



THE MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Council Meeting

12:15 pm –2:30 pm

The Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain
2025 East Riverway Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lee Shervheim, Council Chair
Jenny Arndt
Jason Blomquist
Dupree Edwards
Lisa Gemlo
Amy Hewitt
Lisa Jemtrud
Heather Kainz
Lesli Kerkhoff
Joel Liestman
Elizabeth Marsh
Katie McDermott
Alan Morrison
Michael Nichols
Garrett Petrie
Jennifer Purrington
Connie Rabideaux
Erin Schwab
Bonnie Jean Smith
Sumukha Terakanambi

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Abdi Matan
Chris McVey
Christine Mueller
Mary Raasch
Jenny Santema

GUESTS

Thryn Hare
Veronica Klenke
Robb Leer
Dan Reed
Marzia Saleem
Sanjay Terakanambi

STAFF PRESENT

Stephanie Nelson
Paul Nevin
Colleen Wieck

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lee Shervheim at 12:15 pm.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

All present introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Shervheim asked for approval of agenda. **Motion** by McDermott seconded by Morrison to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (December 3, 2023)

Shervheim requested the Minutes be approved from the December 3, 2023 meeting. **Motion** by McDermott seconded by Terakanambi to approve the Minutes. Motion carried.

V. UPDATE FROM HUMPHREY INTERNATIONAL FELLOW

Marzia Saleem, Humphrey International Fellow, presented a short summary of her visits with Minnesota agencies and subject matter experts. Saleem is a district manager from Pakistan who is one of 148 Humphrey International Fellows from 91 countries.

The Fellowship program includes an internship, community work, community exchange, and a cultural exchange. She is working with the Council to spend 210 hours learning about Minnesota services. In Pakistan the prevalence of disability is 6.2% with 71% unemployment rate. She has now visited with dozens of individuals and highlighted her visits with employment providers.

Marzia also showed important tourist locations in Pakistan including a gold mine, a salt mine, resorts, and mountains.

She highlighted her favorite projects including a vaccination clinic, reducing deaths due to Dengue, providing COVID resources to transgender individuals, and planting .7 million trees in 24 hours.

VI. MOBILE MUSEUM UPDATE

Robb Leer is a consultant under contract with the Council to lead the effort in arranging hosts for the traveling exhibit. Leer described the schedule, logistics, communication channels, and media coverage including WCCO and the Star Tribune.

A 15 poster-board exhibit chronicles our journey to increase the independence, productivity, self-determination, integration, and inclusion of all Minnesotans with developmental disabilities.

Our fall 2023 Mobile Museum Hosts Included:

3M

Land O' Lakes Inc.

US Bank (several locations)

Medtronic

Hormel Foods

Cargill

EisnerAmper

13 total venues = 10 of top 15 largest MN Corporations

Audience Reach = Tens of Thousands of exhibit visitors

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

US Bank promoted the exhibit visit and campaign messaging on all platforms.

Internal marketing expanded our campaign audience reach.

Making News-Star Tribune Article: "Exhibit shows progress in lives of Minnesotans with developmental disabilities."

The Governor's Council organized the exhibit with the goal of spreading awareness of a little-known history, said Colleen Wieck, the council's executive director. "It's another way to bring out the information, because we don't teach disability history or disability rights in school," Wieck said.

Excerpt from the Star Tribune Article

Equity Summit at River Centre St Paul-Colleen presented at the Summit.

News Story on WCCO

Exhibit Host Testimonials:

"I have heard back from many staff expressing their profound interest and appreciation for the exhibit. Your mobile museum enlightens us and has prompted important dialogue on many levels. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity to bring this to the city staff! "

~Tong Thao, City of Minneapolis DEI Coordinator

"Thank you, Governors Council, for the great event, it had a really positive response, and people said it was very informative and interesting! Land O' Lakes has an active Disability Awareness Employee Resource Group; they are already asking if we can do this again! "

~Shelley Murray, Land O Lakes DEI coordinator

Hosts booked in 2024:

Tonkawa

Nvent

Rise

The Arc MN

SEMCIL

Anoka County Historical Society

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Ninth District

Breaking News: Coming soon to Minnesota Schools!

Leer has now scheduled 8 schools in April, May, and June and school personnel are excited with hosting the traveling exhibit.

The Council applied for a grant to make a duplicate set of posters. Other suggestions included working with nonprofit groups such as MDA and expanding the exhibit to other marginalized communities. Robb requested that Council members think of other potential hosts and submit those ideas to him. Discussion centered around the absence of disability history and disability rights in K-12 school curriculum. Some members believed it was because of the negative history and people push back against bad news. No one wants to go down that road again. Suggestions were made on how to reach children through after school events or Girl Scouts.

VII.

GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Grant Review Committee makes the following recommendation.

- 1) The Autism Society of Minnesota requested \$2,000 for their Annual State Conference to be held on April 17-19, 2024. **Motion** by Nichols, seconded by Smith to fund The Autism Society of Minnesota for \$2,000.00. Motion carried. No abstentions.
- 2) The Education Law Advocacy Project requested \$2,000 for a virtual 4-week series on educational advocacy for students with disabilities. **Motion** by Smith, seconded by Terakanambi to fund the Southern MN Regional Legal Services for \$2,000.00. Motion carried. No abstentions.
- 3) Fraser requested funding for a remote 90-minute training session on cultural competency led by the Multicultural Autism Action Network (MAAN). **Motion** by Schwab, seconded by Smith to fund Fraser for \$1,635.00. Motion carried. Abstention by Terakanambi.
- 4) Great River Homes requested funding for an in-person training on career aptitude using The Real Colors. **Motion** by Rabideaux, seconded by McDermott to fund Great River Homes for \$1,015.00. Motion carried with one dissenting vote. No abstentions.
- 5) MNprov requested funding for 12 MNprov Mixers (improvisational theater) for neurodivergent individuals. **Motion** by Liestman, seconded by Nichols to fund MNprov for \$2,000.00. Motion carried. No abstentions.
- 6) *ShelettaMakesMeLaugh* requested funding to hold a job fair for adults with developmental disabilities. **Motion** by Gemlo, seconded by Blomquist to recommend funding Special Olympics Minnesota for \$1,000.00. All voted yes. Motion carried. No abstentions.
- 7) Special Olympics Minnesota requested \$2,000 for a Health Forum Conference. **Motion** by Kerkhoff, seconded by Morrison to fund Special Olympics Minnesota for \$2,000.00. Motion carried. No abstentions.
- 8) The Arc Minnesota requested funding for two Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination hybrid trainings (April-May 2024). **Motion** by Kainz, seconded by Smith to fund The Arc Minnesota for \$1,150.00. Motion carried. Abstentions –Arndt, Edwards, and McDermott.
- 9) Light in the Well requested funds to host creative writing sessions with Cow Tipping Press. **Motion** by Smith, seconded by Blomquist to fund Light in the Well \$1800.00. Motion carried. Abstention—McDermott.
- 10) MSS requested funds to host creative writing sessions with Cow Tipping Press. **Motion** by Nichols, seconded by Kainz to fund MSS \$1,800.00. Motion carried. Abstentions—McDermott and Shervheim.

- 11) Pillsbury United Communities requested funds to host creative writing sessions with Cow Tipping Press. **Motion** by Smith, seconded by Liestman to fund Pillsbury United Communities \$1,800.00. Motion carried. Abstention—McDermott.
- 12) Rise requested funds to host creative writing sessions with Cow Tipping Press. **Motion** by Edwards, seconded by Morrison to fund Rise \$1,800.00. Motion carried. Abstention—McDermott.

VIII. **PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Garrett Petrie and Sumukha Terakanambi described the presentations by Kevin Parker, Governor’s Office and Steve Schmidt and Sonja Peterson, Minnesota Disability Law Center. Kevin Parker, Governor’s Office, expressed his availability as a resource person. The discussion included employment, housing, direct support professionals, assistive technology, homelessness, and better wages and benefits.

Steve Schmidt and Sonja Peterson, Minnesota Disability Law Center, described their work, background about the ADA, the Minnesota Human Rights Act, and how to file complaints. MDLC won several cases including *Segal v. Metropolitan Council*, a case about busses passing him by without stopping 50 times a year. *J.H. v. University of Minnesota* the faculty must share presentation slides as an accommodation. *J.O v. Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education*, special education students are entitled to services until age 22.

IX. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Wieck described the US District Court outreach project that will be held on March 19, 2024. All members are invited to participate.

Because this is a special event, Council members are encouraged to attend and mileage and a per diem should be provided for public members.

Motion by Shervheim, seconded by McDermott to amend the Per Diem policy to support Council members to attend the March 19, 2024 event. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Dan Reed distributed popcorn from the newly opened Highland Popcorn.
- B. Jenn Purrington announced that interpreters are on strike.
- C. There are two disability days at the Capitol—March 19th and March 27th.
- D. March 8-9, 2024 is the Adaptive Hockey Games at Coon Rapids, MN.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

Shervheim adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck
Executive Director