

**DRAFT**

## **NC COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**www.nccdd.org**

### **Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes**

**Hilton Garden Inn, Cary**

**ZoomGov**

**August 12, 2022**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dawn Allen, Senator Sydney Batch, Katherine Boeck, Rep. Terry Brown, Jr., Carol Ann Conway, Bryan Dooley, Jonathan D'Angelo, Myron Gavin, Joshua Gettinger, Tony Hall, Brendon Hildreth, Charlean Mapson, Kay McMillian, Virginia Knowlton Marcus, Will Miller, Anna Ward (for Joseph Piven), Cheryl Powell, Rebecca Putnam, Ryan Rotundo, Marjorie Serralles-Russell, Nessie Siler, Donna Spears, Dale Stephenson, Peggy Terhune, Sandra Terrell, Kathie Trotter, Carla West

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rhonda Cox, Rep. Zack Hawkins, Gary Junker, Kelly Kimple, Aldea LaParr, Karey Perez, Dave Richard, Sherry Thomas

**STAFF PRESENT:** Pam Hunter Dempsey, Cora Gibson, David Ingram, LaQuadia Smith, Talley Wells, Tamira White, Shar'ron Williams, Philip Woodward, Letha Young

**CONTRACTORS/GUESTS PRESENT:** Caryn Cook, Darcy Hildreth, Rachel Marcus, Michelle Merritt, David Owen, Sarah Potter, Pablo Puente, Jessie Smatters, John Watson, Anne Whaley, Kim Wilson

#### **WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE**

Bryan Dooley, NCCDD-Chair, welcomed the members. Bryan asked any Council member with a potential conflict of interest regarding items on the agenda to identify the specific conflict for documentation in the minutes and recuse, as necessary. He thanked the members for their participation on Thursday.

Donna Spears conducted the roll call.

#### **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

Donna Spears asked for approval of the May Council meeting minutes. A copy of the minutes had previously been made available to Council members.

**MOTION 1:** Nessie Siler made a motion to approve the May 2022 minutes. Kathie Trotter seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Talley Wells, Executive Director of NCCDD, provided an update on the following Council activities since the May 2022 Council meeting. Talley shared information about the Roommate Matching Initiative RFA which is scheduled to be released on August 31, 2022. Talley mentioned that when the NC I/DD Summer Mini-Grants RFAs were released, there were thirty-six applications received, with thirteen applications receiving an award. Talley then outlined that NCCDD's Meet the Needs NC initiative presented at the i2i conference in June and the NCCDD's Alliance of Disability Advocates Reentry initiative presented at the NACDD National Conference in July. Philip Woodward and Chris Hendricks, along with Donna Spears, hosted an Americans with Disabilities Act celebration as well. In addition, Talley

shared that the Executive Committee is developing an Ad Hoc Committee to 1) improve Council member recruitment and 2) to decide on applications. Talley asked interested members to please let him, Bryan, or Council staff know.

Talley talked briefly about Chris Hendricks, Dr. Mapson, Talley, and Cheryl Powell meeting with Wilmington, NC leaders and engaging in a hybrid presentation on Medicaid with Chris Hendricks at Price Cathedral in Wilmington.

Talley provided information on NCCDD's acceptance of a No-Cost Extension on its FFY2021 ACL funds through September 30, 2023, NCCDD's work to create a 'Self-Advocate and Family Employment Campaign' RFA, and the progress on NCCDD's short-term initiatives initiated during the May 2022 Council meeting, including the Employer Virtual Forum events on August 10, 17, 24, and 31.

Next, Talley outlined the Council's upcoming plans and events. The Meet the Need NC initiative will host an event on September 10<sup>th</sup> in Boone and on September 17<sup>th</sup> in Greenville. NCCDD Staff and O'Neil Communications will have a Planning Day on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Planning will occur in the coming months regarding a potential Competitive Integrated Employment Engagements / Town Halls conference. In November, the NCCDD Advocacy and Leadership Awards will occur during the Council meeting. In November, NCCDD aims to recommend an organization as an awardee of Roommate Matching RFA, the RFA Initiative(s) for Financial Asset Development in development, and a Self-Advocacy Initiative idea germinating.

Finally, Talley outlined that development of 2023 Policy Education Committee's agenda will take place during the Council's next Policy Education Committee Meeting on September 8, 2022, at 10:30 AM via ZoomGov. Information on the next Policy Education Committee meeting is available through Chris Hendricks at [Chris.J.Hendricks@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Chris.J.Hendricks@dhhs.nc.gov).

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Bryan Dooley gave a brief report on the financial status of the Council. A copy of the report had previously been made available in advance of the Council Meeting. Shar'ron Williams additionally reviewed the information with Council members on Thursday, giving a brief report and *Question and Answer* session in each committee meeting.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Senator Sydney Batch and Rep. Terry Brown, Jr. gave brief update talking about the increase in the budget and the vote in the Medicaid expansion.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jesse Smathers, Board President of MARC, outlined some of the work MARC and others engage in to ensure individuals living with I/DD obtain and maintain employment opportunities and success. Jesse invited the Council to come and tour some of the MARC members' sites. Jesse also asked the Council to keep in mind that MARC is responding to North Carolina's transition out of long-standing services similar to those MARC members provide through investigating and pulling together information and data on the benefits and cost-savings of its members' services.

John Watson, founder of Bloom Fitness, shared that he is working to create a better life for people with disabilities by offering fitness classes. John outlined some of the classes offered, mentioning yoga, cycling, strength classes and more. John shared that the all the classes are group classes and highlighted Bloom

Fitness' new App that might support individuals living with I/DD in increasing fitness, thanking the Council again for its funding of a NC I/DD Summer Mini-Grant with Bloom Fitness.

Bryan Dai, founder and CEO of Daivergent, shared that they are the first service provider providing fully virtual job training and placement services for job seekers in the developmental and disabilities community. Bryan discussed its connection to Durham, North Carolina as an organization and Daivergent's provision of no-cost loans, hotspots, and highly trained instructors across North Carolina and the United States.

Peggy Terhune sought to bring light and attention to the Council the critical needs of individuals living with I/DD and a substance use disorder. Peggy further shared that Monarch received a grant from the North Carolina to create a curriculum to work with people living with I/DD who are also struggling with substance use disorder challenges. Peggy also highlighted that individuals living with I/DD who need a Care Manager are unable to select a Care Manager that works for an same organization that otherwise provides the individual services.

Tony Hall shared his concerns regarding North Carolina's lack of accessible places to live for people with disabilities. Tony illustrated this point through sharing his own experiences in North Carolina, urging North Carolina to take a more Community First vs. Institutional approach to housing for individuals living with disabilities, stating furthermore that affordable housing should be the norm, not the exception.

Joshua Gettinger voiced enthusiasm on the Council's efforts on its Justice: Release, Reentry, and Reintegration Initiative.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bryan Dooley requested the presentation of committee reports. Please refer to the committee minutes for a detailed description of each committee's work.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee members met July 18, 2022, June 20, 2022, and June 8, 2022. Copies of the minutes were made available to Council members and Bryan Dooley asked members to review the minutes. Ryan Rotundo also announced as a reminder that the minutes are also posted on the NCCDD website.

## **FINANCIAL ASSET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Tony Hall presented the Financial Asset Development Committee report. He thanked all committee members and staff and gave a brief update on the discussions from the Thursday meeting, including the initiative updates that were presented to the committee. The following motion was presented on the floor for Council consideration:

**MOTION 2:** Kathie Trotter made a motion to approve continuation funding to Employment Source, Inc. for the NCCDD initiative entitled Benefits Counseling Expansion. Funding is approved for up to \$90,000, with a required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds (\$30,000), for Year 3 (of up to 3), from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023. Nessie Siler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

## **COMMUNITY LIVING COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Dr. Charlean Mapson presented the Community Living Committee report. She thanked all committee members and staff and gave a brief update on the discussions from the Thursday meeting, including initiative updates that were presented to the committee. The following motions were presented on the floor for Council consideration:

**MOTION 3:** Donna Spears made a motion to approve continuation funding to the Alliance of Disability Advocates for the NCCDD initiative entitled Justice: Release, Reentry, and Reintegration in an amount up to \$195,000 per year with required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds (minimum of \$65,000), for Year 3 (of 3) beginning October 1, 2022, and ending September 30, 2023. Nessie Siler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**MOTION 4:** Ryan Rotundo made a motion to approve continuation funding to the Mental Health Transformation Alliance (MHTA) for the NCCDD initiative entitled The Unmet Needs Initiative: A Coordinated Campaign to Impact the Registry of Unmet Needs in an amount up to \$150,000 per year with required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds (minimum of \$50,000), for Year 2 (of up to 4) beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023. Tony Hall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

## **ADVOCACY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Ryan Rotundo, NCCDD Vice-Chair presented the Advocacy Development Committee report. He thanked all committee members and staff and gave a brief update on the discussions from the Thursday meeting, including initiative updates that were presented to the committee. The following motions were presented on the floor for Council consideration:

**MOTION 5:** Donna Spears made the motion for the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD) to provide sole source funding in the amount of \$120,000 with a \$40,000 required match to Disability Rights North Carolina (DRNC) for twelve (12) additional months of the leadership training entitled Ability Leadership Project of North Carolina (ALP-NC), from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 with the contingency that Executive Committee and NCCDD Staff will work together, prior to the execution of this contract, to draft specific, measurable outcomes and deliverable requirements. Katherine Boeck seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Virginia Knowlton Marcus recused, due to serving as Executive Director of DRNC (i.e., conflict of interest).

**MOTION 6:** Carol Anne Conway made the motion to approve the In-House I/DD Speaker, Advisor and Advocate Fund for the period of no sooner than August 15, 2022 through September 30, 2023 for an amount of up to \$5,000 with match requirement waived since this is an in-house initiative of the Council. Kay McMillan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**MOTION 7:** Anna Ward made the motion to approve the Self Advocate Discussion Series continuing as a No-Cost/Staff Coordinated NCCDD In-House initiative for another period of up to 1-year beginning September 1, 2022 and ending August 31, 2023. Myron Gavin seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

## **PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Marjorie Serralles-Russell presented the Public Policy Education Committee report. She thanked all committee members and staff and gave a brief update on the discussions from the Thursday meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ryan Rotundo, Vice-Chair reviewed the proposed motions for the Administrative and Program budgets for 2022-2023 and for the In-House initiatives of the Council that were reviewed with the members yesterday. The following motions were presented on the floor for Council consideration:

**MOTION 8:** Dr. Mapson made a motion to approve continuation funding to O'Neill Communications for the NCCDD Communications initiative. Funding is approved for up to \$135,000, with a required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds (\$45,000), for Year 5 (of 5), from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023. Donna Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

**MOTION 9:** Dr. Mapson made a motion to approve the 2023 meeting dates of the Council: February 9 & 10, May 11 & 12, and August 10 & 11; November 8, 9 & 10 all to be held in-person and/or virtually in the Raleigh area, except for the May meeting, which will be held in Greenville or as otherwise determined through the Executive Committee. Cheryl Powell seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

### **DD NETWORK PARTNER UPDATES**

Virginia Knowlton Marcus, Executive Director of Disability Rights North Carolina (DRNC), gave an update on some of the activities of DRNC. Virginia talked about DRNC's victory in the voting rights case where it was ruled in violation of the Voting Rights Act. Now the North Carolina restrictive law's barriers were struck down. Virginia also reviewed DRNC's recent Amicus Brief successes and ongoing work of DRNC. A copy of Virginia's report was sent to all Council members.

Anna Ward of the Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities (CIDD) gave a brief update of their activities. Anna shared that the CIDD was awarded continuing funding for the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2027. Anna also shared information on the HEELS 2 Transition programs that took place over the summer and their Work Together NC initiative, pulling together partners from DRNC, the Council, self-advocates and other stakeholders to work on developing their common agenda. A copy of the Anna's report was sent to all Council members.

Kathie Trotter, Director of Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NC DVRS), gave a brief presentation of the activities of NC DVRS. She began by introducing her intern, Vickie Johnson. Kathie talked about the status of North Carolina's application to obtain funding through the United States Department of Education's Rehabilitation Services Administration's Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment (SWTCIE) Demonstration Projects grant opportunity. Kathie also reviewed NC DVRS' work on the NC Olmstead Plan and Employment First, asking Vickie to provide an overview of NC DVRS' Employment First Internship Program.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

**ADJOURN**

**MOTION 10:** Bryan Dooley, Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Katherine Boeck made a motion to adjourn the August 2022 Council meeting. Ryan Rotundo seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donna Spears, Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_