

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

Wednesday, June 5, 2013  
12:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

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

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dan Reed, Chair  
Peg Booth  
Dawn Bly  
Jennifer Giesen  
Mary Hauff  
Loraine Jensen  
Steve Kuntz  
Lynne Megan  
Stevie K. Nelson  
Scott Price  
David Quilleash  
Mary Raasch  
Robbie Reedy  
Bonnie Jean Smith  
Michael Stern  
Joe Timmons  
Wendy Velzke  
Katheryn Ware

**STAFF PRESENT**

Colleen Wieck  
Mary Jo Nichols

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Shawn Holmes  
Tom Holtgrewe  
Matt Kramer  
Carolyn Perron  
Bryan Schmidt  
Louis Lenzmeier

**MEMBER ABSENT**

Melissa Winger

**GUESTS**

Minnesota State Senator John Hoffman  
Sue Anderson, staff support for Robby Reedy  
Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske, Department of  
Administration  
Robin Bly, St. Cloud State University student  
Katie McDermott  
Patrick Schwarz, Creative Culture Consulting  
Larry Smith  
Jayne Stenstad, staff support for Larry Smith  
Trinh Tran

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dan Reed, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Everyone present introduced him/herself.

**COUNCIL PROGRAM**

Patrick Schwarz is a leader in the field of inclusive education. He received his PhD. from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, is a professor at St. Louis University in Chicago, and has just published his fifth book. Following his presentation to the Council, a video presentation on this topic will be taped in a downstairs meeting room.

Schwarz said that one of his biggest honors is to be invited to Minnesota. He has presented here a number of years for the Partners in Policymaking® program and referred to the state as a “mecca” considering the resources available.

When he was preparing to be a teacher, Schwarz said that the Council's publications and other materials had a profound influence on his learning, and he specifically mentioned It's Never Too Early, It's Never Too Late. When he returned home to begin his teaching career, he carried with him the approaches that Lou Brown and Anne Donnellan had used.

Schwarz said that he has also met some wonderful people abroad as a result of his connections with the Council, including Wendy Buchanan in Ireland. That encounter led to his discovering that he has relatives in Ireland. He shared a story of meeting a cousin who then called all of the relatives, including a family member with Down Syndrome, for a memorable get together.

Schwarz believes that education is a social justice issue, grounded in fair treatment and dignity for all, where diversity is valued, segregation is abolished, and equity is supported.

Even though some national statistics about students with and without disabilities are “horrible,” there are approaches to education and teaching that are effective in making learning work for everyone (curriculum differentiation) and giving students choices in

how they learn so they can experience success in school (universal curriculum design). Curriculum differentiation is a way of structuring lesson plans for students based on their abilities. Universal curriculum design offers a framework for how information is presented and how students respond so they become engaged in the learning process.

Schwarz then talked about "integrated comprehensive services," a promising model, that historically was called inclusion and focuses on raising achievement levels. This is not one person's philosophy but is based on shared decision making in the educational environment, builds teacher capacity, and maximizes student learning.

Integrated comprehensive services addresses and responds to all of the common misconceptions about inclusive education, does away with the barriers that separate students with disabilities from their peers in a general education classroom, and fragmented schedules and instruction.

A copy of Schwarz's PowerPoint presentation is attached to the Minutes.

Everyone thanked Schwarz for his presentation. Reedy said, "We applaud you," and noted that he has been in so many school districts. In response, Schwarz said that getting the constituency to follow along is a challenge. The success of this approach depends on the leadership and constituency.

Reed called the business meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

## **STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND DISABILITY ISSUES**

Reed then invited Senator John Hoffman to give his perspective on his first year as a state legislator and the legislative session.

Senator Hoffman said that the legislature was able to arrive at a balanced budget for the first time in 12 years but also tried to fix 12 years of problems. Both the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services (DHS) were expecting good things but not everything passed. He does understand the concerns of parents.

Senator Hoffman was chief author of 53 bills including a data practices bill with new protections; including tribal social workers as licensed social workers; and addressing penalty provisions (asset limitations and spend downs) with the health care exchanges.

He also offered some tips and strategies for what the disability community needs to do or do differently. Being present and purposeful are important. Don't be hesitant about pulling legislators out of conference committees. Be quick and squeaky. Be targeted and pinpoint the issues. Know that you are up against a lot of paid lobbyists.

In response to Reedy's question about bringing up the COLA again, Senator Hoffman said that they wanted to and were trying to fix the COLA this year but it didn't happen.

Timmons wondered if Minnesota would ever consider a health care program like Medical Assistance, adding that the world isn't ready for a single payor system. Senator Hoffman said the Minnesota Health Plan cannot happen quickly enough.

Megan asked for ideas and suggestions on how to help more with the leadership. The disability community doesn't have the dollars to give out at caucus time so what can we do differently to be understood differently. In response, Senator Hoffman said it's important to know who's in those leadership positions. Senator Tony Lourey, for example, is a parent of a child with a disability and a tireless advocate.

Price asked what happened to the bill that would unionize child care providers and personal care assistants. Senator Hoffman said the bill would give providers the right to organize if they wanted to organize.

Reed thanked Senator Hoffman for the update and summary of this year's legislative session from his perspective.

### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Reed asked for approval of the Agenda.

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

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 3, 2013**

Reed asked for approval of the Minutes as written for April 3, 2013.

**MOTION:** Smith moved, seconded by Reedy to approve the Minutes as written for April 3, 2013. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

**V. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Reed said that he attended the Partners in Policymaking Class 30 graduation and that it was a phenomenally diverse event.

**VI. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Stern served as Acting Chair for today's meeting and reported out for the Committee.

Stern reported that the Committee reallocated \$ 1,735 in cosponsorship funds to Electronic Government Services. There were more cosponsorship funds available this year than were requested by applicants so these were unused dollars.

A supplier performance review was conducted with Kaposia for the employment project they are carrying out. The Discovery Process is being used to learn about an individual's interests, skills, and abilities; and identify three vocational themes. Stern said they have a long way to go.

Parent training sessions have talked about expectations for transition students regarding work and continuing education. Evaluation results were low for one group and that's a concern. There are challenges with school schedules that can interfere with the informational interviews with employers; these need to be incorporated into IEPs.

The Committee also reallocated \$ 45,000 that will not be used this next for the Outreach Program in the Latino community. A total of \$10,000 was reallocated to Self Advocacy, a total of \$15,000 to Electronic Government Services, and a total of \$20,000 to Partners in Policymaking®.

**VII. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Reed reported that Patrick Schwarz also presented to the Public Policy Committee on educating all students in the classroom. Reed emphasized that Schwarz is so realistic in speaking on this topic.

Quilleash added that Schwarz is a dynamic speaker and certainly kept his attention.

Reed also reported that Steve Larson provided an overview of legislative issues.

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

Wieck provided the following updates and highlights from monthly reports:

1. We expect a final allocation of \$979,505 for FFY 2013, a reduction of \$43,416 over the previous year. A final award letter has not yet been received;
2. The Rule 40 Advisory Committee recommendations are due on July 1, 2013. Some recommendations are included in the home and community based services standards in Section 245D, passed during the 2013 state legislative session;
3. The Olmstead Subcabinet is meeting monthly. Public input sessions on a draft Olmstead Plan will be held in St. Paul, Duluth, Rochester, and Moorhead. The Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) is also sponsoring an event but separate from these public input sessions.
4. According to an April 25, 2013 Court Order regarding the Jensen Settlement Agreement, the Court Monitor's Report was due June 5, 2013 with review and comments during the month of May and final comments due June 4, 2013. The deadline for comments was then extended to June 11, 2013. The Court Monitor's Report covers all parts of the Settlement Agreement and can be distributed.
5. The National Governor's Association (NGA) held two meetings of state policymakers in May regarding best practices and employing people with disabilities. The NGA Chair, Delaware Governor Markell, discussed Specialisterne. The Minnesota team will prepare a report and include their ideas on the issues.
6. Better Government for a Better Minnesota now as a newsletter; updates regarding Council projects are submitted on a regular basis.

7. The May "Moment in History" for the ADA Legacy Project features the Baby Doe film, *Who Should Survive*. The June "Moment in History" is devoted to right to education issues and includes video clips of Gunnar Dybwad who talks about the court's influence on education issues and the parent stories that led to lawsuits. In one instance, he is quoted as saying, "I know this story to be true because I was there."
8. Recruitment for Partners in Policymaking ® Class 31 is underway.
9. The video interview with Mike Mayer on positive behavioral supports has been posted on the Council website.
10. The Council staffed exhibits for three conferences – the Multicultural Forum on Workforce Diversity, Autism Society of Minnesota, and ARRM.
11. Lily Lampros chose the Pennhurst case for a "moment in history that changed history" as part of National History Day in Minnesota. Lily came to the April Partners weekend session and interviewed Judge Donovan Frank and Allan Bergman; she also interviewed Jim Conroy and David Ferleger. Lily did not win in the state competition.
12. An E-Trac system, a set of modules on employment developed by Midwest Special Services, was previewed.
13. The Wallace Group received a national Communicator Award for the DVD, "The Jobs Challenge for People with Disabilities."
14. Emergency planning materials were provided to the Lake Crystal Fire Department in the Mankato area for an autism safety day. The event was very successful and a very creative thank you was extended by the Assistant Fire Chief.
15. The Magistrate Judge Panel process was completed.
16. Former Congressman Tony Coelho's story is featured in the "Telling Your Story" app. Coelho saw the app and extended his appreciation to the Council. He also talked about his ministry, helping youth with epilepsy, and emphasized how important it is that young people believe in themselves.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Reed asked that the meeting be adjourned.

**MOTION:** Stern moved, seconded by Raasch to adjourn the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck  
Executive Director