

Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities Quarterly Meeting

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) met on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., via the teleconference and webinar platform, Zoom.

Agenda Item I Call to Order

Vice Chairperson Lud Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present. Chairperson Kate Donovan was unable to attend.

Agenda Item II Roll Call

Vice Chairperson Kozlowski conducted the roll call with the following results:

Members Present:

Joseph Baxter
Karan Burnette
Syard Evans
Cynthia Fong - Late
C.W. Gardenhire
Mark George
Ke'Arus Henderson
Kasey Hodges
Carrie Hollis-Anthony - Late
Tom Masseur
Annette Mencer
Toni Roy
Heather Shrader - Late
Melissa Stone
Christopher Tebbetts
Maria Villagran
Judy Watson

Members Absent:

Kate Donovan – Chairperson
Kimberly Horton
Ann Price
Rhonda Saunders – sent Rep. Christin Watson

Staff Present:

Assiah Lewellen, Program & Outreach Manager
Melissa Trostel-Hall, Program Coordinator
Kim Gatewood, Admin. Specialist

Others Present:

Joe West, Representative for GCDD Legal Counsel

Colbie Jones, Mangan Holcomb Partners (MHP)

Julie Robins, Mangan Holcomb Partners (MHP)

Michael Thornton, Statewide Self Advocate Coordinator, SAND Project / DRA

FranSha Anderson, State Independent Living Council (SILC) sent rep. Alice Buchanan

Jon Taylor, Disability IN

Dr. Joel Tumilson, Arkansas Health Department

**Agenda Item III
Welcome and Guest Introductions**

Vice Chairperson Kozlowski welcomed attendees and acknowledged the guests that were in attendance for the meeting.

**Agenda Item IV
Approve December 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chairperson Kozlowski requested the approval of the minutes for the previous Council meeting on December 10, 2020. He asked if there were any additions or corrections needed to be made. With no changes requested, a motion was made by Judy Watson and seconded by Tom Masseur to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting. All members present voted unanimously in favor and the motion to approve the minutes passed.

**Agenda Item V
Council Staff Update**

Kozlowski turned the Council's attention to Agenda Item V. He requested that Program Manager, Assiah Lewellen give a brief update on the Budget Report. Lewellen explained to the Council that though the report looked different from the detailed format they were accustomed to, the report they received is more condensed and focused more on the federal funding. Lewellen asked if there were any questions. There being none, Kozlowski then asked for a motion to approve the Budget Report. Syard Evans made the motion and Mark George seconded. All members present voted unanimously in favor; none were opposed, and the Council budget report was approved.

Kozlowski turned the floor over to the Program and Outreach Coordinator, Melissa Trostel-Hall, to report on the project utilization report. She explained that the report shows the funded programs currently utilizing their funding but explained that there were still a few that were lagging in the submission of their reimbursement request. She assured the Council that she was in contact with the sub-grantees regarding their request but as they will see in the Programmatic Report, all programs/projects were showing great progress and that she expected to see more reimbursement request in the coming weeks. Trostel-Hall asked if there were any questions regarding the utilization report. There were none.

Trostel-Hall advanced to her Funded Project Summaries report. She stated that she hoped everyone had the opportunity to review this report on their own before the meeting, because due to the full agenda, and other business that needed to be addressed, she would not be able to go through each program/project programmatic report. She did inform the Council that if there were any questions, she would be happy to discuss them after the meeting. Kozlowski thanked her for her work on the reports and informed the Council to reach out to her if they had any questions or concerns.

Agenda Item VI Reports from Committee Chairs

Kozlowski advanced to agenda item VI: reports from Committee Chairs. He gave the report for the Executive Committee in Donovan's absence. He explained the Executive Committee continues to work on hiring a new executive director. He stated that the Executive Committee, after much consideration, had decided to go through the state procurement process to hire a firm that specializes in the hiring of such a position. After some time, the Executive Committee has accepted a bid with Flexability and are currently going through the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) process to complete the contract. Discussion was then followed.

Nominating Chairperson, Kozlowski gave a brief update to the Council, stating that letters have gone out to those who's term ended December 1, 2020. He then asked those Council members if they had received a letter in the mail. Syard Evans confirmed that she had received a letter and was reappointed. Tom Masseau stated that he did reapply but had not yet received a letter but was not concerned since he is a required partner for the Council. Kozlowski requested that if any member receives a letter to please forward it to Lewellen, so that it can be placed in their Council member folder.

Kozlowski addressed Public Policy and Outreach (PPO) Committee Chair, Mark George for the PPO Committee report. George started with the good news that the Governor had moved the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) community into the 1-B category for the COVID-19 vaccinations. A brief discussion followed. He then stated that the stimulus bill passed in congress and was waiting on the President's signature. Again, discussion followed regarding the bill with some direction from Melissa Stone. George then went on to remind the Council that the legislative session was still going on and that Tom Masseau could elaborate on this topic. A lengthy discussion then followed regarding the bills that affected the IDD community.

George then asked Mangan Holcomb Partners (MHP) representative, Colbie Jones to give the marketing efforts and results for the past quarter. Kozlowski reminded the Council that the next agenda item, Council Education & Training was scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. and asked Jones if she would like to go ahead and present or wait until after the education and training was completed. Jones stated that she could give a brief report and for those who had questions or concerns could contact her or Lewellen. Kozlowski thanked her and as stated, she gave a brief report with a slideshow to the Council.

Kozlowski asked if there were any questions, there being none, he moved onto the State Plan and Implementation (SPI) report.

The SPI Committee Chair, CW Gardenhire, stated that his report would also be brief due to time restraints. He informed the Council that the SPI Committee had been working diligently on the State Plan for 2022-2026. Meeting frequently over the past few weeks, the SPI Committee had drafted the goals and objectives for the Council to review and approve for public notice. He stated that the draft was emailed to them with the other documents for the Council meeting and he hoped everyone had a chance to review. Kozlowski asked Lewellen to share the draft on screen for Council. Lewellen then shared the draft. Discussion followed and a motion to approve the draft for public notice was made by Masseau and seconded by Annette Mencer. All members present voted unanimously in favor; none were opposed, and the State Plan draft was approved.

Agenda Item VII Council Education and Training

Kozlowski then asked Dr. Joel Tumilson to speak. Dr. Tumilson introduced himself, stating that he was with the Department of Health and worked in the outbreak response section. He went on to educate the Council on the COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals with IDD. Dr. Tumilson spoke about the importance of the vaccinations and how the IDD community is now able to get vaccinated, within phase 1-B. Discussion followed. Kozlowski asked if there were any other questions, there were none. He thanked Dr. Tumilson for his time and for educating the Council regarding the COVID-19 vaccinations within the IDD community.

Agenda Item VIII DD Network Update

Kozlowski advanced to agenda item VIII, the DD Network Update. He turned the Council's attention to Council members Karan Burnette and Masseau for the DD Network Update. Masseau reminded the Council of those connected to the DD Network and how often they meet to discuss issues regarding the IDD community. He went on to discuss the current issues and how the DD Network was working closely together to address the more pressing items. Discussion followed.

Burnette then talked about the COVID-19 grant in the ways it was being administered. She informed the Council that they had ordered iPads to try and provide technology to people with disabilities and older individuals to do telehealth, order groceries, etc. She added that they were also able to provide limited Wi-Fi for 6 months and training materials to educate those who were in need. Discussion was had amongst the Council on the above topic. Masseau asked if there were any questions and there were none.

Agenda Item IX Self-Advocacy Update

Kozlowski directed the Council's attention to agenda item IX, the Self-Advocacy Update and asked Michael Thornton, the new Statewide Self Advocate Coordinator, for his update. Thornton addressed the Council with the work he had been doing over the last quarter. He expressed the difficulties that he was facing with COVID-19 and connecting with individuals with IDD. He remained confident that the connections that he was able to make would grow over time and through those connections he would have the ability to reach more individuals throughout the state. Thornton spoke about the progress he was having through Facebook and YouTube. He stated that going forward, he intended to use social media in the evenings to hopefully reach more individuals than he was currently reaching during morning and early afternoon hours. Thornton asked if there were any questions. A brief discussion was had regarding the work Thornton was doing.

Kozlowski then asked Lewellen to give an update on Community of Champions (CofC). Lewellen quickly went through a slide show presentation that was sent to her from Ally Tomlinson of CofC that was a more in-depth report than what was given by Trostel-Hall in her programmatic report. Lewellen informed the Council that CofC was currently out filming a video for Developmental Disabilities (DD) awareness month (March) and was not able to attend the meeting but sends their regards.

Agenda Item X New Business and Announcements

Kozlowski addressed agenda item X, New Business and Announcements. Lewellen addressed the Council and thanked Jon Taylor, Disability IN, for attending the meeting and for all the work he continues to do for the IDD community. Taylor briefed the Council regarding Union Pacific joining the Disability IN board and the work he has been doing. He then expressed his gratitude to the Council for allowing him to attend the meeting and giving him the opportunity to speak. Kozlowski thanked him and asked if there was any other new business or announcements. Lewellen briefed the Council on the upcoming events and the work that the staff was currently doing, ending with the events calendar. Kozlowski asked if there was any other new business. There being none, he moved on to the final agenda item.

Agenda Item XI Adjourn

Kozlowski requested a motion to adjourn. Tom Masseau moved to adjourn the meeting and Cindy Fong seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Melissa Trostel-Hall, Recorder