



**Minutes of Meeting  
January 3, 2020**

**DDN Sites – Aberdeen, Mitchell, Pierre, Redfield, Rapid City,  
Sioux Falls, Spearfish and conference call**

Members Present:

Barb Abeln	Marcie Lorensberg
Bob “Skippy” Blechinger	Darryl Millner
Kathie Erdman Becker	Tim Neyhart
Toni Feist	Connie Schmitz
Carroll Forsch	Derek Smith
Reed Haug	Wendy Trujillo
Rebecca Jensen	Sara Valle
Tania Kostal	Eric Weiss
Dr. Eric Kurtz	

Others Attending:

Marlys Feist	Arlene Poncelet
Bernie Grimme, Division of Rehabilitation Services	

INTRODUCTIONS

Marcie Lorensberg called the meeting to order and read the mission statement: “Assist people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to experience the quality of life they desire through advocacy and systems change.”

Roll call of the DDN site locations and phone attendees was completed. Once introductions were complete the meeting agreements were read.

AGENDA & MINUTES

**DRAFT**

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Derek Smith made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Toni Feist. Motion passed.

Tania Kostal made a motion, seconded by Eric Weiss, to approve the minutes from the October 23-24, 2019 meeting of the Council. Motion passed.

### REVIEW AND APPROVE THE ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Marcie Lorensberg shared the reports from the Executive Committee meeting and reviewed the actions taken at those meetings.

Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Toni Feist, to approve the reports of the Executive Committee meeting held December 19, 2019. Motion passed.

The following actions were taken by the Executive Committee:

1. Recommended approval of extension of time to June 30, 2020 and change to e-badge academy for Ability Building Services Workforce Development grant.
2. Recommended to request additional information from Ability Building Services for the mini-grant, "Helping People Learn and Grow Through Music".

Kathie Erdman Becker made a motion to ratify the actions of the Executive Committee, seconded by Bob Blechinger. Motion passed.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DISCUSSION

Arlene Poncelet shared the discussion from the October meeting which lead to her asking someone from the Department of Social Services to attend and meet with the Council.

Amy Iverson Pollreisz, Department of Social Services, shared information about behavioral health services funded by state and federal funds both out-patient and in-patient services. She explained that there were 5 legislative interim committees on mental health this past summer and there will probably be legislation during the 2020 Session.

Next Darryl Millner, Division of Developmental Disabilities provided an update on services and supports as well as changes within the DDD/Office of Clinical Administration to change Resource Coordinators who focused a lot on information and referral to Intervention and Support Specialists who are certified in Safety Care (have BCBA [Board Certified Behavior Analyst] level of competencies and skill set). The Division is piloting a Community Collaborations project with a few community support providers. This pilot identifies actions that are trending towards a higher level of care and provides consultation within any area of services (group home, day program, etc.) to be less reliant on community mental health services, law enforcement, the Human Services Center or other high levels of care.

Darryl Millner also shared that the Department of Human Services is securing a consultant to review the continuum of care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The consultant will identify gaps and make recommendations for the future. This should be completed by June/July 2020.

Barb Abeln then shared information on the SD Developmental Center in Redfield. Currently 99 people are receiving supports. SDDC supports people with the most significant challenges and has 6 behavioral therapists on staff who work with people at SDDC and consult with community support providers.

Discussion by Council members included:

1. Dr. Eric Kurtz asked if the presenters felt there would be support to convene a group to look across systems (mental health, developmental disabilities, health, etc.)?  
Amy Iverson Pollreisz stated that DSS is always open to working with DHS/DDD, SDDC and HSC. Just as important for local providers to meet with each other. Mental health providers struggle to work with IDD population that is why the pilot program and SDDC are so important to building capacity with the DD system.
2. Mental health is a crisis across the country. Have legislators put funding towards mental health?
3. Perhaps there is a need for a graduate level certification for counseling and healthcare that focuses on developmental disabilities.
4. The Center for Start Services is an evidence-based practice that is proven to be cost effective and offers competencies from screening to supports.
5. Project AWARE is a federal grant that DSS and Department of Education received to increase mental health services in schools. It is based on a System of Care Coordination (mental health staff placed in schools). Training for parents and teachers will be included in the future. NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) will also do training with schools. Determination of pilot schools was based on need and area (i.e. rural, low income, etc.)
6. Is there a need for short-term emergency care? 1-2 days of structured care when in crisis rather than jail, SDDC or HSC. Amy Iverson Pollreisz added that what is needed is not a one size fits all approach. Now, after 24 hours someone goes to HSC (except Sioux Falls and Rapid City). The

Legislative Committee recommended a change in statutes to allow up to 5 days in a residential facility or other 24/7 care facility. This could be accessed on a voluntary basis.

7. How do we continue to support people in the community when in crisis? The courts and law enforcement have been supportive and understanding. We lack capacity within the community. Volunteers of America-Dakotas has done competency restoration. Good steps – Community Collaboration and Safety Care.

Crisis respite can be a Waiver services but how to fund it. Could the courts and education systems buy-in to provide match for Medicaid Waiver? States that are doing well – do so only after litigation.

8. There used to be a circuit – someone was at HSC, then moved to SDDC, then back to HSC and back to SDDC. Amy Iverson Pollreisz stated that this does not happen as often now. When someone comes to HSC but really has mental health and developmental disabilities, mental health supports them but now working with DD providers.
9. How many people are still waiting in jail for restoration? Amy Iverson-Pollreisz state that the numbers are significantly down to less than 10 people. SDDC has less than 20 waiting for restoration. Bed capacity at HSC is a concern due to Registered Nurses not being available and this has caused 2 units to be closed. Outpatient restoration is possible for some while others need psychiatric hospitalization. The person needs education and to know the court process.

The Legislative Task Force recommend modifying the statute so that restoration can happen in other settings (i.e.

jail).

For people with DD, VOA does competency restoration and testing. SDDC has 8 people receiving competency training.

10. Where does trauma-informed care fit in this process? Any efforts to bring this to services? Too often, trauma is mistaken for behavior. Amy Iverson Pollreisz shared that community mental health centers and HSC do training. There is training for mental health personnel within the prison system. A specific curriculum is used at the Women's Prison. Barb Abeln shared that SDDC hosted Dr. Karen Harvey and staff receive training.

Amy Iverson Pollreisz shared that Mental Health First Aid Training has been ongoing throughout the state for law enforcement and mental health providers.

11. Families don't know about services. Could there be a clearinghouse of what is available for providers and families?
12. What about people who fall through the cracks? Darryl Millner shared that many times families keep it together until the parents need services. DD services required the age of onset to be before age 22. Often the Division is able to determine the likelihood that the disability started before age 22 from other types of reports and evaluations.
13. Could the Council help get info out to other agencies about the pilot or other information?
14. For children who have graduated or home school/private school students - Is there training for community services such as the Discovery Center staff,

coaches, etc.? To provide a general understanding of mental health – possibly online.

This conversation will continue at the April meeting.

GRANT APPLICATION – Youth Leadership Forum 2020, BHSSC/Transition Services Liaison Project

Dan Rounds presented this proposal to the Council. Kendra Gottsleben shared her perspective of the program having been a delegate and then team leader, mentor and presenter. Questions and discussion included do students with significant disabilities participate, ages of students selected, and can private and homeschool students participate. Kathie Erdman Becker made a motion, seconded by Derek Smith, to approve \$27,200 (the same as the Division of Rehabilitation Services) of federal funds for this project. Motion passed by roll call vote with 12 ayes, 1 nays and 3 abstaining (Eric Weiss, Eric Kurtz and Wendy Trujillo).

GRANT APPLICATION – Public Information & Awareness, Center for Disabilities

Kendra Gottsleben presented this proposal to the Council. Questions and discussion included: rotation of publications for updating and the number of publications; Possibilities magazine expansion to more than just employment. Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Bob Blechinger, to approve \$18,000 of federal funds for this project. Motion passed by roll call vote with 15 ayes, 0 nays and 2 abstaining (Eric Kurtz and Tim Neyhart).

GRANT APPLICATION – First Responder Disability Awareness Training, Year 2, Niagara University First Responder Disability Awareness Training

Dave Whalen presented this proposal by teleconference to the Council. Questions and discussion included: any resistance to the project; training groups covered; how do trainers stay current; and can you keep numbers on effectiveness of trained versus

untrained personnel. Kathie Erdman Becker made a motion, seconded by Bob Blechinger, to approve \$50,000 of federal funds for this project. Motion passed by roll call vote with 15 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstaining (Eric Kurtz).

#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public were present to speak to the Council.

#### BUDGET UPDATE

Arlene Poncelet explained that due to the short time between the October 23-24 meeting and this one, along with the submission of the 2019 Annual Report and Work Plans for FFY2020 and FFY2021, that she did not get the budget reports completed. She will send out to Council members in a few weeks.

#### NEXT MEETING

Marcie Lorensberg shared that the April meeting is scheduled for April 24 but due to the amount of time needed, we may need to meet on Thursday afternoon to continue the discussion on mental health and developmental disabilities as well as planning for the FFY22-26 Five Year State Plan.

Tim Neyhart invited all Council members to attend the Graduation Banquet on Saturday, April 25 as well as the Continuing Education sessions.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Derek Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bob Blechniger at 5 p.m.