



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

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Lee Shervheim, Council Chair  
Dan Reed, Vice Chair  
Michelle Albeck  
Wendy Berghorst  
Jason Blomquist  
Dupree Edwards  
Lisa Emmert  
Jaclyn Ferrier  
Brittanie Hernandez-Wilson  
Amy Hewitt  
Senator John Hoffman  
Lesli Kerkhoff  
Mary Martin  
Jillian Nelson  
Stacie Nelson  
Garrett Petrie  
Jacki Rightler  
Reid Scheller  
Bonnie Jean Smith  
Dan Stewart

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Kay Hendrikson  
Abdi Matan  
Kate Quale  
Connie Rabideaux

**STAFF PRESENT**

Paul Nevin  
Colleen Wieck

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Lee Shervheim called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Shervheim called attendance by last name in alphabetical order and all members introduced themselves.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Shervheim asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. **MOTION:** J. Nelson moved, seconded by Edwards to approve the Agenda. The Agenda was approved by consensus

**IV. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR APRIL 7, 2021**

Shervheim asked for approval of the Minutes.

**MOTION:** J. Nelson moved, seconded by Blomquist to approve the Minutes for April 7, 2021.

Roll call voting aye, in favor of approval of the Minutes:

Albeck, Berghorst, Blomquist, Edwards, Emmert, Ferrier, Hernandez-Wilson, Hewitt, Hoffman, Kerkhoff, Martin, McVey, Nelson, J., Nelson, S., Petrie, Reed, Scheller, Smith, and Stewart.

There were no votes opposed and no abstentions.

Motion carried.

**V. FIVE YEAR PLAN REVIEW OF COMMENTS AND APPROVAL**

Shervheim thanked everyone for their contributions to the Five Year Plan and asked for a motion to approve the Five Year Plan.

**MOTION:** Reed moved, seconded by J. Nelson to approve the Five Year Plan.

Roll call voting aye, in favor of approving the Five Year Plan:

Albeck, Berghorst, Blomquist, Edwards, Emmert, Ferrier, Hernandez-Wilson, Hewitt, Hoffman, Kerkhoff, Martin, McVey, Nelson, J., Nelson, S., Petrie, Reed, Scheller, Smith, and Stewart.

There were no votes opposed and no abstentions.

Motion carried.

**VI. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Lisa Emmert, Chair, of the Grant Review Committee offered the following report.

The Grant Review Committee met on May 19, 2021. There were three business items.

First, the Committee discussed the Customer-Focused Research RFP and will be releasing the RFP after some final editing.

Second, the Committee has created a working group to discuss ways to use \$65,307 in vaccination funding. This money must be spent by September 30, 2022 and so the Grant Review Committee and Council have time to gather information and make recommendations. Both Stewart and Berghorst offered ideas and plans that are underway by MDLC and MDH, respectively.

Third, the Council received some additional funding from the federal government since our last meeting. We received \$13,924.00 and of that amount 70% or \$9,747.00 must be allocated to program goals. The Committee has decided to add \$10K to our Cultural Outreach goal by using the \$9,747.00 in new funding and adding \$253.00 from our publications account.

**MOTION:** Emmert moved, seconded by Smith that the Council fund the Cultural Outreach goal at \$60,000.00 rather than \$50,000.00. This amount comes from \$9,747.00 from our new allocation amount and \$253.00 from the publications category. The publications line item will now be \$156,040.00.

Roll call voting aye, in favor:

Albeck, Berghorst, Blomquist, Edwards, Emmert, Ferrier, Hernandez-Wilson, Hewitt, Hoffman, Kerkhoff, Martin, McVey, Nelson, J., Nelson, S., Petrie, Reed, Scheller, Smith, and Stewart.

There were no votes opposed and no abstentions.

Motion carried.

## **VII. UPDATE ON 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MONOGRAPH AND INTERVIEWS WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS**

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council will be in October 2021. An Open House will be held and a monograph is being prepared. Lizzie McNamara has been assisting with this work and would like to interview the current Council members and then keep interviewing individuals moving backwards chronologically. Lizzie then explained the key questions she will be asking. More details will be shared as they become available.

## **VIII. OLMSTEAD QUALITY OF LIFE, SECOND FOLLOWUP STUDY RESULTS**

Kylie Nicholas from the Improve Group presented the findings of the second followup study. The Olmstead Subcabinet set up the Quality of Life in 2013 to measure changes in people's lives. A copy of the report was included in everyone's packets for today's meeting.

The Olmstead Quality of Life Survey reflects the experiences of people who were receiving services in potentially segregated settings as of 2016. The group is re-surveyed periodically to detect change. The first survey in 2017 provided baseline data about quality of life for the 2,005 people who participated.

The Second Follow-up – 2020 engaged 561 people. This included 509 who participated in the baseline survey and 52 people who were added to the sample to allow a deeper understanding of the experiences of individuals who come from racial and ethnic communities.

Nicholas emphasized that we cannot ignore COVID-19's effects on survey findings. At the same time, we know that the pandemic is not the only factor that has stalled progress.

Previous surveys show that segregation was a problem before the pandemic disrupted day programs and social opportunities. This means that while COVID-19 has affected everybody, it can have greater impacts on those who live in a place where other people make decisions about daily life.

Here are some of the overall findings according to Nicholas:

1. Participants' overall quality of life has essentially remained flat since 2017.
2. Black and multiracial participants reported the lowest quality of life scores.
3. When asked specifically about COVID-19, most participants said their life got worse during the pandemic because of lost income, fewer opportunities to be social, loss of community, restrictions on visitors, day program closures, and other pandemic-related restrictions.
4. The survey aimed to understand participants' daily activities and opportunities for engagement in the four weeks leading up to the survey. This included how many hours they work, how much time they spend volunteering, how often they visit with friends and family, and how often they participate in community events.
5. Participation in formal activities declined dramatically in 2020, largely driven by the pandemic.
6. Participants engaged with their communities far less. On average, participants had far fewer outings per month in 2020.
7. Participation in work, day programs and school declined dramatically in 2020.
8. Participants had the same amount of power about decisions affecting them as in previous years.
9. Participants with public guardians had less choice over decisions that affected them.
10. Participants' average number of close relationships has decreased since 2017.

Discussion included the definition of technology and assistive technology to assure that low tech items are included; questions about the workforce shortage and the rate of pay; and guardianship issues and what proportion of the participants were under guardianship.

Another question was raised about relationships and whether the results were analyzed by age groups. Concern was expressed about the number of decisions not being made by people living in group homes. Shelley Madore, Director of the Olmstead Implementation Office, was attending the meeting as a guest and offered some responses about technology, work groups, and the Leadership Forum that will begin meeting on June 28, 2021. Other comments included the need to fund internet services, the need to focus on person centered and person directed services and supports.

DHS convened an Assistive Technology group and the report should be issued soon. Concern was also expressed that real change is not occurring. There was a brief discussion about supported decision-making and how that is connected to person centered planning. DHS is working to disrupt the automatic seeking of guardianship for anyone who turns 18 years old. Other points were made about individuals who are on their own and no one is looking out for their interests or advocating for them.

**IX. 2021 STATE LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

Maren Hulden from Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid and a leader in the Minnesota Citizens Concerned with Disability (CCD) was asked to provide a legislative summary.

Even though the Legislative Session has ended, Hulden was able to share a PowerPoint of the major issues that are still unresolved. A special session is scheduled for June 14, 2021 and the budget must be settled before July 1, 2021. All sides would like to avoid a shutdown; layoff notices have already been sent.

Hulden told the Council that HF 2128 passed and that includes a provision about organ transplant discrimination. This legislation also included a waiver of reassessments following 120 days of hospitalization or other placement.

Area #1: Disability Services

Area #2: Health Care

Area #3: Education

Area #4: Civil Rights and Discrimination

In the area of Disability Services, Hulden described the PCA issues (rates/collective bargaining; framework; payment to parents; and PCA driving). She also mentioned Non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT); waiver reimbursement; informed choice; and inclusive childcare.

In the area of Health Care, Maren discussed telehealth, vaccine equity distribution, 90 day prescriptions, MA dental charges, and mental health changes.

Under Education, there are discussions around special education recovery services, seizure smart schools, and discipline changes.

Finally, Civil Rights and Discrimination includes an interactive process in the Human Rights Act for ADA issues; Cassie's Law and Disability Impact; Corrections and Youth Provisions.

Discussion included how prisoners are counted in the Census and whether cities where prisons are located include people of color in those localities rather than their hometowns. Hulden was also asked who published regular updates during the end of the session and the special session. Maren said that not a lot of information is available to share but she will discuss with others.

**X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

The Council packet included Monthly Activity Reports for both March and April 2021. The April report included quarterly results for the program goals.

Wieck asked that Council members help recruit for Class 39 of Partners in Policymaking.

She announced that taping has been completed to update the Disability Justice Resource Center with a final interview of Dean Anthony Niedwiecki. He is the President of the Mitchell Hamline Law School and his topic was enrolling law school students with disabilities.

Wieck also announced that four of the five online training courses have been updated and the last course is Partners in Living and that should be revamped by June 30, 2021.

She asked that Lee describe the graduation ceremony of Class 38 Partners in Policymaking. Shervheim was the guest speaker and handed out all the graduation certificates.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Shervheim asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** Smith moved, seconded by Hernandez-Wilson to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck  
Executive Director