



## Minutes of Meeting January 4, 2024

### Zoom

#### Members Present:

Barb Abeln  
Katie Armstrong  
Bob “Skippy” Blechinger  
Melanie Boetel  
Joe Carlson  
Toni Feist  
Bernie Grimme  
Val Husby  
Samantha Hynes  
Caryn Johnson

Tania Kostal  
Eric Kurtz  
Shawnie Rechtenbaugh  
Keath Rick  
Brenda Smith  
Wendy Trujillo  
Sara Valle  
Joey Younie

#### Others Attending:

Marlys Feist

Arlene Poncelet

#### INTRODUCTIONS

Val Husby, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Roll call was completed. The mission statement was read, and the meeting agreements were reviewed.

All members were asked to introduce themselves and their role on the Council as well as something positive in their life either personally or professionally.

## APPROVE AGENDA & MINUTES

Shawnie Rechtenbaugh made a motion, seconded by Bob Blechinger, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Bernie Grimme made a motion, seconded by Bob Blechinger, to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2023, meeting. Motion passed.

## BUDGET UPDATE

Arlene Poncelet reviewed the Information Budget that she prepared. Arlene shared that the current Continuing Resolution goes thru February 2, 2024. For this budget update, Arlene continued to use a 9% cut for FFY24 that started on October 1, 2023. This showed available funds from FFY23 and FFY24 as \$113,160.67 (assuming proposals at today's meeting are approved). Sara Valle made a motion, seconded by Bob Blechinger, to approve the report as presented. Motion passed.

## DIRECTORS REPORT

Arlene shared that the Annual Report for FFY23 and the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Report for FFY23 were submitted prior to the due date of December 30, 2023.

Arlene updated the Council that James Macris has resigned from the Council since he has been unable to participate in any meetings since being appointed (6 meetings). Toni Feist and Liz Tiger were reappointed.

Arlene worked with Eric Kurtz and the Center for Disabilities for a project to use the remaining Public Health Workforce Funding that the Council received and must spend by September 30, 2024. The project is called a South Dakota Disability Cultural Competence Community of Practice. The goal is to develop and implement a sustainable Community of Practice for healthcare providers and organizations across South Dakota. Using the ECHO model, 8 sessions will be provided to increase knowledge, skills, strategies for ensuring cultural responsiveness in service

provision and understanding the positive contributions of people with disabilities and their families on communities. Family members and people with disabilities are welcome to participate.

The website development was pushed to the background while Arlene completed the Annual Report. Now that the report is done, Arlene will again work on an RFP to get this moving forward. Council members volunteering to work with Arlene on this were Brenda Smith, Sara Valle, and Samantha Hynes.

### SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Arlene shared that she has connected with the Department of Human Services and Teachwell Solutions (East Dakota Educational Cooperative) regarding the position. Prior to Arlene becoming the Executive Director, the position was a state FTE. When Arlene was offered the position, she did not meet the Bureau of Human Resources qualifications and it was suggested that the Council look to contract for personnel services through an outside agency. There are pros and cons for continuing as a contracted staff or for going back to a state FTE within the Department of Human Services. Arlene reviewed a list of items that she had put together so far with more to be added.

Comments from Council members included:

1. Memorandum of Understanding is needed either way;
2. Would the Requests for Proposals process change;
3. Would the location be in Pierre;
4. Need to keep the balance of power between people with disabilities and family members and the state and other agency representatives;
5. Do we need a Search Committee;
6. What would be the minimum requirements for the state FTE;
7. May be a positive to have state benefits and use of state car when hiring;
8. Need to maintain independence of the Council

## 9. Safeguards to protect the Council's autonomy

Arlene shared that it is important to make this decision at the April meeting. Council members requested additional information on the Role of the Designated State Agency (DSA) on the Council and the Intent of the DD Act and to have a short meeting by Zoom in February or March to discuss again prior to the meeting in April.

Arlene will gather additional information to share with the Council and use a Doodle Poll to determine a meeting date earlier than April for continued discussion.

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE

Samantha Hynes provided an overview of the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant that is received annually and includes services such as developmental screenings and milestones; healthy relationships for adolescents; and Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN).

The Department of Health will be hosting a Kick-off Webinar for the new needs assessment being done prior to the new state plan for 2025-2030. This will include a survey this spring and community conversations that are open to all. Samantha invited Council members to participate in these events and to share their thoughts and ideas with the Department of Health.

### GRANT APPLICATION – Developmental Disabilities Council Public Information, USD Center for Disabilities

Kendra Gottsleben shared the activities and accomplishments of the current year as well as what is planned for the next year. Council discussion included: doing an infographic of the 7 steps in the employment video; and send the Possibilities Magazine to Mayors, counties, Chambers of Commerce, etc. to take the message beyond disability providers.

Tania Kostal made a motion, seconded by Wendy Trujillo, to approve \$23,000 of federal funding for the Public Information Grant. Motion passed 16-0 with Eric Kurtz abstaining.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Arlene shared that not many bills had been posted yet as session does not start until January 9. State agency representatives on the Council were not aware of any bills currently. The Department of Human Services budget hearing will be January 17.

Arlene asked Joey Younie to provide a short update on the Family Support 360 and Shared Living Study completed over the summer. Joey shared information about the recommendations and that the Family Support Council would be the main group assisting the Division to move the recommendations forward. When asked what opportunities there would be for families and people with developmental disabilities who are not members of the Family Support Council to provide input, it was recommended for people to use the Public Comment time at the Family Support Council meetings.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public had any comments.

Val Husby shared that she has been talking with the Superintendent of the Brandon Valley School District. Dr. Larson offered a screening of the documentary Unseen for all administrators in the district. Following this, Dr. Johnson and his staff came up with the idea to hire a multi-media intern (high school student) to recreate a video about inclusion – what disability is, Best Buddies, working with employers, etc. Another idea was to have students/families create one-pagers for teachers and paraprofessionals. Val has contacted Brenda to help with this activity.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 26 in Sioux Falls (with a Zoom option) just prior to the Partners in Policymaking Continuing Education and Graduation weekend..

### Adjourn

Tania Kostal made a motion, seconded by Wendy Trujillo, to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m. Motion passed.