hoping to breakdown data by school to determine what differences there might be in those schools where the Ambassadors for Respect are teaching but, because schools are not specifically identified, we were not able to do so.

Mary Raasch initially brought the idea of an anti-bullying project to the Council and asked about funding. The Anti-Bullying Campaign has been financially supported by the Council since 2014. The number of participating schools has increased each year.

We invited Colleen Timbers, and Abby Hansen and John Cundy, two of the Ambassadors for Respect, to talk about the project, the training sessions with the students, and what they and the students have learned.

Colleen Timbers thanked the Council for the opportunity to present about the project, and giving the Ambassadors the chance to talk about their roles and responsibilities in preparing for and teaching in the classrooms. Timbers said that her role has faded considerably over time.

The Ambassadors have taken the lead in planning the presentations, the activities that are included in the presentations to help students apply their learning, and what they want students to come away with as a result of the training sessions. Timbers said that their self confidence has increased significantly, they are delivering powerful presentations, and the schools couldn't be more pleased and are anxious to continue these sessions for fourth grade students the following year.

One of their recent training sessions was in a classroom with a substitute teacher who was having a difficult time getting the classroom focused; one student was particularly disruptive. Timbers and the Ambassadors for Respect handled the situation quickly, and the training continued without missing a beat.

Abby and John shared their classroom experiences with the students. They introduce the sessions by stating that the disrespectful language that is still being used has come from the past. They want the students to be engaged in the learning process, and come away with the advocacy skills and confidence to address and deal with bullying.

The decision to focus on fourth grade students was intentional. These are still the formative years. Once students reach fifth grade, they are into a different phase of development and bullying behavior increases. An incident in a fifth grade gym class last year resulted in a request by the school principal for the Ambassadors to return; they had done a training session the previous year when these students were fourth graders but it was time to deliver those positive messages again.

The participating schools were identified; many have been involved since the project but new schools have been added each year. The 2014 school year was a bad weather year; sessions had to be rescheduled later in the school year. The decision was made not to do assembly type trainings to make up for scheduling issues because they wouldn't be able to tell what learning had actually occurred.

Abby and John talked about the classroom activities. Abby said when the students are learning about People First language, this start to see differences for the first time and the abilities that each person has. She also talked about the "crushed Charlie" activity where students are asked to place themselves in the shoes of others who are being bullied and then asked how they think that person may feel. John talked about shredding hurtful words; he asks students how they feel after that activity. One student said "it was good to get those out of my system."

They both agreed that the stories are the most important. They both have experienced bullying. John said he was called names in school and was home schooled as a result. He encourages people not to name call because names can really hurt.

Students are also asked to take a Pledge to get rid of hurtful words, use People First language, speak out, and try to stop hurtful language that's used by others. Abby and John then asked Council members to recite the Pledge.

Monthly evaluation reports are prepared. Students evaluate the training sessions based on knowledge gained, usefulness, and quality of the presentations; on average over the years, the rating has been 4.85 on a 1 to 5 scale. The Ambassadors also evaluate themselves in terms of IPSII; this past year, that rating was 5.

Timbers talked about the project's four year partnership with PeaceMaker Minnesota to create a safe environment in 29 participating schools. Twelve schools are supported by the Council's grant. St. John the Baptist received funding from PeaceMaker Minnesota this year as a result of funding success with Give to the Max.

Timbers emphasized that this is not just an activity. This is about creating a culture – a safe, healthy, and respectful environment for all students. Banners throughout the schools carry a safe harbor message.

Bottelson asked if they are looking for more people to teach in the classroom as she would be very interested; Timbers said that some of the students have also asked the same question.

In response to Quilleash's question about the number of Ambassadors who are teaching sessions, Timbers said they now have a pool of six. There were 12 Ambassadors at one time but people are getting jobs and don't have the time to commit to the project.

Onyeneho asked how they have gotten into the school districts. Timbers said that much depends on the principal and school administrators; the teachers are the cheerleaders.

Abby offered that she has moved on with her life. She's moved into a townhome, cooks, cleans, and does her own laundry.

Raasch asked how the Ambassadors feel after doing so many presentations, do they feel rushed or confident? John said that he goes to his room and crashes after being on

his feet all day long. Timbers added that they may do three to five presentations a day. Their endurance is amazing; they get a lot of support from each other.

Wieck said that between now and June 30, 2017, we will document as much as possible and create a replication package. Next steps will include building in quality improvement ideas, and assuring that the values that have guided and contributed to the success of this project remain.

Nancy Miller suggested having TPT do a promo.

Onyeheho asked if the trainings have to be in the schools. Timbers said it depends on how funds can be used. The curriculum is set; dollars are now spent for the classroom activities. They have presented to Rotary Clubs and churches.

Everyone was thanked for their presentation and the work that has been done in the schools to date.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bailey asked for approval of the Agenda.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 7, 2016

Bailey asked for approval of the Minutes as written for December 7, 2016.

MOTION: Smith moved, seconded by Perron to approve the Minutes as written for December 7, 2016. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

In the absence of Senator Hoffman, there was no Chair's report.

The order of Agenda items was changed to assure that Council members were present and could vote on recommendations from the Grant Review Committee about cosponsorship funds for training conferences.

VI. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Smith reported the evaluation results and funding recommendations for cosponsorship funds for training conferences. Ten applications were received and all were approved for funding at the requested level.

A total of \$20,000 was available and a total of \$18,050 was requested. No funding reductions needed to be made. Committee members decided that the balance of funds should be reallocated to Publications, Websites, and Online Learning.

Smith reminded members about the Conflict of Interest Policy and Conflict of Interest Form. The Form must be signed if a member does not have a conflict of interest with the applicant organization. Smith said that each of the funding recommendations will be presented separately so abstentions can be recorded.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **Advocacy and Inclusion Matter (AIM of West Central Minnesota)** for **\$ 450.00** for the "AIM Annual Consumer Conference. Perron seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **Advocating Change Together, Inc.** for **\$ 2,000.00** for Olmstead Academy sessions. Raasch seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **All Star Academy** for **\$ 2,000** "Human Opportunities through Power of Employment (HOPE)" training sessions. Stern seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Onyeneho and Quilleash abstained.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **Arc Greater Twin Cities** for **\$ 2,000** for a training course on person centered planning and person centered thinking. Ware seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Stern abstained.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by the **Autism Society of Minnesota** for **\$ 2,000** for the 22nd Annual Minnesota State Autism Conference." Quilleash seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

MOTION: Onyeneho moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **Community Involvement Programs** for **\$ 1,600** for a training conference on sexual health, "How to Be Safe, Healthy, and Happy in Relationships." Perron seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Smith and Stern abstained.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **Cow Tipping Press** for **\$ 2,000** for training sessions on "Creative Writing as Self Advocacy." Stern seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by the **Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota** for **\$ 2,000** for the "Youth & Choices 2017 Youth and Adult Conference." Megan seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by the **Minnesota Organization of Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR)** for **\$ 2,000** for the "Survival through Change" conference. Onyeneho seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Megan abstained.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **Resource Center Programs of West Central Industries** for **\$ 2,000** for a training conference, "Hidden Disabilities...Know Yourself, Love Yourself, Be Yourself." Raasch seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

VII. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Ware reported that Alex Bartolic provided an overview of 2017 budget proposals. One of the proposals is regarding a minimum wage floor of \$ 13/hour for personal care attendants providing enhanced services.

Steve Larson presented a legislative update and several fact sheets on priority issues for The Arc Minnesota.

Justin Page, Minnesota Disability Law Center, presented information on voting rights legislation and a fact sheet on a bill that has been introduced. He highlighted changes about provisional balloting that might make it more difficult for voters under guardianship who are challenged about their eligibility to vote.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Colleen Wieck provided the following updates and highlights from monthly reports:

1. The Department of Administration released new website branding; rollout is underway.
2. Almost 60 applications have been received by the Governor's Office for open Council positions; some are paper applications and some have been submitted online. The new website for the Secretary of State's Office, Open Appointments page, has been difficult to use.
3. Regarding budget issues, state funding is level at \$74,000; some reductions are expected at the federal level.
4. A status conference regarding the Jensen Settlement Agreement was held on January 5, 2017. A court order was issued requiring all reports to be submitted according to schedule with no changes to the evaluation criteria. The Olmstead status conference will be held in March.
5. The Olmstead Subcabinet meets monthly. The amendment process for measurable goals is underway. An amended version of the Olmstead Plan is due the end of February.
6. Ed Roberts' Day was January 23rd. Google requested licensing of some of Ed's quotes; a Goodle Doodle was released instead for Ed's birthday. There was a significant increase in the Council website visitor traffic and page views as a result of the Doodle.
7. Duchess Harris, a Partners graduate and professor at Macalester College, co-authored a book, Hidden Human Computers. The book tells the story of her grandmother and 11 other Africa American women who performed the mathematical calculations for NASA engineers with the space

program. These women were hidden away because of their race. A program and book signing were held at the Science Museum of Minnesota in January.

8. MarketResponse International will be conducting a 55 year measurement of attitudes about people with developmental disabilities. The original survey was done in 1962. When this followup survey was being considered, Nancy Miller suggested that we pivot to 21st Century language.

Class 34 Partners were invited to participate in a pre-questionnaire; qualitative interviews are underway to finalize language in survey questions.

9. Several CLEs are being planned:
 - a. Robins Kaplan is sponsoring a Disability Justice Seminar on March 30, 2017, "Abuse and Neglect of Individuals with Disabilities;"
 - b. The University of Minnesota School of Law has scheduled a CLE panel discussion for April 4, 2017, "Sex Trafficking of Persons with Disabilities;"
 - c. A list of topics and speakers has been provided to the Attorney General's Office for a CLE on May 9, 2017 for Elimination of Bias credit.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Bailey asked that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck
Executive Director