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South Dakota **Council**  
on Developmental Disabilities



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[dhs.sd.gov/cdd.aspx](http://dhs.sd.gov/cdd.aspx)

**Minutes of Meeting  
April 23, 2021  
In-person and Zoom**

Members Present in Sioux Falls:

Kathie Erdman Becker  
Erica Gloor  
Reed Haug  
Tania Kostal  
Tim Neyhart

Tim Reinbold  
Yvette Thomas  
Wendy Trujillo  
Sara Valle

Members Present via Zoom:

Robert "Skippy" Blechinger  
Whitney Bruner  
Toni Feist  
Bernie  
Grimme  
Chuck Henrie

Eric Kurtz  
Jennifer Olson  
Connie Schmitz  
Derek Smith  
Joey Younie

Others Attending:

Arlene Poncelet

Brenda Smith

INTRODUCTIONS

Erica Gloor, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order. The meeting agreements were reviewed.

APPROVE AGENDA

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

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APPROVE MINUTES

Kathie Erdman Becker made a motion, seconded by Yvette Thomas to approve the minutes of the meetings held February 17 and February 26, 2021. 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 the meeting.

Kathie Erdman Becker made a motion, seconded by Tania Kostal, to approve the report of the Executive Committee meeting held April 15, 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

The following actions were taken by the Executive Committee:

1. Approved \$2,000 of federal funds to Augustana University for virtual Lighting the Way Conference.
2. Denied \$7,337 carryover request for Black Hills Special Services Cooperative Bright Beginnings, Phase 1. Recommended allowing consideration of an additional \$7,337 of funding in January 2023 it is needed for the final training cohort.
3. Approved use of Council funds for equipment needed to video and capture pictures during Youth Leadership Forum by Black Hills Special Services Cooperative.
4. Approved submission of an application for the Access to Vaccines funding through the Administration on Community Living.

Reed Haug made a motion to ratify the actions of the Executive Committee, seconded by Yvette Thomas. Motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET UPDATE

Arlene reviewed the Information Budget that she prepares using the Department of Human Services monthly grant sheets. This shows over-obligation of \$51,192.42) of funds from FFY19,

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FFY20 and FFY21 grant awards. Arlene shared that a few projects would not be spending all their obligated funds, so this number was most likely very close to \$0.

Arlene also reviewed the Forecast Summary sheets for FFY19, 20 and 21 that assist the Council to see that grant funds are obligated and expended within the first two years of an award. We have done very well in getting to the point where we will be obligating and spending funds within the two-year time frame.

Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Chuck Henrie, to accept the budget report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES UPDATE

Joey Younie, Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), provided an update on current activities. She began by reviewing the findings of the Align Report completed in early 2020. The focus areas of the report were SD Developmental Center, Community Services, Communication, Provider Capacity and Transportation.

Within each area Joey shared Division activities that have begun or will begin soon. Briefly, those areas included:

Community Supports – looking at internal workload; increasing behavior consultations; rate structure workgroup; review of workshops and career development; and expanded communication.

Communication – regular opportunities for the Division to share and to hear from stakeholders; development of waiver manuals for stakeholders

Provider Capacity – increase consistency and use of Charting the LifeCourse philosophy; look at inclusion of technology on both the Choices and Family Support Waivers as these are up for renewal

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in the next two years; and expansion of support to people without a support system (to maintain least restrictive residential options and community independence).

Transportation – looking at funding in both waivers as they are renewed; and education for all stakeholders (beginning with understanding reimbursement to and from medical appointments).

Other topics discussed were the renewal of both waivers within the next 2 years; importance of workforce, monitoring of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS); clarifying roles and responsibilities among providers; regional crisis centers (ICF/IDD – Intermediate Care Facility for the Intellectual and Developmentally Disabled) for adults; expansion of family support and the length of time from application for services until approval or denial.

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Arlene asked Joey and other Council members to share information from the 2021 Legislative Session. Joey shared information on the increased rates of reimbursement for providers and funding for regional crisis centers (ICF/IDD) which is currently in a Request for Proposal process and would be located across the state.

Yvette Thomas, Department of Human Services, Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS), shared that LTSS providers also received an increase in rates of reimbursement from critical access to nursing services. Another bill passed provides LTSS workers the option to share information with providers and family during abuse investigations if it benefits the person. LTSS providers services to adults over age 65 and those over 18 with disabilities.

Chuck shared that he has been talking with Rapid City transit because the drivers don't use available equipment to assist

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people with disabilities to get on and off the bus. Chuck also talked about his plans to run for Mayor of Rapid City.

Skippy asked what agencies are doing to help people who fall through the cracks – eligible for services during high school but not as adults. Yvette shared that LTSS and DDD have plans to train the resource staff at Dakota at Home to better serve all people who are looking for resources.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Arlene shared additional information on the Access to Vaccines funding that is available and how the DD Network is collaborating with each other and other groups/agencies to plan for use of these funds.

Arlene also asked for guidance from the Council about requests for sponsorships that she receives from groups that are hosting conferences and workshops. She usually receives 6-8 per year and they range from \$100 to \$5,000 as possible sponsorships. In the past, I tried to support these groups by attending and having a vendor booth to share information during the event. In the past, I also would suggest that they submit a mini grant to the Council to cover specific costs for the event. Most do not complete a mini grant because it takes time and the organizers are often volunteers with full-time employment.

Discussion included giving the Executive Director a pool of funds (\$5,000 as an example) to use for these types of requests each year (maximum of \$1,000 per event). Events would need to meet state plan goals and provide a follow-up report after the event. Another suggestion was to ask the organization how they are getting the word out to people with disabilities and family members about the event. Include a statement that if they don't do the follow-up report they will not receive future funding.

Arlene will draft a policy for the Council to review and approve at a future meeting.

GRANT APPLICATION – National Community of Practice for Supporting Families Across the LifeSpan – Division of Developmental Disabilities

Julie Hand, Assistant Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities, along with Kim Percival, Jenna Hieb and Kayla Bloome presented the grant application to the Council. Julie reviewed activities completed during the past year and reviewed the budget expenditures for the upcoming year. Council questions and discussion included: how do the activities link to the goals and performance measures; how were state team meeting costs figured on page 10; how the Division is measuring systems change; cost for data collection and analysis; is mental health included in the next year

Discussion focused on getting past training to systems change and how it will be measured; liked the communication and use of LifeCourse tools; questions on data collection; and how was the Align Report used in development of this proposal.

Chuck Henrie made a motion, seconded by Toni Feist, to approve \$78,786.80 of federal funds for the Supporting Families grant. Motion passed 13-1 with Joey Younie and Yvette Thomas abstaining. There was consensus that this should be the 6<sup>th</sup> and final year for funding these activities.

Council members also suggested the application process be reviewed to ensure that sustainability and length of projects is covered. Grants may need to be encouraged to use virtual methods to continue savings and increase participation. People with disabilities should be trained, providing training to others and pushing the system for change. Future request for proposal might be for ongoing media campaign on Dakota at Home.

**STATE PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

Arlene created two groups that were each to review the draft goals and objectives provided to the group. Then the groups would come back together to share their ideas, comments and suggestions.

**Goal 1 Objective 1:**

- Use partner agencies to share – list of groups
- Use other media such as PSAs, radio, tv, posters, etc. – not just social media
- Change outcome to 2 groups per quarter.
- Skippy has connections with tv in the area
- Share surveys and assessments in one place
- Do more sharing of posts, etc. from Dakota at Home
- Possible year 2 activity to assess awareness and perceptions

**Goal 1 Objective 2:**

- Looks good

**Goal 1 Objective 3**

- A lot of high school students with disabilities might not be in special education
- Possible RFP to enhance staff training

**Goal 1 Objective 4**

- Take out the phrase “as needed” in all objectives on emerging issues
- An activity for year 2 could be to identify the emerging issue by April for implementation in year 2 and/or 3

**Goal 2 Objective 1**

- No comments

**Goal 2 Objective 2**

- Expand to additional agencies

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- Use people with DD and mental health disabilities as speakers
- Collaborate with others to sponsor on event/activity on accessing mental health services

### Goal 2 Objective 3

- Focus on schools districts and cooperatives
- Year 2 educate general public and lay people including volunteers
- Support additional training on basics of mental health first aid
- Offer awareness to general public, community members and volunteers

### Goal 3 Objectives 1, 2 and 3

- Continue Partners in Policymaking
- Need to include Native Americans and other culturally diverse communities in all activities

Motion by Derek Smith, seconded by Reed Haug, to publish for public comment the draft goals and objectives as changed during today's discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

### Public Comment

Reed Haug shared that through his participation in Partners he learned about independent living, vocational rehabilitation, housing and medical services that were important for his family members not at the time he took Partners but as time went on. More families need to be involved with agencies to gain more knowledge and share their experiences.

### Adjourn

Derek Smith made a motion, seconded by Kathie Erdman Becker, to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m. Motion passed.