

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

Wednesday, October 7, 2015
9:30 a.m. – 2:05 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
Ashley Bailey, Vice Chair
Peg Booth for Alex Bartolic
Marrie Bottelson
Emilie Breit
Mary Hauff
Pamela Hoopes
Eric Kloos
Jim Lovold
Barbara Lundeen
Lynne Megan
Kate Onyeneho
Carolyn Perron
David Quilleash
Mary Raasch
Robbie Reedy
Jacqueline Rightler
Linda Simenstad
Bonnie Jean Smith
Mike Stern
Katheryn Ware

STAFF PRESENT

Colleen Wieck
Mary Jo Nichols

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Alex Bartolic
David R. Johnson

MEMBER ABSENT

Alexandra Morrissey

GUESTS

Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske, Department of
Administration
Kristin Jorenby, Olmstead Implementation
Office
John McGrory, North Star Fellow
Izzy Mohammed, Global Deaf Minnesota
Christopher Vaaler, Legislative Assistant to
Senator John Hoffman
Jerrod Vincent, staff support for Robbie Reedy
Ellie Wilson, Autism Society of Minnesota

Interpreters: Joan Del Rio and Lauri Krouse

Grantees:

Advocating Change Together, Inc.:
Mary Kay Kennedy, Maggie Treichel,

GUESTS, cont'd.

SAM Community Organizer; and Steve Peck and Nate Wilson, self advocates
The Arc Minnesota: Steve Larson
Autism Society of Minnesota: Jonah Weinberg
GTS Educational Events/Government Training Services: Claire Buchwald and Dolly Parker; and Cristin Heil and Lauren Thompson, Class 32 Partners graduates
IPSII, Inc.: Julie Kenney and support staff Sarif Taylor-Kamara, and Bonita Turniseed, On Eagles Wings graduate
Kaposia, inc.: Jon Alexander and Carol Rydell; and Regina Stelberg, employee, and Carin Barno-Iversen, support staff
Merrick, Inc.: Kelly Carmack and Colleen Timbers; and Abby Hansen and Katie McDermott, Ambassadors for Respect
Reach for Resources: Larissa Beckland, Kate Bottiger, and Kristen Ryan; and Kassie Corley, Empowerment Conference participant

I. CALL TO ORDER

Senator John Hoffman, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone present introduced him/herself.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Bailey moved approval of the Agenda, seconded by Reedy. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 7, 2015

MOTION: Reedy moved approval of the Minutes as written for October 7, 2015, seconded by Bailey. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

V. ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE SPENDING PLAN

A. Annual Work Plan

Wieck presented the FYY 2016 Work Plan, aligned with the Baldrige Criteria, and summarized each section. The Strategic Planning section includes actions that the Council will take at each meeting this next year in preparing the new Five Year State Plan. Business Results for FFY 2015 will be reported in December.

Quilleash noted that the Work Plan was incredibly well done. The Council's good work goes back many years and they have an excellent track record. He added that he has worked with Bill Harreld, Quality Culture Institute, who has expressed similar remarks about the Council's efforts regarding quality improvement.

Smith stated that she was in the Virgin Islands recently, and showed off the Council's website and website offerings to the people at the Council there.

Lundeen said she understands the request to provide comments and feedback or any additions, but then also agreed that the Work Plan was excellent.

Hoopas said that we're lucky to have the three organizations that we do in Minnesota – the Council, the University Center for Excellence, and the Protection and Advocacy agency, working together. Each is also strong in itself. She added that, at national meetings, there are few DD Councils that have the respect and track record that that our Council has.

Hoffman asked for approval of the FFY 2016 Work Plan.

MOTION: Lundeen and Smith moved, seconded by Quilleash, to approve the FFY 2016 Work Plan. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

B. Administrative Spending Plan

Wieck presented the FFY 2016 Administrative Spending Plan that covers Council operating expenses. At the August meeting, allocations for grant projects and activities were approved, and current State Plan goals were reaffirmed at that meeting.

Of the total federal allocation, at least 70% must be for grant projects and activities; we set aside 71% for grants to make sure the minimum is met; the remaining 29% is for administrative/operating expenses.

Wieck walked through the budget for federal funds. We have two years to encumber dollars, and three years to expend program goal dollars and two years for administrative costs.

A separate budget for the \$74,000 in state funds is used primarily for indirect costs and direct expenses within the Department of Administration.

In response to Perron mentioning the lack of dollars for out of state travel, Wieck that little is budgeted because Council funds have not been expended there for several years, the exception being the ADA 25th Anniversary events.

Quilleash noted his concerns regarding a possible shutdown, how that could affect the budget and funds, and what role the state might play.

Wieck said we've been asked about drawing down if a shutdown were to occur and if we have funds. We have carryover dollars so there's not a question of layoffs. We also have a cap of \$ 50,000 on indirect costs and we've reached that, and the state funds represent a maintenance of effort that couldn't be reduced.

Hoffman asked for approval of the FFY 2016 Administrative Spending Plan.

MOTION: Smith moved, seconded by Lovold to approve the FFY 2016 Administrative Spending Plan. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

VI. THE DD ACT, REQUIRED FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN SECTIONS IN THE DD ACT AND THE STATE PLAN PLANNING PROCESS

Wieck reviewed the State Plan requirements contained in the DD Act and highlighted the areas of emphasis related to the goals the Council selected for the current Five Year State Plan. The PowerPoint presentation regarding all of these items is attached.

VII. GRANTS – CURRENT STATE PLAN GOAL FOR EACH COUNCIL FUNDED GRANT AND RESULTS

A. Partners in Policymaking®, Graduate Workshops, Evaluations:

Claire Buchwald and Dolly Parker, GTS Educational Events/Government Training Services; and Lauren Thompson and Cristin Heil, Class 32 Partners graduates

Wieck presented the goal statement, number of graduates and overall session results for Classes 20 through the current Class 32, and the longitudinal study results for the past four Partners classes.

Lauren Thompson said that she wants to be a professional advocate. She has struggled to get the services she needs and wants to change perceptions about people with disabilities. For her, the impact of Partners has been on her improved communication skills and her decision to obtain a second college degree, this one in public relations. She has also created a PCA services network on Facebook, PCA Connections MN, in an effort to improve PCA services.

The connections she has made have been the best part of her Partners experience along with the assurance that she can live a happy, productive life.

Cristin Heil said that when she started Partners, she felt disillusioned, isolated, alone, and couldn't relate to her son who has multiple disabilities. For her, the impact of Partners has been a dramatic change in her outlook

on life. She has gained broad and specific knowledge about people with disabilities. She no longer feels powerless but now understands the power she has within herself. She knows her rights and her son's rights. She now has the confidence to speak about policy issues and has made strong connections with other people who want to make positive changes. She's no longer afraid to contact legislators and has a desire to run for public office in the future.

B. Cultural Outreach in the African American Community:

Julie Kenney, IPSII, Inc., and Bonita Turniseed, On Eagles Wings graduate.

Wieck presented the goal statement for Cultural Outreach, and training session and IPSII results for the past four training program years.

Kenney provided background information about the origins of IPSII, Inc., and spoke about some of the positive changes that have occurred in the lives of On Eagles Wings program graduates and their involvement in the community. She also talked briefly about the emergency preparedness training that is offered.

Bonita Turniseed didn't know about services that would be available for her and her twin daughters. For her, the impact of the On Eagles Wings program has been on learning about Assistive Technology (AT) – she was never offered AT; and her rights and the rights of her daughters who have been restrained in school. She added that she's on a waiting list for waiver services and has been for 12 years. She's also staff with IPSII, Inc.

C. Self Advocates Minnesota (SAM):

Mary Kay Kennedy, ACT, Inc., Maggie Treichel, SAM Central Region Advisor, and Steve Peck and Nate Wilson, self advocates

Wieck presented the goal statement for Self Advocacy, the number of participants and training sessions in the Central and Northwest SAM regions, and IPSII results for the past four program years.

Kennedy provided background information about SAM, a statewide self advocacy network that is administered by ACT, Inc. Over time, they have learned that working with fewer individuals over a longer period of time is more effective; groups now range from 12 to 24 individuals. Relationships are built over months and years.

She introduced Steve Peck and Nate Wilson who talked about the impact of SAM on their personal lives.

Peck said that being part of SAM has been a positive experience. He knew little about self advocacy and felt isolated at times before becoming involved with SAM about four years ago. He is more social now, attended the Olmstead Academy and has talked with people about Olmstead, and now has the confidence and skills to help his peers get more out of life. He has friends now and thinks of himself as a leader.

Peck added that the problem is not his disability but how society treats him. He wants to help build a community where everyone is valued.

Wilson said that he has learned about his rights and history, and how to say "yes" and "no"; has talked with legislators; and knows how to use money and is saving to buy a house, his own place. He also attended the Olmstead Academy.

Wilson also writes songs and asked Council members to sing along with one of his songs, "Problems with the System."

D. Employment:

Carol Rydell and Jon Alexander, Kaposia, inc., and Regina Stelberg, employee, and Carin Barno-Iversen, job coach.

Wieck presented the goal statement for Employment, data about the number of transition students and adults with developmental disabilities who are directly employed, individuals pursuing post secondary education, and business contacts over the past three project years.

Alexander said that they believe that everyone can work, that everyone has marketable skills. The Employment Project has given Kaposia the opportunity to work with transition students. Rydell added that all transition students involved with the Project have jobs.

Regina Stelberg said she moved to the United States to go to school; she graduated from high school in 2009 and has been receiving services from Kaposia, inc. since 2010. She worked at the Federal Bank, volunteered at Shalom Homes, and was involved with the Tree Trust Program. She likes the parks and likes to be outside; she did trail maintenance work with the Tree Trust Program.

For her, the impact of the Employment Project has been that, after nearly two years, she's found a job at Presbyterian Homes that matches her interests – she likes working with elders and likes to be very busy. She added that it's difficult for anyone to find a job but particularly for people with developmental disabilities.

Stelberg wants to be independent, budget her own money, take care of herself, and move closer to work.

Rydell said that the schools do provide some work experiences but those experiences are all very similar and limited. As a result, students get “pigeon-holed” into these jobs forever.

The result is different with the informational interview approach and the direct interactions with employers rather than just an application process.

Quilleash noted that anything to build relationships with employers during the transition years can contribute to real jobs and careers. Employment affects the whole person. People with disabilities and without disabilities have the same issues.

Kloos expressed an interest in looking into employment issues during the transition years. Senator Hoffman urged that that discussion continue to get at some of the underlying issues that are presenting barriers to work experiences for transition students and then later during their adult years.

E. Anti-Bullying Campaign:

Colleen Timbers and Kelly Carmack, Merrick, Inc., and Abby Hansen and Katie McDermott, Ambassadors for Respect

Wieck again presented the goal statement for Self Advocacy along with the results of the Anti-Bullying Campaign training sessions that the Ambassadors for Respect are presenting to fourth grade elementary school students.

Wieck added that there were two applications for self advocacy. Mary Raasch brought the Council's Request for Proposal to a self advocacy group and they came up with the anti-bullying project

McDermott talked about her personal experiences with being bullied at school and how hard it was for her to share her story. For her, the impact of the Anti-Bullying Campaign with students is that now she's more comfortable telling her story. She's presented for more than three years. This has been a healing process for her and she's happy to make a difference in the lives of students.

As an Ambassador for Respect, she has had the opportunity to talk with and teach students; and enjoys sharing stories. The students hear from self advocates who are employees, award winners (The Arc Minnesota 2014 Community Innovator Award), and church goers, individuals who are proud of who they are and an inspiration to others. She has gained more self confidence in her teaching role. Students have come up to the Ambassadors and told them about bullying incidents.

For Hansen, the impact has been that she has had the opportunity to share stories, that everyone should like who they are, and not to bully. She feels empowered and has learned to speak louder. Students have said that she is doing a wonderful thing and that made her feel good and proud.

Reedy said that the Ambassadors are doing what no one else has thought of before; the students will remember the messages about quality, respect, and dignity. People with disabilities can make a difference.

F. Websites, Publications, and Apps:

Wieck presented the goal statement for Websites, Publications, and Apps; and data about website visitors, downloads for the two apps, and video downloads; and evaluation and IPSII results for the online courses.

1. "Telling Your Story" App and Public Policy Work

Steve Larson, The Arc Minnesota, handed out the Richardson Family's story about CDCS legislation that was passed with additional funding but didn't include funding for supported employment. Funding for these services is needed; that absence led to further conversations with families.

Larson emphasized that everyone has a story to tell and invited all Council members to use the app to tell their personal story. The Arc Minnesota needs a bank of stories that can be used during legislative sessions. The "Telling our Story" app is promoted at Tuesdays at the Capitol and in outreach to organizations.

Larson reminded everyone about the annual Awards Banquet on October 23, 2015 where Senator Hoffman will be recognized; and the Annual Conference that will be held on October 24, 2015.

2. Emergency Planning and the Autism 5-Point Scale EP App

Jonah Weinberg, Autism Society of Minnesota, provided a summary of the Emergency Planning and Preparedness project that was financially supported in 2010 with Department of Human Services funding. Training protocols were developed and the Autism 5-Point Scale was designed as one of several tools and resources to help individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), families, and emergency responders to better and more safely manage emergency situations.

The AuSM training is now POST Board approved, it was promoted at the Minnesota Chiefs of Police conference, and the Autism Society is working with the Metro Transit Authority to train transit police and bus operators.

G. Training Conferences:

Mini-Empowerment Conferences

Kate Bottiger, Larissa Beckland, and Kristen Ryan, Reach for Resources; and Kassie Corley, conference participant.

Wieck reviewed the goal statement for Training Conferences, and presented data about conference attendance and evaluation results for the past four years.

Kristen Ryan, Reach for Resources, leads the empowerment group. The conferences gave people the opportunity to speak and talk about their dreams, bring a sense of community to consumers and help to create friendships.

Kassie Corley participated in one of the conferences. This was her first time in an empowerment class. She said that she was skeptical at first; she's from Texas and has had a hard time making friends here. For her, the impact was that she was able to work on her goals and dreams. She enjoyed the class and it helped to make her a better person.

VIII. OTHER DD ACT PROGRAMS

State Protection and Advocacy System

Pamela Hoopes, Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC), is the managing attorney at the MDLC. She said that she's happy to be a Council member, learns more at each meeting, and recognizes how important it is to stay connected and work together.

Hoopes provided background information about the Protection and Advocacy system. She noted that the Welsch case that was filed in 1972 was brought by Legal Aid of Minneapolis and predated the creation of the P&A System by Congress in 1975.

The P&As work to ensure that the personal and civil rights of individuals with developmental disabilities are protected, address system change issues and provide training to increase public awareness about rights issues regarding people with disabilities

Hoopes also presented a brief history of the MDLC as Minnesota's designated P&A agency in terms of some of the public policy issues that have been addressed in collaboration with the Council including the Welsch case, the 1980 Consent Decree, and state hospital closures; health care policy and Medicaid issues; the waiting list; restraint and seclusion in Minnesota's public schools; and Minnesota's Olmstead Plan and implementation. Most recently,

MDLC served as co-counsel with Shamus O'Meara in the class action lawsuit regarding waiver services, mismanagement of waiver funds, and lengthy delays that individuals with developmental disabilities have experienced in getting access to waiver services.

Hoopes said that training is also an important part of collaboration. Presentations are made for the On Eagles Wings and Partners in Policymaking programs, and the MDLC is looking for additional ways to get input. The MDLC will also be working on a Five Year Plan and how to coordinate their plan with the Council's new Five Year State Plan. Hoopes added that we can be more effective whenever we can work together.

Onyeneho asked about outreach to immigrant communities and the importance of getting information to families, especially about how to apply for waiver services.

Stern expressed concern about guardianship and voting rights; Hennepin County in particular seems to be denying the right to vote for individuals under guardianship.

Hoopes said there is a lack of clarity on the capacity to vote issue that needs to be addressed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Bailey noted adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck
Executive Director