

Community Living Committee Minutes

May 12, 2022 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Adjourned @ 12:47 p.m.)

Members Present: Rhonda Cox, Jonathan D'Angelo, Dr. Joshua Gettinger, Brendon Hildreth, Jamila Little, Charlrean Mapson (Chair), Ryan Rotundo

Members Absent: Senator Sydney Batch, Dr. Gary Junker, Dave Richard, Dale Stephenson, Peggy Terhune

Staff Present: Pam Dempsey, David Ingram, La'Quadia Smith, Talley Wells, Shar'ron Williams, Philip Woodward, Letha Young

Guests Present: Konan Beke, Sharif Brown, Greta Byrd, Beth Field, Linda Kendall Fields, Stacy Justiss, Kat Oviatt (ASL Interpreter), Devika Rao, Sherilyn Small (ASL Interpreter), Steve Strom, Jen Waite

Introduction:

Charlrean Mapson welcomed the committee and did an icebreaker asking each member to share three things about themselves that other people might not know.

Charlrean Mapson made a motion to approve the February Community Living Committee minutes, and Joshua Gettinger seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval.

Fiscal Update:

Shar'ron Williams provided the fiscal update. She mentioned the slow process for the initiative to obtain guidance on the tax benefits for live-in caregivers needing to go through an approval process for NCCDD to use outside counsel. She pointed out that the Economic Impact Analysis initiative will involve The Arc of North Carolina and UNC-Greensboro. Ryan Rotundo asked about a new initiative on Page 4 of the fiscal report, but Shar'ron clarified that this will be a modification to the Unmet Needs initiative, which is a Cross-Cutting initiative that originated in the Community Living Committee.

Initiative Updates:

Making Alternatives to Guardianship a Reality in North Carolina

Linda Kendall Fields from UNC Cares provided an update and said the work of this initiative falls into two buckets:

1. Outreach and education about Supported Decision-Making and other alternatives to guardianship.
2. The march toward statutory reform for N.C. General Statute 35A so that alternatives are considered before adjudication related to guardianship.

Linda shared the new *Supporting Choice and Determination in North Carolina* publication with 12 different forms in it. She said this initiative is not about ending guardianships completely but considering all appropriate alternatives. Linda pointed out that this initiative is really focused on interrupting the pipeline to guardianship for individuals transitioning to adulthood through the school system. She noted that there are still social workers and teachers who do not understand alternatives to full guardianship. She also shared that the initiative has a 79-page redline version of N.C. General Statute 35A to craft a language to educate and inform about needed statutory revisions.

Jonathan D'Angelo asked if alternatives will be provided to medical providers, and he noted that signing documents outside of having legal guardianship or a Power of Attorney is a major issue. Linda replied that a medical consent form will suffice in many situations.

Supported Living: A How-to Guidebook

Greta Byrd and Jen Waite from Liberty Corner Enterprises provided an update. Greta pointed out that 301 total individuals in North Carolina are using Supported Living as of May 2022. She shared how the Guidebook is a resource to implement the Supported Living service and to operationalize the service with best practice models. She said she plans to travel to Wilmington and Greenville to meet with individuals using Supported Living and their families and support networks to obtain feedback. She shared a PowerPoint presentation that contained a list of the topics that will make up the Guidebook. She said the Guidebook's website will be SLNC4.me, and the initiative will record some videos and develop a podcast series. She also quoted Dotty Foley, a parent of an individual with high-level needs who uses Supported Living, saying, "Supported Living is really community living."

Justice: Release, Reentry and Reintegration:

Sharif Brown from the Alliance of Disability Advocates provided an update. He said that to date, the Alliance had received 90 referrals and completed 80 Individualized Reentry Plans. He said the return to prison rate, known as the recidivism rate, is 11%, which is well below the state average of 47%. He pointed out how some people will not make certain choices or decisions regardless of the information the Alliance gives to them. He mentioned the opportunity to present in Greensboro in April with phenomenal feedback with probation officers from South Carolina asking about replicating this model. He also shared the opportunity to present about this initiative at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Conference in Washington, D.C. this July.

Charlrean Mapson remarked that it would be phenomenal to catch the I/DD population before incarceration and expressed a hope to reduce the number of undiagnosed people with I/DD before they are incarcerated. Jamila Little said that Sharif has been an amazing partner, and she is willing to discuss options that might be available after this

initiative ends. Jamila mentioned how much it costs to send an individual to prison repeatedly as opposed to helping them stay out.

The Unmet Needs Initiative: A Coordinated Campaign to Impact the Registry of Unmet Needs

Beth Field from the Mental Health Transformation Alliance's (MHTA) Leadership Alliance for Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LAND) program provided an update. She said the Advisory Council now has 47 members, and self-advocates and other advocates are at the center of what they do. She said the initiative has learned about the power of a network across the state that they could embed in a grassroots effort, and the workgroups are set up to include people who have lived experience and experience within the system of services. She said the initiative focuses on the Registry of Unmet Needs but also on other factors that come into play. She said having a self-advocate tell a story is extremely compelling and empowering, and said we know that there is a huge gap in information for policymakers. Talley Wells pointed out that the Council would hear from Rhonda Cox about Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO) worries about capacity, staff work, and other things related to the Registry of Unmet Needs.

Future Investment Discussion

Roommate-Matching Service for Individuals with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)

The committee discussed the Roommate-Matching Service Request for Applications (RFA) draft, including a comment card from a member asking if there has been any thought to partnering with existing roommate-matching websites to encourage visibility from people who are already looking for roommates. Philip Woodward responded that the NCCDD needs to engage in a competitive bidding process for this RFA. Talley Wells said he values feedback from the members on setting price points for each NCCDD RFA.

Charlrean Mapson made a motion for the NCCDD to release the Request for Applications (RFA) for the initiative entitled Roommate-Matching Service for Individuals with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), in an amount up to \$120,000 per year (an increase of \$30,000 from the amount approved in February 2022), with required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds (\$40,000), for up to three years with Year 1 starting no sooner than October 1, 2022 and ending no later than September 30, 2023. Staff will consider all suggestions made by Council members when making any revisions before the RFA is released. In addition, Council staff will have authority to extend the due date for applications, if necessary.

Ryan Rotundo seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Registry of Unmet Needs Contract to Increase \$30,000 for Necessary Additional Comm. Engagement/Ed/Comms

The committee considered the request to amend the contract for The Unmet Needs Initiative. The discussion centered around modifying this contract to increase the MHTA's capacity to do this work versus formally amending the scope of the contract.

Charlrean Mapson made a motion for the NCCDD to amend the Mental Health Transformation Alliance (MHTA) contract to support MHTA to engage in additional community engagement, education, and communications programming related to 1915(i) Medicaid services, the direct support professional workforce crisis, and unmet needs, increasing the NCCDD Council Contract with MHTA for Year 1 of its four-year initiative by \$30,000, with required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds (\$10,000), with the amendment period starting no sooner than May 1, 2022 and ending no later than September 30, 2022.

Ryan Rotundo seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Wrap Up

Charlrean made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.