

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

Wednesday, August 7, 2019
12:20 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.
Continuing Education and Conference Center
University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus
1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator John Hoffman, Chair
Ashley Bailey, Vice Chair
Michelle Albeck
Wendy Berghorst
Lisa Emmert
Eric Kloos
Mary Martin
Noah McCourt
Randy Miller
Jillian Nelson
Stacey Nelson
Kate Onyeneho
Dan Reed
Jacqueline Rightler
Reid Scheller
Lee Shervheim
Bonnie Jean Smith
Alan Wilensky

STAFF PRESENT

Colleen Wieck
Mary Jo Nichols

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Hanna Barr
Alex Bartolic
Jim Lovold
Heather Tidd

GUESTS

Russell Herder Agency
Carol Russell
Russell Herder
Laurie Beyer-Kroupenske, Department of
Administration
Erica Dalager
Department of Health
Mark Kinde
Nicole Stockert
Fidelia Chinyere Kenine
Robb Leer, Leer Communication & Consultants
Penny Mack
Lana Mattonen, Support Person
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
Anne Smetak
Zoua Vang

GUESTS, cont'd.

Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and
Developmental Disabilities
Maura McNellis-Kubat
Roberta Opheim
Mike Tessneer, Department of Human
Services, OIO
Wendy Zaun-Herbes, the MENTOR Network

I. CALL TO ORDER

Senator John Hoffman, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone present introduced him/herself.

III. COUNCIL PROGRAM

In June, the Bill of Rights Project, a training package of educational materials, and a series of videos about the rights of individuals in Supervised Living Facilities (SLFs) was presented. That Project is part of a campaign to prevent the abuse and neglect of individuals with disabilities.

Today, Carol Russell and Brian Herder are here to give us a preview of the larger prevention of abuse campaign. The Office of the Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (OMHDD) issued a Request for Proposal and, through a competitive bidding process, selected Russell Herder to design and develop this campaign.

Russell Herder listened to the stories of people with disabilities, and spent a great deal of time and effort in learning about people's experiences. The result is co-creation of the campaign with people with disabilities.

Carol Russell began by stating that this has been a journey, a collaborative effort, and work in the community. She presented some background information, the process they used to design the campaign, and the objectives.

The Jensen Settlement Agreement provides the background, a declaration by the State, and a clear direction for this campaign.

Page 3 of the Jensen Settlement Agreement states –

The State of Minnesota declares, as a top concern, the safety and quality of life of the Residents of the facility (METO, now called the Minnesota Specialty Health System - Cambridge). The State agrees that its goal is to provide these residents with a safe and humane living environment free from abuse and neglect. The State also agrees to use a Rule 40 Committee and an Olmstead Committee as the means to extend policies to all people with developmental disabilities, not just those individuals who were involved in the lawsuit.

The Jensen Agreement also speaks about an Olmstead Plan, and the need for a comprehensive abuse and neglect prevention plan to educate, report, and prevent the abuse of people with disabilities.

The objectives of this campaign focus on educating key audiences, including individuals with disabilities, and highlighting the individuality and value of all people.

- Nine in-depth interviews with experts in the field were conducted in May and June.
- Twenty-one videotaped interviews were completed.
- Two focus groups with 21 individuals were held in June, including 12 different agencies, advocacy groups, policy specialists, and support service providers.
- Campaigns from other states and around the world were reviewed and analyzed

They found that abuse and neglect can take many forms –

The ways that we interact with, minimize, and take control over people all contribute to reinforcing the belief that people with disabilities are helpless, and perpetuates their vulnerability.

Abuse and neglect are about people's relationships.

We are not seeing vulnerable adults as persons.

People with developmental disabilities are among the least powerful.

The main goal of the Prevention of Abuse Campaign is awareness.

Brian Herder said that we are dealing with a lack of awareness and understanding. We can build a platform that challenges the public's perception of adults with developmental disabilities, and substance abuse and mental health issues.

Prevention starts with education and changing perceptions.

Actively engaging adults with disabilities in all aspects of this campaign has been, overwhelmingly, a positive experience.

Messaging can be presented considering people's current knowledge and awareness.

People are valuable and deserve respect

People are not defined by their condition.

"Treat people like people."

Carol Russell and Brian Herder both talked about the campaign launch, what and how this could be done –

Have materials and statistics available on the website.

Statewide media outreach; include newspapers.

Have a lot of video.

Have posters and brochures available for dissemination.

Caregivers say this needs to be part of their training.

An introductory email to launch the campaign and help to spread awareness.

Direct service providers emphasized social media.

Advocating Change Together, Inc. couldn't participate in a videotape but self advocates responded to the following – "I wish people would see me as"

Press releases for distribution to the general public.

How this campaign happened is a story in itself; the process for designing and creating the campaign should be included

This could be a training video for support staff.

Very quick messaging – six second and 13 second versions.

Outreach will be monitored; evaluation would include reporting on metrics and social engagement. This is a foundation to be built upon.

Opheim noted that the Number One goal is the prevention of abuse and neglect. The OMHDD will need partners to help with roll out and financially support next steps. She added that her office has been very impressed with the work that Russell Herder has done.

Jillian Nelson said "amazing," adding that we need to consider talking about abuse outside of the service support system. There are other factors and it occurs more than in just formal settings.

McNellis-Kubat said that the campaign was funded by the OMHDD so the focus is on people with developmental disabilities and mental health issues. Whether the campaign will expand beyond that isn't known at this time. Jillian Nelson cautioned about sending a message that might convey that only people receiving services are vulnerable to abuse.

Opheim said that they will look at this as resources become available. We hope that people will see this as not intended solely about individuals in group homes or institutional settings.

Bartolic noted that this is a bigger issue than a single instance.

Berghorst said she would like a video for staff. We've talked about layers of education. If individuals grow up in an abusive environment, they may not recognize these issues for what they really are – not acceptable and not to be tolerated.

In response to Onyeneho's question about much farther would you want to go with this, Opheim said more videos about individuals, adding links to resources on a website, partnering with someone to focus on families. We had to begin somewhere, and this was our starting point.

Senator Hoffman extended appreciation to Russell Herder for their work on this campaign. This is a foundation and work that can be built upon going forward.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no separate Chair's report for this meeting.

V. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

A. Final Allocations for FFY 2020 and One-Time Distribution of Funds

Shervheim reported that the Committee made recommendations for final allocations for grant projects and activities and the one-time distribution of funds for FFY 2020. Members were reminded that the Conflict of Interest applies here also.

The Council's total allocation for FFY 2019 is \$1,025,890. The dollars available for grants, 71% of the total allocation, is \$728,382

The total dollars for the one-time distribution of funds is \$510,000.

Total grant funds including the one-time distribution is \$1,238,382

For each Goal, the dollars being recommended include the one-time additional funds and that dollar amount is specifically noted.

Motions were then brought for each allocation recommendation so that abstentions could be recorded.

MOTION: On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by McCourt that **\$270,000** be allocated for **Self Advocacy (one time addition of \$150,000)**. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

MOTION: On behalf of the Committee, Reed moved, seconded by Berghorst that **\$310,000** be allocated for **Leadership Development (Partners in Policymaking®) (one time addition of \$100,000)**. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes. Albeck, Bailey, Emmert, Martin, Jillian Nelson, Onyeneho, Scheller, Shervheim, and Smith abstained.

MOTION: On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Jillian Nelson that **\$100,000** be allocated for **Cultural Outreach (one time addition of \$50,000)**. Motion carried. There were no abstentions. McCourt dissented.

MOTION: On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Reed that **\$80,000** be allocated for **Employment**. Motion carried. There were no abstentions. McCourt dissented.

MOTION: On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Bailey, that **\$50,000** be allocated for **Training Conferences (one time addition of \$30,000)**. Motion carried. Reed abstained. McCourt dissented.

MOTION: On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Jillian Nelson that **\$278,382** be allocated for **Publications, Websites, and Online Learning (one time addition of \$100,000)**. Motion carried. There were no abstentions. McCourt dissented.

MOTION: On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Jillian Nelson that **\$100,000** be allocated for **Customer Research (one time addition of \$50,000)**. Motion carried. There were no abstentions. McCourt dissented.

MOTION: On behalf of the Committee, Shervheim moved, seconded by Jillian Nelson that **\$50,000** be allocated for **Quality Improvement (one time addition of \$30,000)**. Motion carried. There were no abstentions. McCourt dissented.

B. Reaffirm Five Year State Plan Goals for FFY 2020

Shervheim reported that, on an annual basis, the Committee reviews the Five Year State Plan Goals and reaffirms for the following year unless there are significant changes

There are no significant changes in any of the Goals for FFY 2020. He recommends that all State Plan Goals be reaffirmed for FFY 2020.

MOTION: Shervheim moved, seconded by Emmert to reaffirm the Council's Five Year State Plan Goals for FFY 2020. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

C. Results of Review and Evaluation of Proposals Received in Response to Two RFPs: Employment and Cultural Outreach

Shervheim reported on the results of the evaluation of proposals received in response to the Requests for Proposal for Employment of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Cultural Outreach in Racial/Ethnic Communities.

Members were reminded again about the Conflict of Interest Policy. For members who may have a conflict with the organization being recommended for funding, they should not sign the Conflict of Interest Form and must abstain from voting on that particular proposal.

MOTION: Shervheim moved on behalf of the Grant Review Committee to approve the proposal submitted by **Midwest Special Services** for **\$80,000** for "Employment of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities." Emmert seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

MOTION: Shervheim moved on behalf of the Grant Review Committee to approve the proposal submitted by **Somali Community Resettlement Services** for **\$50,000** for "Cultural Outreach in Racial/Ethnic Communities." Jillian Nelson seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

VI. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Kloos reported for the Committee. Russell Herder facilitated a discussion about special education and the experiences of parents in the schools, and the issues that most affect families on a larger level. One written statement that was submitted focused on funding perspectives, noting that if you take funding off the table, the underlying issues are still there.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Colleen Wieck provided the following updates and highlights from monthly reports:

- A. Both House and Senate Committees have taken action on the federal budget. The House is proposing a \$4 million funding increase for DD Councils.
- B. Notification about Council openings will come after October 1, 2019.
- C. A per diem is available to Council members who are public members and registered in the state's accounting system. State employees are not eligible to receive a per diem.
- D. Olmstead Subcabinet meetings were held in June and July. The 20th Anniversary of the Olmstead decision was on June 22, 2019.
- E. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act applies to state government. The state's policy was last released in 1999. Two years ago, a small group began meeting to update the policy. That work has now been completed. The new policy (MMB Policy #1358) will be sent out to Council members.
- F. The Ombudsman Office contracted with Russell Herder for the Prevention of Abuse Campaign that was presented for today's Council meeting program. They will be presenting their work to the Olmstead Subcabinet at their August meeting.
- G. User testing for the Bill of Rights Training Package will be done this fall.
- H. A disability committee has been formed as part of the Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. Each disability group represented asked questions about accessibility of the various forms that will be used.
- I. The Ambassadors for Respect Anti-Bullying Program received a State Government Innovations Award. The Awards presentation will be held on August 8, 2019 at the Minnesota History Center.

- J. The Department of Human Services has released a series of dashboards on how community-based services, including employment and income levels, are supporting people with disabilities and spending patterns.
- K. Grant recipients have been invited to the October Council meeting to review their progress and hear from participants about the benefits they've received.
- L. Ann Turnbull, former co-director of the Beach Center on Disability, will be here for our December Council meeting to speak about family support; a videotaped interview will be arranged following our Council meeting.

Senator Hoffman emphasized the importance of the 2020 Census and the many avenues being pursued to address concerns about undercounting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Hoffman asked that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck
Executive Director