



MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

February 5, 2025

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lee Sherheim, Chair
Jenny Arndt, Vice Chair
Jason Blomquist
Dupree Edwards
Lisa Jemtrud
Heather Kainz
Lesli Kerkhoff (virtual)
Joel Liestman
Elizabeth Marsh (virtual)
Katie McDermott
Chris McVey
Mike Nichols
Garrett Petrie
Jenn Purrington
Mary Raasch
Connie Rabideaux (virtual)
Erin Schwab
Bonnie Jean Smith
Sumukha Terakanambi

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Amy Hewitt
Abdi Matan
Alan Morrison
Christine Mueller
Jennifer Santema

GUESTS

Guy Fischer (virtual)
Tim Lewis
Dan Reed

Ryan Swan

STAFF

Stephanie Nelson

Paul Nevin

Colleen Wieck

MINUTES

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Lee Shervheim, called the meeting to order at 12:18pm

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Shervheim invited all present virtually and in person to introduce themselves

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Shervheim called for approval of the agenda with one schedule change and that was to move the Grant Review Committee recommendations to the top of the agenda because a few members needed to leave early. Kainz moved, seconded by McDermott to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

IV. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

The Grant Review Committee received 15 applications for training co-sponsorship funding. Ten applications were approved. Conflict of interest forms were signed by Council members. The Grant Review Committee recommends approving funding for the following 10 applications:

- 1) **Accord** requested \$2,000 to work with Cow Tipping Press to offer in-person creative writing sessions for 10 individuals for \$2,000. **Motion** by McDermott, Nichols seconded to approve funding for Accord. Motion carried. Virtual roll call votes: Marsh-Yes, Rabideaux- Yes, Kerkhoff-Yes. No abstentions.
- 2) **Association of Residential Resources of MN (ARRM)** requested \$2,000 to hold a conference focused on assistive technology (AT) and remote support for an estimated 50 individuals. **Motion** by Terakanambi, Edwards seconded to approve funding for ARRM. Motion carried. Virtual roll call votes: Marsh-Yes, Rabideaux-Yes, Kerkhoff-Yes. No abstentions.
- 3) **Autism Society of Minnesota** requested \$2,000 for scholarships and other expenses for their Annual State Conference to be held on April 16-18, 2025, and this hybrid event will reach about 500 individuals. **Motion** by Smith, seconded

by McDermott to approve funding for AuSM. Motion carried. Virtual roll call votes: Marsh-Yes, Rabideaux-Yes, Kerkhoff-Yes. No abstentions.

- 4) **Frogtown Tuned-in (WFNU Community Radio)** requested \$2,000 to assist 5-7 individuals with developmental disabilities to create their own radio news piece. **Motion** by Liestman, McDermott seconded to approve funding for Frogtown. Motion carried. Virtual roll call votes: Marsh-Yes, Rabideaux-Yes, Kerkhoff-Yes. Edwards abstained.
- 5) **L'Arche** requested \$2,000 to bring together a small group of 10 self-advocates for 8 sessions to collaborate with caregivers in planning community events. **Motion** by McDermott, Raasch seconded to approve funding for L'Arche. Motion carried. Virtual roll call votes: Marsh-Yes, Rabideaux-Yes, Kerkhoff-Yes. No abstentions.
- 6) **MSS** requested \$2,000 to work with Lori Greene from Mosaic on a Stick to host an in-person series to create self-advocacy themed artwork for an estimated 12 individuals. **Motion** by Schwab, Kainz seconded to approve funding for MSS. Motion carried. Virtual roll call votes: Marsh-Yes, Rabideaux-Yes, Kerkhoff-Yes. Shervheim and Liestman abstained.
- 7) **Partnership Resources** requested \$2,000 for Mad Hatter Wellness to provide a "Sexuality for All Abilities" training series to caregivers, family members and individuals with developmental disabilities. **Motion** by Kainz, McDermott seconded to approve funding for Partnership Resources. Motion carried. Virtual roll call votes: Marsh-Yes, Rabideaux-Yes, Kerkhoff-Yes. Edwards, Liestman, and Petrie abstained.
- 8) **Special Olympics Minnesota** requested \$2,000 for an in-person Career and Leadership Conference to be held on March 21, 2025, estimated to reach 150 individuals. **Motion** by Liestman, seconded by Jemtrud to approve funding for Special Olympics Minnesota. Motion carried. Virtual roll call votes: Rabideaux-Yes, Kerkhoff-Yes. Marsh abstained.
- 9) **The Education Law Advocacy Project of SMRLS** requested \$2,000 for two virtual training sessions (including Spanish) and reach an estimated 60 individuals. **Motion** by Arndt, Smith seconded to approve funding for SMRLS. Motion carried. Virtual roll call votes: Marsh-Yes, Rabideaux-Yes, Kerkhoff-Yes. No abstentions.
- 10) **The Arc Minnesota** requested \$2,000 for training and accommodations for self-advocates to attend pre-training to prepare for Disability Day of Advocacy at the Capitol. **Motion** by Liestman, Kainz seconded to approve funding for The Arc

Minnesota. Motion carried. Virtual roll call votes: Marsh-Yes, Rabideaux-Yes, Kerkhoff-Yes. Arndt, Edwards, and McDermott abstained.

V. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Shervheim called to approve amended minutes from the December 4, 2024 Council Meeting. Under the Grant Review Committee report, the minutes will reflect that the training conference RFP will be finalized by the Grants Administrator. **Motion:** Liestman moved, Nichols seconded to approve the amended minutes. Motion carried.

VI. DOCUMENTARY based on the book “The Crusade for Forgotten Souls” by Susan Bartlett Foote

The Council has worked with Mastcom since the mid-1990s. The current owner of Mastcom is Tim Lewis who is also the producer, writer, and videographer of a new documentary based on the book, *The Crusade for Forgotten Souls*. This documentary has taken two years to produce. The dramatization includes AI images to fill in gaps of images. Lewis relied upon several historical resources to bring this story to life and include images from the period of 1948 to 1952.

Chris McVey shared personal connection and how impactful this documentary is to her family.

VII. STATE REHAB COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Chris McVey, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, DEED reviewed the Annual Report. Reflecting on how much more work there is to be done and that we don’t want to lose the ground we have gained. Five individual stories are shared in the report. Members are encouraged to review the report including the data about who is served, the number of placements, and the types of disabilities served.

VIII. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Terakanambi shared that the committee spent time discussing potential federal cuts to Medicaid. Tina Rucci from The Arc Minnesota discussed state and federal activities to save Medicaid including coalitions, letters, and meetings with members of Congress and state legislators. Terakanambi is a member of Medicaid coalitions, and he will continue to share updates. Several members volunteered to share their stories. The Committee also heard from Purrington about state budget proposals to cut special education transportation and waiver reductions.

Shervheim asked for a list of credible news sources and members responded.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT –

Appropriations:

- The 2025 federal allocation received to date totals \$521,034.00; about half of the total allocation for last year.
- The Governor's budget recommendation for State Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 is level funding of \$222,000 per year.
- The President's Executive Action on freezing federal funds caused a lot of confusion. The Council was able to access federal reimbursement about a week after submitting the request for payment.

Legacy Proposal:

- Senator John Hoffman is the author of Senate File 90 which would provide \$100k each year for preservation of developmental disabilities history. Senator Justin Eichorn indicated support for SF 90 and he is a Republican Co-Chair of the Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee.
- A hearing was held on January 23, 2025 and there was support for this funding request from the Senate Committee.
- No action in the House until they have come to a power sharing agreement.

Program Performance Report:

- The federal government ended its contract with the reporting system that the Councils have been using.
- The 2024 Program Performance Report will be submitted using a fillable form. The staff members have been working on transferring the information to the new format. The 2024 PPR was submitted on February 3, 2025.

Treat People Like People:

- The campaign is currently funded by the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Council on Disability, and the Institute on Community Integration.
- The Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities will be providing additional funding (\$100k) until June 30, 2025.

Olmstead Update:

- We encourage everyone to look at the opportunity to be a paid consultant to the Olmstead planning process.
- We provided copies of three separate surveys conducted recently by the Olmstead Office.

There was some community concern that respondents to the Quality of Life longitudinal survey were not asked question directly. The final report provides a record of who responded and whether the individual responded themselves or whether a parent, guardian, staff member, or friend answered on behalf of the individual.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Shervheim called for comments.

Jenn Purrington has a friend who would be happy to talk about how foster kids would be impacted by any cuts to Medicaid.

Petrie has autographed posters available from Daniel and Samuel Habib's documentary entitled "The Ride Ahead." Daniel Habib is a New Hampshire Partners Grad!

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Shervheim called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terakanambi moved, Smith seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck
Executive Director