

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

Wednesday, October 2, 2019  
9:30 a.m. to 2:00 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  
Mary Martin  
Noah McCourt  
Jillian Nelson  
Stacey Nelson  
Kate Onyeneho  
Dan Reed  
Reid Scheller  
Lee Shervheim  
Bonnie Jean Smith

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Hanna Barr  
Alex Bartolic  
Eric Kloos  
Jim Lovold  
Randy Miller  
Jacki Rightler  
Heather Tidd

**MEMBER ABSENT**

Alan Wilensky

**GUESTS**

**STAFF PRESENT**

Colleen Wieck  
Mary Jo Nichols

Advocating Change Together, Inc.  
Cynthia Gayles  
Mary Kay Kennedy  
Kaposia, Inc.  
Jon Alexander  
Gwyn Armour  
Liz Gronert  
Tim Rummell  
Mastcom  
Brian Anderson  
MH Consulting Group  
Mary Harreld

**GUESTS**, cont'd.

The Odyssey Group  
Dupree Edwards  
Brenton Rice  
Garret Zayic  
PeaceMaker Minnesota  
Dan McNeil  
Merrick, Inc.  
Donnally Moua and Maria Raasch  
Next Step Transition Program  
Davie Conrad, Heather Kosec, and  
Cassie Welk  
Sounds Powerful Productions  
Katharine DeCelle  
  
Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske, Department of  
Administration  
Alise Holmes, Department of Health  
Richard Martin  
Leanne Negley, Support Person  
Stephanie Nelson, Southside Services  
David Quilleash  
Valeri Smirnov, Southside Services  
Jahna Sundquist, Southside Services

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Senator John Hoffman, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Everyone present introduced him/herself.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Senator Hoffman asked for approval of the Agenda.

**MOTION:** McCourt moved, seconded by Jillian Nelson, that the Agenda be approved. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR AUGUST 7, 2019**

Senator Hoffman asked for approval of the Minutes as written for August 7, 2019.

**MOTION:** McCourt moved, seconded by Jillian Nelson, that the Minutes for August 7, 2019 be approved as written. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

**V. CURRENT GRANT RECIPIENTS – OVERVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF THEIR GRANTS**

Colleen Wieck provided an introduction. Invitations were extended to each of the Council's grant recipients to present highlights and accomplishments of their respective projects during this past year, and to include a self advocate to share their personal experiences and the benefits of participating in these Council funded projects.

Each presentation began with the Goal for that particular grant project.

**A. Employment**

**Goal:** Increase opportunities and the supports needed by individuals with developmental disabilities to be employed in integrated settings at or above minimum wage and benefits by:

1. Educating and building the capacity of employers, and implementing employer incentives that contribute to workforce development.
2. Providing individualized, person centered supports that may include technology and are necessary for a broad range of employment options including competitive, customized, or self-employment.
3. Increasing and improving access to inclusive postsecondary education and other career focused training opportunities.
4. Raising the expectations of individuals and families about the importance of having work experiences prior to and during high school (transition years) and increasing their involvement by using and building their relationships and personal networks to reach

public and private sector employers, and identify job experiences in the community.

5. Increasing long term sustained employment for adults with job opportunities and careers.

Jon Alexander, Kaposia, Inc. provided an overview for the past project year. Ten adults were employed in jobs of their choice using the discovery process; all have continued employment, and are paid minimum wage or higher. Twelve students received employment services; six were employed during the school year and four are participating in informational interviews. Two students also completed post secondary education classes.

Technical assistance related to meaningful employment opportunities and career planning was provided to Next Step and South Education Center transition programs.

Kaposia worked on the MOU between the Department of Human Services and Vocational Rehabilitation Services to assure that needed customer driven services are available.

In followup to the previous project year, nine of the individuals have maintained employment and 11 individuals have increased their wages and/or the number of hours worked.

Liz Gronert and Gwynn Armour, employment specialists, described the discovery process that includes informational interviews. Tim Rummel has benefitted from the services he's received from Kaposia and talked about his experience in finding a job.

Tim had been receiving services in day programs but he wanted to earn more money. He and Armour worked together for eight months. He got his first real job at Cub Foods, a good fit at the time, but he wanted to work in a more family friendly environment. He's now working at Pottery Barn Kids and receiving support from co-workers. He said that working has improved his life skills.

Jillian Nelson commented that the discovery process is more like a "getting to know you" process.

**B. Self Advocacy/SAM Network**

Wieck introduced Mary Kay Kennedy, Advocating Change Together, Inc. (ACT, Inc). ACT provides administrative support to SAM, the statewide self advocacy network that is led by individuals with developmental disabilities. The Council funds the Central and Northwest Regions, two of the six SAM regions in the state.

All Councils must fund self advocacy; the specific language is included in the DD Act and restated as a goal in the Council's Five Year State Plan -

**Goal:** Develop a statewide network of well trained and informed self-advocates by fulfilling the federal Developmental Disabilities Act requirements –

1. Establish or strengthen a program for the direct funding of a state self advocacy organization, led by individuals with developmental disabilities;
2. Support opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who are considered leaders to provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders;
3. Support and expand participation of individuals with developmental disabilities in cross disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions; and assisting in identifying alternative/other funding opportunities.

Cynthia Gayles is a self advocate whom ACT met through Ally People Solutions. Gayles participated in an Olmstead Academy and learned a lot about personal advocacy as a result of her experience. She's very active in the community, facilitates personal networks, and works in community gardens. She was also successful in getting tickets for riverboat cruises on the Jonathan Padelford.

Gayles also referenced the Disability Equality Training Series (DETS), a major focus of ACT's education and training activities that includes 12 training sessions on three major topics.

Kennedy noted that 172 self advocates completed DETS or participated in the Olmstead Academy last year. With the additional funds that ACT will have for this next project year, four more teams will be able to participate in the Olmstead Academy, and 10 more DETS will be offered in the Central and Northwest SAM Regions.

A PowerPoint with images of many of ACT's leadership activities is attached to the Minutes.

### **C. Leadership Development**

**Goal:** Support and promote the development of leadership skills for families of children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities as advocates, spokespersons, and members of the larger disability rights movement.

Educate people about rights, self-determination, engagement in public policy advocacy, and learning best practices in the areas of education, technology, housing, employment, and other aspects of community participation.

Provide face to face training, online learning, blended learning, and graduate workshops as a means of reaching people and strengthening personal leadership skills.

Brenton Rice, The Odyssey Group, coordinates the Partners in Policymaking® classroom program, designed to teach leadership skills, developing positive partnerships with elected officials, best practices on specific topics, community engagement, and networking; and graduate workshops. Eight weekend sessions, a total of 128 hours of direct training, plus homework assignments make up the classroom program. Local and national speakers with expertise in their respective fields serve as presenters. Evaluation data are collected for each session and each speaker, and pre- and post- evaluations are conducted to measure the federal outcomes of Independence, Productivity, Self Determination, Integration and Inclusion (IPSII).

The current class of Partners, Class 37, includes self advocates and parents from the Twin Cities metro area and Greater Minnesota, an almost even split, including individuals from racial/ethnic communities.

Dupree Edwards and Garret Zayic, Class 36 Partners graduates, shared their experiences with the program and the benefits they received –

Edwards said that Partners is about how to change people's lives. Without Partners, he wouldn't know about housing, transportation, and other services. Parents learn about their children and the services that will benefit them, and self advocates learn about how to advocate for public policies. He added that Partners was the greatest experience he's had.

Zayic echoed Edwards comments as one of the greatest education experiences he's ever had - usable and concrete. Writing letters, meeting with county commissioners, learning about policy issues, specifically around restraints and seclusion; learning from self advocates and what he should know as a parent to help his son – this all opened his eyes and helped him to be a better ally

Edwards is naturally talented in rap music and performed a piece for the Council.

Jillian Nelson added that she is here today because of Partners. She did not want to apply but "my mother made me do it." She found that her Partners experience was the first place where her disability didn't matter. If she hadn't taken that first step, she wouldn't be where she is now.

Bailey said that Partners was the best thing she has ever done. She was "so scared before" but "Partners helped me learn I do have a voice."

Smith told her story as a single parent, how she was influenced by what she learned, and how that changed how she raised her children to support them and encourage them be their own persons.

#### **D. Training Conferences**

**Goal:** Provide ongoing education and training that reflect and address the outcomes (independence, productivity, self-determination, integration and inclusion) as found in the Developmental Disabilities Act into programs and supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families. These conferences will lead to greater networking and partnering with others across the state through a variety of delivery modes.

Katharine DeCelle, Sounds Powerful Productions, director of a Frogtown community radio program, offered a "Hear I Am" podcast training course for self advocates. The training course, held in a studio with professional audio equipment, serves as a platform for self expression, and teaches interviewing and broadcasting skills.

DeCelle's PowerPoint presentation is attached to the Minutes.

**E. Self Advocacy/Ambassadors for Respect**

The Ambassadors for Respect Anti-Bullying Program is an objective under the Self Advocacy goal about individuals with developmental disabilities providing leadership training.

Dan McNeil, Peacemaker Minnesota, summarized the results of the first year of replicating the Ambassadors for Respect Anti-bullying program using the Ambassadors for Respect Handbook. A total of 25 Ambassadors, transition students from Transition Plus in Minneapolis and The Next Step Transition Program in North St. Paul, and self advocates at Merrick, Inc. led 24 training sessions for 991 fourth grade elementary school students.

The Ambassadors have personally experienced bullying. Their stories were helpful in helping students to know that they can develop the skills to confront and address bullying issues. Some of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students also recognized the Ambassadors outside the school environment in community settings.

Maria Raasch, an Ambassador at Merrick, said that learning how to become an Ambassador and having the opportunity to lead training sessions helped her "come out of my shell."

Donnally Moua, Self Advocacy Facilitator at Merrick, noted that students identified others who have been bullied and recognized that even teasing is not OK.

Michelle Albeck asked about expanding the program to other schools. Additional funding will make this possible during the next project year.

Jillian Nelson said that a side benefit to the program is helping others to realize the impact of the training and letting it take off from there.



**F. Publications, Websites, Online Learning**

**Goal:** Provide information, education, and training that increases knowledge, skills and abilities of end users through a broad range of multiple media formats by:

1. Promoting accurate historical archiving of resource materials:
2. Investigating and using the latest technological advancements in communications that may include social networking:
3. Showcasing the positive roles and contributions of people with developmental disabilities; and
4. Increasing marketing efforts to ensure wide dissemination of Council products.

Brian Anderson, Mastcom, presented a summary of some of the additions made to the Council and Partners website this past year, including features, grant activity updates such as the Partners weekend training sessions with photos, and new resources and links to both historical archives – *With An Eye to the Past* and *With an Eye to the Future*. Website visits, page views and download data were also highlighted.

Anderson's PowerPoint presentation is attached to the Minutes.

**G. Quality Improvement**

**Goal:** Identify and implement an approach that promotes continuous quality improvement and apply the principles to all Council work.

Mary Harreld, MH Consulting Group, addressed the areas that have comprised the majority of her work during the past year – the Bill of Rights (BoR) Training Package, and verification of supplier results including the external surveys for the Partners program and replication of the Ambassadors for Respect Program. User testing for the BoR Training Package is scheduled for later October and November.

Harreld's PowerPoint presentation is attached to the Minutes.

## **VI     BUSINESS MEETING**

Bailey called the Business Meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

### **A.     Annual Work Plan**

Wieck presented the FFY 2020 Work Plan. The Work Plan is prepared according to the Baldrige Framework and the seven sections are organized around the Baldrige Criteria. Wieck described each of the seven sections, and the Council's role and responsibilities under each section for FFY 2020.

Bailey asked for a motion to approve the FFY 2020 Work Plan.

**MOTION:** Jillian Nelson moved, second by Reed to approve the FFY 2020 Work Plan. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

### **B.     Administrative Spending Plan**

Colleen Wieck presented the Administrative Spending Plan for both state funds in the amount of \$74,000 for the SFY and federal funds for the FFY.

Thirty percent of the total federal allocation of \$1,054,308 is for operating expenses that are covered under the Administrative Spending Plan. The remaining 70% are for grant projects. With one exception, those decisions were made at the August meeting.

Wieck noted that, two weeks ago, we received notice from the Administration for Community Living about additional funds, in the amount of \$28,418 due to a reallocation of funds originally awarded to Puerto Rico. Because of the timing of the notice and our need to designate those dollars to a particular goal area by September 30, 2019, the 70% portion of those dollars (\$20,177) was added to the Publications, Websites, and Online Training goal. The Grant Review Committee will make a final decision about how to allocate those funds at the December meeting.

The \$74,000 in state funds pays some of our monthly or fixed operating expenses and make up a portion of the match required for our federal funds.

Bailey asked for a motion to approve the Administrative Spending Plan for FFY 2020.

**MOTION:** Jillian Nelson moved, seconded by McCourt to approve the Administrative Spending Plan for FFY 2020. Motion carried; there no dissenting votes.

C. Executive Director's Report

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

1. As noted, the Grant Review Committee will decide how to allocate the additional funds from Puerto Rico at the December meeting.
2. All dollars were encumbered and contracts fully executed, and funds that had to be liquidated were liquidated by September 30, 2019.
3. We received a compliment from the Department of Natural Resources about the Ambassadors for Respect Program following the State Government Innovations Award event –

“I think I have watched your teams...video about 6 times now and I just want to say how humbled I am to be recognized for an award ...in the same pool as your team's work. You all did such amazing work for such an important need that often doesn't get enough attention!”

4. Work has begun on the Program Performance Report for FFY 2019; a total of 245 pages have been completed to date.
5. The Olmstead Subcabinet met in September and has reviewed the Agreement related to the Prevention of Abuse Campaign.
6. A Disability Work Group has been created as a subgroup of the Census 2020 Compete Count Committee. A representative from each disability group is included. Their first meeting was held on September 27, 2019.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Bailey asked that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck  
Executive Director