

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

Wednesday, February 7, 2018  
12:15 p.m. to 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**

Senator John Hoffman, Chair  
Alex Bartolic, Vice Chair  
Ashley Bailey, Vice Chair  
Michelle Albeck  
Hanna Barr  
Lisa Emmert  
Pamela Hoopes  
Eric Kloos  
Mary Martin  
Noah McCourt  
Randy Miller  
Jillian Nelson  
Carolyn Perron  
David Quilleash  
Dan Reed  
Jacki Rightler  
Reid Scheller  
Lee Shervheim  
Heather Tidd

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Emily Breit  
David R. Johnson  
Jim Lovold  
Kate Onyeneho  
Alan Wilensky

**GUESTS**

Wendy Berghorst, Department of  
Health  
Allan Bergman, High Impact Mission  
Based Consulting and Training  
Ellie Wilson, Autism Society of Minnesota

**STAFF PRESENT**

Colleen Wieck  
Mary Jo Nichols

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Senator John Hoffman, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Everyone present introduced him/herself.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Senator Hoffman asked for approval of the Agenda.

**MOTION:** Quilleash moved, seconded by McCourt to approve the Agenda.  
Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 6, 2017**

Senator Hoffman asked for approval of the Minutes as written for December 6, 2017

**MOTION:** Reed moved, seconded by Shervheim to approve the Minutes as written for December 6, 2017. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

**V. CHAIR'S REPORT**

At the December Grant Review Committee' meeting, members discussed and recommended approval of a proposed per diem policy for Council members. Senator Hoffman noted that enabling language for 13 councils reference either Minn. Stat. §15.0575 or 15.059; these statutes allow payment of per diem.

Senator Hoffman said that he was willing to prepare bill language that would specifically identify the Council and reference the applicable statutory language so Council members could receive a per diem.

**VI. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Quilleash reported the evaluation results and funding recommendations for cosponsorship funds for training conferences. Nine applications were received. A total of \$20,000 was available and a total of \$17,500 was requested.

One application submitted by the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health was not approved for funding. The application talked about community integration and inclusion but didn't adequately address a connection with developmental disabilities and the speakers were not connected to the developmental disabilities field. The Committee was limited to reviewing and evaluating the application as it was presented.

A total of \$ 4,500 in funding was still available. Committee members decided that the Application for Coponsorship Funds should be reissued. Any further applications would be reviewed at the April meeting.

Quilleash 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. Quilleash noted that each of the funding recommendations will be presented separately so abstentions can be recorded.

**MOTION:** Quilleash moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **Advocating Change Together, Inc.** for **\$ 2,000** for Olmstead Academy training sessions to promote personal empowerment and address barriers to inclusion. Nelson seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. McCourt and Reed abstained.

**MOTION:** Quilleash moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **All Star Academy** for **\$ 2,000** for the Human Opportunities through Power of Employment (HOPE) Program. Nelson seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

**MOTION:** Quilleash moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **The Arc Minnesota Southeast Region/SAM** for **\$ 2,000** for the SAM SE Gathering. Nelson seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. McCourt abstained.

**MOTION:** Quilleash moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **The Autism Society of Minnesota** for **\$ 2,000** for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Minnesota Autism Conference. Shervheim seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Nelson abstained.

**MOTION:** Quilleash moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **Community Involvement Programs** for **\$ 2,000** for

“Creative Writing to Build Self Advocacy.” Nelson seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

**MOTION:** Quilleash moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by the **Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota** for **\$ 2,000** for the 2018 Voices & Choices Youth and Adult Conference. McCourt seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Miller and Shervheim abstained.

**MOTION:** Quilleash moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by **Family Voices of Minnesota** for **\$ 2,000** for “Connecting Hearts, Raising Voices: A Statewide Family Conference.” Nelson seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

**MOTION:** Quilleash moved on behalf of the Committee to approve the application submitted by the **Highland Friendship Club** for **\$ 1,500** for “Living Safely and Independently in 2018: Assistive technology solutions to promote independence and community inclusion.” Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Reed abstained.

## **VII. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Kloos reported that Allan Bergman, High Impact Mission Based Consulting and Training, spoke about the importance of Medicaid, provided background information on Medicaid and its primary purposes, and emphasized the flexibility that states have to develop Medicaid plans that cover the services and reflect the needs of Medicaid beneficiaries in their own states.

## **VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

- 1 Council appointments and reappointments will be reviewed this month with the Governor's Office..
2. The current Continuing Resolution is due to expire at midnight tomorrow, February 8, 2018.

3. The annual Program Performance Report has been drafted but the template has not been released.
4. The Olmstead Subcabinet continues to meet monthly. The Olmstead Plan amendment process is underway.

A topic that's receiving more attention is the social detriments of health, in education and housing for example, that contribute to not only realizing greater health equity but because of the connection with secondary health conditions.

5. Several articles on abuse and neglect have received media attention – the *Star Tribune* Special Report series on elder abuse, and the Joe Shapiro NPR series on sexual abuse/sexual harassment and people with developmental disabilities (MPR posted two programs and the *Star Tribune* also covered the series).
6. Department of Health Bill of Rights Project – Residents of Supervised Living Facilities were interviewed about a plain language bill of rights; a plain language version was created at third grade reading level; the Department of Health is cooperatively working on this project.
7. The results of the General Population Health Care Opinion Poll will be presented at the April Council meeting; a panel has been selected for the qualitative phase.
8. The June Council meeting will feature Susan Foote, former US Senator Dave Durenberger's wife, who will speak about her book, *The Crusade for Forgotten Souls*, the story of Minnesota's institutions for individuals with mental illness and reforms. Her book will be released in later April; the University of Minnesota Press will join her.
9. A premier of the documentary, *Valuing Lives: Wolf Wolfensberger and the Principle of Normalization*, will be held in March.

### **COUNCIL PROGRAM**

Wieck introduced Allan Bergman, stating that he was invited to be with us so we could learn what's happening in Congress about Medicaid, and how we can most effectively

work with our Congressional members to help them understand the importance of Medicaid in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Bergman is a parent, advocate, and CEO, and has touched every piece of legislation that has made a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and families.

Bergman began by sharing stories about his two daughters, both of whom have disabilities. Dena is now living in her own condo with supports, and has had a new job since last August, one that focuses on her gifts, skills, and interests.

Mindy has Rett Syndrome and the many complexities, including seizures, that go along with that disability. Thirty years ago, at the age of five, she was placed out of the home with no family support or respite care. It's now confirmed that she has an auditory processing delay that has required retraining her support staff. She's living in a four person group home and, through customized employment, is working. Because she needs a quiet place to do a job, she's working in a funeral home. Her receptive language is good and eye gaze communication may help her with her speech but she has not yet had the opportunity to demonstrate that.

Bergman then began his PowerPoint presentation, talking about authenticity and how Bill George, former CEO of Medtronic, defines authentic leaders – “those who have a deep sense of purpose and are true to their core values.”

Bergman emphasized critical statements and principles that are conveyed in the language we use, and identified key components of the services and programs that are funded by Medicaid, and how Medicaid is funded and structured today –

Language is powerful. Images create perceptions and perceptions create values.

The language we use can create dignity and respect.

ADA goals should be there for all; they're non-negotiable.

In 1965, under Title XIX, Medicaid grants were available to states for “families with dependent children, and of aged, blind, or disabled individuals.” This was pre-special education and pre-ADA.

SSI doesn't come from the Social Security Trust Fund. The SSI program is funded by general revenues.

Rehabilitation and other services are intended to help families and individuals attain or retain their capacity for independence or self care.

We are told that with a Medicaid block grant, there will be more flexibility and more funds. Medicaid is already flexible in terms of amount, duration, and scope of services; and statewideness. There is entitlement to federal matching funds with no cap. Medicaid is mandatory for low income families and children, and SSI recipients. Work incentives are optional.

There are mandatory State Plan services that include in-patient and out-patient hospital services, EPSDT (plays a significant for children in diagnosing, treating, ameliorating a condition), physician services and surgical dental services.

Optional services include PCA services and waivers.

"Medicaid does more than you think." Related services is a broad category of services and students with disabilities receive the benefit of these services in the school environment.

The characteristics and key components of Home and Community Based Services are set out in the final CMS Rule. When no more than three people, of their own choosing, live together in a home, the outcomes are better.

Employment is becoming a part of Medicaid because work has always been recognized as contributing to positive physical and mental health. All individuals can work.

Bergman referred to the *Essential Elements of Customized Employment for Uniform Application*, a document created by the Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center and the Youth Technical Assistance Center, in partnership with Griffin-Hammis Associates, TransCen, Inc., Marc Gold & Associates, and Virginia Commonwealth University, as one of the most critical documents of our time considering the collaborative effort of the well recognized organizations in the field of employment. This was a handout for today's meeting and sent out electronically to all Council members.

Proposals to restructure and refinance Medicaid would result in an \$ 880 billion reduction over the next 10 years in the United States.

A total of 74 million individuals are Medicaid beneficiaries and that number is growing because of demographics.

Bergman was thanked for his presentation, and the handouts that Council members received and are encouraged to share with others. His complete PowerPoint presentation is attached to these Minutes.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Hoffman asked that the meeting be adjourned.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck  
Executive Director