



**Minutes of Meeting  
February 17, 2021  
Zoom**

**Members Present:**

Barb Abeln  
Bob Blechinger  
Melanie Boetel  
Whitney Bruner  
Mary Kay Budmayr  
Kathie Erdman Becker  
Toni Feist  
Erica Gloor  
Bernie Grimme  
Reed Haug  
Chuck Henrie

Valerie Husby  
Tania Kostal  
Dr. Eric Kurtz  
Marcie Lorensberg  
Tim Neyhart  
Connie Schmitz  
Derek Smith  
Cindy Taber  
Wendy Trujillo  
Sara Valle  
Joey Younie

**Others Attending:**

Arlene Poncelet

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Marcie Lorensberg, Chairperson, 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 members was completed with everyone sharing something their name, location and role on the Council. Once introductions were complete the meeting agreements were read.

## AGENDA & MINUTES

Derek Smith made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Chuck Henrie. Motion passed.

Chuck Henrie made a motion, seconded by Kathie Erdman Becker, to approve the minutes from the October 28-29, 2020 meeting of the Council. Motion passed.

Chuck Henrie made a motion, seconded by Marcie Lorensberg, to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2020 meeting of the Council. Motion passed.

## REVIEW AND APPROVE THE ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Arlene Poncelet shared the report from the Executive Committee meeting and reviewed the actions taken at those meetings.

Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Chuck Henrie, to approve the report of the Executive Committee meeting held January 27, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

The following actions were taken by the Executive Committee:

1. Approved \$4,500 of federal funds to The Right Turn.
2. Reviewed Concept Paper from SD Parent Connection and asked them to present at next meeting.
3. Approved \$1,000 of federal funds to SD Parent Connection for printing of Act Early materials to include the Council logo.

Chuck Henrie made a motion to ratify the actions of the Executive Committee, seconded by Kathie Erdman Becker. Motion passed. Sara Valle abstained.

## BUDGET UPDATE

Arlene Poncelet reviewed the budget reports sent to Council members. Arlene is meeting with DHS staff tomorrow to clean up the Forecast Summary. She will provide an updated copy to Council members along with her informational budget.

Chuck Henrie made a motion to acknowledge the Budget Reports as presented, seconded by Derek Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

### MEMBER UPDATE

Arlene shared that the following members have served 6 years on the Council and will term off on June 30, 2021 – Chuck Henrie, Reed Haug, Connie Schmitz and Kathie Erdman Becker. Also not staying on the Council is Jennifer Olson. Applications will be available on the Council's website and shared broadly.

### GRANT APPLICATION – Niagara University – First Responder Disability Awareness Training (FRDAT), Year 3

Dave Whalen from the Niagara University FRDAT presented information on this proposal and shared how the pandemic changed the implementation during year 2. Council discussion included: appreciation for how quickly the program adapted to virtual training and moved forward; noted that MO and NY both funded the program for five years to really establish sustainability so perhaps the Council should consider that in future discussions; suggested that information be shared with TV shows such as Chicago PD, Chicago Fire, etc. too introduce the topic of Disability Awareness and Training.

Kathie Erdman Becker made a motion, seconded by Derek Smith, to approve \$49,922 of federal funds for First Responder Disability Awareness Training. Motion passed.

### GRANT APPLICATION – SD Parent Connection – Parent Child Journey Courses

Carla Miller, SD Parent Connection, presented information on this proposal. Council discussion included: this is very needed for all ages; how does a parent know their child is not acting appropriately; and high school students attending alternative schools often feel as though they have been given up on so why continue with school.

Marcie Lorensberg made a motion, seconded by Derek Smith, to approve \$26,000 of federal funds for the Parent Child Journey Courses. Motion passed. Tim Neyhart abstained.

GRANT APPLICATION – Black Hills Special Services Cooperative – Youth Leadership Forum 2021

Dan Rounds with the Transition Services Liaison Project and Benjamin Higgins, a 2019 YLF delegate, presented the proposal. Discussion included the decision making process for whether to be held in-person or to conduct some parts virtually.

Marcie Lorensberg made a motion, seconded by Derek Smith, to approve \$25,000 of federal funds for the Youth Leadership Forum 2021 and to include an additional \$2,500 for expenses related to Covid-19 precautions (PPE, gloves, etc.). Motion passed. Abstaining were Bernie Grimme and Wendy Trujillo.

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

Kendra Gottsleben with the Center for Disabilities presented the proposal. Discussion included looking at ways to share the Possibilities magazine with schools; doing an infographic on “What Covid is not (ex. Don’t need a mask in a car with family; police will not pull you over for not having a mask on, etc.); liked the plan for updating the materials; and appreciated the creativity as seen in the videos, etc.

Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Bob Blechinger, to approve \$18,000 of federal funds for the Public Information proposal. Motion passed. Tim Neyhart abstained.

Grant Revision – USD Center for Disabilities – Public Info Grant for 20-21

Arlene shared that she had received a request to change how some of the funding approved for the current Public Info grant would be used. She explained that usually, the Executive Committee would receive this request and make a

recommendation for the full Council. Due to the timing (current grant ends March 31) Arlene shared the changes to the current budget (no additional funding is needed).

Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Bob Blechinger, to approve the revisions to the current Public Information Grant. Motion passed. Tim Neyhart abstained.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

Kathie Erdman Becker shared her appreciation for all that DakotAbilities and other Community Support Providers (CSPs) have done with Covid precautions to keep her daughter and others with developmental disabilities safe over the past year.

### 2022-2026 STATE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Arlene stated that there wasn't time during today's meeting to cover development of objectives and activities for the new state plan, therefore the Council will be meeting again on February 26 from 9 a.m. to Noon via Zoom. Additional information will be emailed or mailed to Council members this week.

### NEXT MEETING DATE

Arlene explained that usually the Council meets on Friday of Partners Graduation Weekend in Sioux Falls. The Council could meet in person, by Zoom, or a Hybrid with those wanting to meet in person attending that way with a large screen for the ZOOM connection with others. A member asked if people would be alright having people who have not had vaccinations attending; or someone who had recovered from Covid-19; or wanting everyone to wear masks and social distance. Arlene will send out a survey to gather input from all Council members on their thoughts.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Arlene asked Tim Neyhart to share some information on the current

legislative session. Tim Neyhart and Disability Rights SD have been continuing the Disability Advocacy Network meetings previously run by Shelly Pfaff and the Coalition. Tim reviewed legislation brought as a result of last years summer studies on mental health services such as telehealth options, crisis centers in Sioux Falls and Rapid City; and providing a structure and method of payment for a peer support model. Many bills have addressed the issue of voting – absentee voting; font size on ballots; keeping confidential the address and contact info of persons in domestic violence shelters; and once counting of votes begins that people stay until it is completely done. To receive the tracking list of bills members can email Tim to be added to the Disability Advocacy Network email list. Tim encouraged members to follow what is happening at the Legislature.

### Adjourn

Kathie Erdman Becker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 p.m. Motion passed.