

**MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Wednesday, August 5, 2016

12:15 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.

Continuing Education and Conference Center  
University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus  
1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ashley Bailey, Vice Chair  
Alex Bartolic, Vice Chair  
Michelle Albeck  
Marrie Bottelsohn  
Emilie Breit  
Pamela Hoopes  
Jim Lovold  
Kate Onyeneho  
Carolyn Perron  
David Quilleash  
Robbie Reedy  
Jacqueline Rightler  
Bonnie Jean Smith  
Michael Stern  
Kathy Ware

**STAFF PRESENT**

Colleen Wieck  
John McGrory  
Mary Jo Nichols

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Lynne Megan  
Alan Wilensky

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Senator John Hoffman  
Mary Hauff  
David R. Johnson  
Eric Kloos  
Mary Raasch  
Linda Simenstad

**GUESTS**

Kari L. Benson, Department of Human  
Services  
Brittany Bailey, support staff for Robbie  
Reedy  
Alex Farrell, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid  
Stephanie Nelson, Southside Services  
Micah Olson, The Arc of Minnesota

## **COUNCIL PROGRAM**

Alex Bartolic began today's program. She said that all Council members have an important role in serving on the Council. She then recognized Robbie Reedy who was nominated for a Champion of Equal Opportunity Award sponsored by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD). Reedy was second runner up for this award.

Bartolic added that Reedy has served six years on the Council and is currently Vice Chair of the Public Policy Committee. She read the letter from the NACDD that spoke of Reedy's hard work and commitment to self advocacy, and his induction into the Leadership Circle for Self Advocates that was established by the NACDD in 2014.

Reedy said when he started his self advocacy journey, he had no idea he would be on the Council. His sister had served on the Council. He added that we all have a way of making things happen. Reedy said, "Whatever I do, I try to recognize the Council the best I can. From the bottom of my heart, thank you."

Bartolic then introduced Kari Benson, Executive Director of the Board on Aging, Aging and Adult Services Division, Department of Human Services. She is working with all investigative agencies on implementing the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC). This is an opportunity to connect with agencies, and make connections across the areas of both aging and disability. She is interested in and wants to partner with everyone.

Benson provided some background on where we've come from in the reporting of suspected maltreatment or abuse of vulnerable adults. The MAARC is a broad based effort to streamline a system that covers individuals ages 18 and older who are receiving services in a range of different situations.

Until legislation was passed in 2013, the reporting system was very fragmented with 160 different phone numbers. The legislation provided funding to transfer all reporting to a single phone number and a single website for online reporting, and streamlined the process for reporting any suspicion of maltreatment. Benson said that they are now busy getting the word out about the MAARC, the reporting forms, and the phone number.

In the past, the phone numbers were based in the counties. Now reports come into a professional human services call center with trained staff. There are two call center locations in the state.

Staff at each Call Center receive extensive training in how to take calls and make referrals to one or more lead investigative agencies; and they can determine whether this is a situation that requires investigation or more information.

Benson emphasized that no call is screened out.

The MAARC has been implemented for about a year. However, online reporting forms are limited to mandated reporters; general public calls go to an 800 number. Reports include financial exploitation; physical, emotional and sexual abuse; and neglect. The focus now is on raising awareness and encouraging reporting.

Benson said there has been a jump in call volume during this first implementation year compared with calls received in the previous system. The launch of the MAARC system was rocky. This was a new way of sharing information across counties and within the state. During the first six months especially, there was a lot of problem solving around reports taken and stabilizing connector systems.

This was a great opportunity to improve communications. Policies and procedures are more focused, and tracking is improving the overall process. Benson said that they are making sure that people are safe. Referrals can be made to law enforcement, the medical examiner, the Ombudsman's Office for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, or the Office of Health Facility Complaints.

Benson said that, in the past, the common entry point was used to being shut down. The new Call Center is open 24/7/365 for both phone and online reporting. The timelines for reporting and followup are in statute. Counties do their own reporting but there's also a reporting back mechanism and investigations are occurring 100% as needed.

Ware said that, at the county level, they'll get notice of things that should have been reported but are not reported. Benson said that these should be called in to the Call Center; staff are able to respond to different types of referrals.

Bartolic said that sometimes in the past, the reporting process took a long time. Now reports are getting referred within 30 minutes.

State funds are still supporting the Adult Protection Program. The new dollars received in 2013 were for the Call Center itself. Because of funding constraints, there is more reliance on partners to raise awareness. Education is being provided across all age

groups but funding is not available for 1:1 training or for small groups. The information technology piece is bigger than was first anticipated.

Reporters can remain anonymous but Call Center staff will ask for a name and contact information for followup and investigative work. In response to a question about the use of the Call Center by cultural groups, Benson said that staff do ask for demographic information including age, gender, and ethnicity.

A preliminary review of first year data is just getting started so the impact is unknown at this time. The guidelines for investigative agencies are clear, and leave a lot of room for increasing awareness and education.

Smith emphasized the importance of addressing diversity issues and added that training should be provided and communicated in a person centered way.

Reedy asked about outreach to the entire state, particularly the northern part of the state. Benson said that training and the public awareness campaign includes those areas. Outreach is also being done with tribal nations and the reservations.

The Department worked with a public relations firm to design materials used in the public awareness campaign. A lot of research was done and a lot of people offered ideas and suggestions about how to best communicate messages about the MAARC, urging people to call and make reports.

Benson said they want to partner with local community organizations and asked Council members for additional ideas about the public awareness campaign.

Smith suggested county fairs, health fairs, and Transition Plus.

Benson said that one issue that has come up is whether to expand the system to include children.

Ware expressed concerns about the delayed notice and information that is not available to county case managers. They don't have access to adult protection reports. Clients don't have access to reports either. She asked how the most critical information is conveyed and could a question about sharing information be asked when reports are made.

Bottelson was most concerned about individuals living in group homes and how they would know about incidents occurring in their own living situations.

Public awareness campaign materials were handed out. Benson was thanked for her presentation; her PowerPoint is attached to the Minutes.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ashley Bailey, Council Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Everyone present introduced him/herself.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Bailey asked for approval of the Agenda.

**MOTION:** Smith moved, seconded by Reedy to approve the Agenda. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 1, 2016**

Bailey asked for approval of the Minutes as written for June 1, 2016.

**MOTION:** Lovold moved, seconded by Hoopes, to approve the Minutes as written for June 1, 2016. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

**V. CHAIR'S REPORT**

In the absence of Senator Hoffman, there was no Chair's report.

**VI. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

A. Funding Recommendation for Website Content Management - Electronic Government Services

Smith asked Wieck to provide background on this item.

Wieck said that more proposals were received than expected. The evaluation process included a lot of points for technical experience and expertise; points were also give for targeted vendors who submitted proposals. Cost proposals were separated from the narratives and opened by MN.IT after the narratives were scored.

The Committee recommended approval of the proposal submitted by Mastcom. Council approval is now needed.

**MOTION:** Quilleash moved, seconded by Stern to approve the proposal submitted by Mastcom for Website Content Management - Electronic Government Services. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

B. Additional One Time Funding for FFY 2016

The federal law allows for a reallocation of funds. Over \$ 1.5 million was not expended by Puerto Rico so these funds were proportioned out to all Councils. The Grant Review Committee had to adjust their allocations to allow for these additional funds.

Stern said that he was supportive of the additional dollars being added to Self Advocacy and particularly anti-bullying. The final Committee recommendation was to add \$15,496 (the grant portion of the additional funds) to Publications, EGS/Websites, and Online Learning.

C. Funding Allocations for FFY 2017

A PowerPoint was prepared with each of the grant areas and the allocation recommendation. Motions were then made for each allocation recommendation so that abstentions could be recorded. The total grant funds available, including the additional one time reallocation totals \$ 743,455.

**MOTION:** Smith moved, seconded by Breit, that **\$ 120,000** be allocated for **Self Advocacy**. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Reedy abstained.

**MOTION:** Quilleash moved, seconded by Ware, that \$ **210,000** be allocated for **Partners in Policymaking, Workshops, and Follow Along Activities**. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Bailey, Bottelson, Breit, Quilleash, Reedy, Smith, Stern, and Ware abstained.

**MOTION:** Reedy moved, seconded by Stern that \$ **50,000** be allocated for **Cultural Outreach**. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Onyeneho, Quilleash, and Smith abstained.

**MOTION:** Bailey moved, seconded by Lovold, that \$ **80,000** be allocated for **Employment**. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Onyeneho, Quilleash, Rightler, and Stern abstained.

**MOTION:** Breit moved, seconded by Rightler, that \$ **20,000** be allocated for **Training Conferences**. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Reedy abstained.

**MOTION:** Onyeneho moved seconded by Reedy, that \$ **193,455** be allocated for **Publications, EGS/Websites, and Online Learning**. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Smith and Stern abstained.

**MOTION:** Breit moved, seconded by Quilleash, that \$ **50,000** be allocated for **Customer Research**. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

**MOTION:** Onyeneho moved, seconded by Reedy, that \$ **20,000** be allocated for **Quality Improvement**. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Quilleash abstained.

**VII. MINNESOTA DISABILITY LAW CENTER DRAFT FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN AND DRAFT FFY 2017 FUNDING PRIORITIES**

Pamela Hoopes, Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC), presented drafts of their Five Year Strategic Plan and Funding Priorities for FFY 2017. She said that this is the first time that Protection and Advocacy Agencies have had to prepare these documents. They are not as prescriptive as the State Plans that DD Councils have to prepare.

The MDLC hired a consultant to work with staff to understand the P&A.s mission and their work with people with developmental disabilities.

The Strategic Plan includes a description of MDLC's work and DD Act requirements for P&A's. The focus is not solely on people with developmental disabilities but broad enough to cover other federal grants that Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid receives. Goal areas are set in the DD Act.

Wieck asked if they are seeing any increase in calls because of the MAARC; Hoopes said they haven't so far but they expect to see an increase as more outreach and training are done.

If the MDLC receives the first/initial call, they would do an investigation; however they wouldn't interfere with an ongoing investigation, such as one where law enforcement is involved.

Regarding the goal to **Eliminate Abuse and Neglect**, a suggestion was made to add financial exploitation.

Onyeneho asked about situations where children with disabilities are receiving services but the family doesn't seem to care about whether staff are actually providing the appropriate or needed services, or children are learning skills – should this be reported to child protection. Hoopes said that this is really a quality issue; services may not be as appropriate as they should be.

Regarding the goal to **Increase Integration and Decrease Discrimination**, a suggestion was made to add the Olmstead Plan here and meeting individual needs in the most integrated setting of their choice. Quilleash pointed out that this is in keeping with the intent and spirit of Olmstead.

Onyeneho raised a housing issue – a person living in a group home and wanting to move into an apartment with individual supports. The person was told they had to come in to complete forms; forms are not available online and can't be mailed. This seems to be an accommodations issue.

Regarding the goal to **Increase Access to Appropriate Services**, Smith suggested adding improving provider capacity and working in different policy areas; and under Education, where do you send parents when their child's IQ level changes on testing and they may/may not be eligible for special education services.



Regarding the goal to Increase **Statewide Awareness of MDLC**, Hoopes said that focus groups were conducted across the state and a lot of training is being done during the year; we're still hearing we "have to get out there." Outreach will be increased to stakeholder groups.

Hoopes asked for any additional comments on the MDLC draft Strategic Plan. All Council members were asked to complete the survey.

#### **VIII. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Reedy reported that voting rights and what those rights mean for people with disabilities were discussed.

#### **IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. Colleen Wieck provided the following updates and highlights from monthly reports:
  - 1. Michelle Albeck has just been appointed as a parent member. Another parent was appointed to two councils and she opted for her other choice.  
  
The fifth segment of the Council's history has been posted on the Council website.
  - 2. John McGrory has completed his Fellowship with the Council and Melody Johnson has started.
  - 3. Budgets and initiatives were prepared and submitted for the 2018-2019 biennium.
  - 4. The Olmstead Subcabinet met in June; the focus was on health care disparities. Work plans for Assistive Technology and Preventing Abuse were approved.
  - 5. A Status Conference was held on June 6, 2016 regarding the Olmstead Plan and on July 6, 2016 regarding WO.
  - 6. We began inputting the Five Year State Plan into the new system but there were many glitches. Twenty-nine new performance

measures were released in July. August 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for submitting the Plan; the peer review process follows.

New marketing flyers on Autism, Partners in Policymaking®, and Publications; and the revised and updated emergency planning booklet and magnet, Feeling Safe, Being Safe, were handed out.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Bailey asked that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck  
Executive Director