

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.
Full Council Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2023

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Members Present: Kevin Johnson, Chair, Conney Dahn, Sarah Goldman, Elly Hagen, Eddie Hall, Yolanda Herrera, Jack Kosik, Lisa Miller, Elizabeth Perkins, Tom Rice, Frank Shalett, Jean Sherman, and Peter Sleasman

Members Absent: Laurie Harlow, Dennis Hart, TJ Moon, Kali Wilson, and Victoria Zepp

Staff Present: Valerie Breen, Christina DeMeo, Sheila Gritz-Swift, Margaret Hooper, Vanda Jenkins, Sue Kabot, Jan Pearce, Lisa Taylor, and Kristin Vandagriff

Others Present: Amy Bounds, Jennifer Duggar, Joaquin Femoselle, Kira Houge, Catherine McGrath, Angela Roland, and Johana Valdivieso

The committee meetings began on Thursday, January 26th from 9:00 am – 12:56 pm. The full council meeting also started on Thursday, January 26th from 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm and continued through Friday, January 27th from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm.

I. Roll call was taken by Jenkins and quorum was established. Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

II. Approval of September Minutes

Action Taken: Sherman made a motion to accept the September 22, 2022 minutes. Herrera seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Chair/Vice-Chair Report

Johnson included in his presentation the information regarding the reorganization of the Council, an update on Council recruiting, and his perspective as a provider.

Hall included in his presentation an update on his participation in the Peacemaker Paddle fundraiser in September 2022.

IV. Executive Director Report

Breen began her report by sharing the accomplishments of the FDDC and the vision for the future. She continued her presentation with a follow up to her September presentation on navigating the healthcare system.

V. Year 3 & 4 State Plan Discussion

Gritz-Swift and Kabot presented the status of the current projects of the state plan and the planned activities of year 3 and 4 related to Goals 1 and 2.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 pm.

Friday, January 27, 2023

Members Present: Kevin Johnson, Chair, Conney Dahn, Sarah Goldman, Elly Hagen, Eddie Hall, Yolanda Herrera, Jack Kosik, Lisa Miller, Elizabeth Perkins, Tom Rice, Frank Shalett, Jean Sherman, and Peter Sleasman

Members Absent: Laurie Harlow, Dennis Hart, Kira Houge, TJ Moon, Kali Wilson, and Victoria Zepp

Staff Present: Valerie Breen, Christina DeMeo, Sheila Gritz-Swift, Margaret Hooper, Vanda Jenkins, Sue Kabot, Jan Pearce, Lisa Taylor, and Kristin Vandagriff

Others Present: Amy Bounds, Jennifer Duggar, Joaquin Fermoselle, Gina Herron, Catherine McGrath, Angela Roland, and Johana Valdivieso

The Council meeting continued, roll call was taken, and quorum established.

I. Roll call was taken by Jenkins and quorum was established. Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

II. State and Sister Agency Reports

Reports were provided by Gina Herron and Tom Rice, Agency for Persons with Disabilities; Catherine McGrath, Agency for Healthcare Administration; Johana Valdivieso, Vocational Rehabilitation; Jennifer Duggar and Angela Roland, Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services; Amy Bounds, Department of Health, Children's Medical Services; Jean Sherman, Mailman Center; Elizabeth Perkins, Florida Center for Inclusive Communities; and Peter Sleasman, Disability Rights Florida.

III. Public Policy Committee Report

Refer to attached Public Policy Committee Summary Report presented by committee Chair, Sarah Goldman.

Action Taken: Herrera made a motion to accept the Public Policy Committee Report as presented. Kosik seconded. Motion passed. Rice abstained.

IV. State Plan Committee Report

Refer to attached State Plan Committee Summary Report presented by committee Chair, Jean Sherman.

Action Taken: Miller made a motion to accept the State Plan Committee Report as presented. Herrera seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Finance Committee Report

Refer to attached Finance Committee Summary Report presented by Jack Kosik.

Action Taken: Kosik made a motion to accept the Finance Committee Report as presented. Perkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Executive Committee Report

Refer to attached Executive Committee Summary Report presented by committee Chair, Kevin Johnson.

Action Taken: Hall made a motion to accept the Executive Committee Report as presented. Goldman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Post-Secondary Outcomes

Terry Daly, PhD at the University of Central Florida Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (UCF-CARD) presented on the outcomes from the Council's funded project "Improving Postsecondary Outcomes-Targeted Disparity."

VIII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 pm.

Public Policy Committee Report

January 26, 2023

Tallahassee, FL

The Public Policy Committee met this morning, and we discussed updates on the Councils Legislative Platform which includes the **Invest in Home and Community Based Services for those with I/DD priority** which is underway. Margaret is introducing herself to new lawmakers and educating them on the value of HCBS and the improvements that are recommended for the iBudget Waiver. We discussed the other legislative issues of **Supported Decision Making, Dental Services, the Waitlist Campaign and Foster Care Recommendations.**

Decision items that were considered by the Public Policy Committee included the following proposed legislation,

1) Consideration of HB 19 by Tant

This bill requires IEPs for certain students to contain information on legal rights and responsibilities that transfer to students at age 18 and requires information to include ways in which students may provide informed consent to allow his or her parent to continue to participate in educational decisions as well as types of guardianship available. **The Committee voted to support this bill.**

2) Consideration of HB 61 by Harris

This bill called Medicaid Expansion through a Medicaid Buy-in Program, requires AHCA to establish and implement a Medicaid buy-in program for certain individuals with disabilities. The bill provides requirements for a program and requires the agency to seek federal waiver approval or submit any state plan amendments necessary to implement a program and finally requires the agency to implement a program upon receiving federal approval. **The Committee voted to support this bill.**

Consideration of *recently* filed bills

3) HB 223 Public School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities by Bartleman

SB 290 Public School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities by Jones

These companion bills would require comprehensive plans for student progression to provide for specified students with disabilities to be retained in prekindergarten. The bill requires DOE to establish criteria for such students to be retained and revises requirements for students with disabilities to receive good cause exemption from mandatory retention in grade 3. **The Committee voted to support these bills.**

4) HB 255 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders by [Barnaby](#)

SB 228 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders by Berman

These bills would revise the definition of the term “developmental disability” to include fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and defines the term “fetal alcohol spectrum disorders”. The effective date would be next year, 7/1/2024. **The Committee is neutral on this bill but it will be tracked.**

Hybrid Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day is scheduled for March 14, 2023!



Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.
State Plan Committee Meeting Report
January 26, 2023

I. Approval of minutes from September 22, 2022 Meeting

The minutes from the September 22, 2022 meeting were approved with one change: Yolanda Herrera was added as a Council member present.

II. Approval of minutes from December 6, 2022 Meeting

The minutes from the December 6, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

III. Update on IFPs/Sole Source Status

Valerie Breen provided a brief update on the status of IFPs/Sole Source contracts and agreements. She shared that all proposed contracts and agreements have now been executed and work is underway.

IV. Approval of Program Budget with modifications

The 5-year state plan budget approved in 2021 was shared with adjustments made since those reported at our September meeting.

Adjustments for differentials between the amount budgeted and actual expenditures were made to the Access to Services goal; Home-and Community-Based Delivery Systems goal; Self-Advocacy Leadership goal; Advocacy/Communications line item for public policy, communications, and state plan goal related initiatives; and Other line item for task force travel/miscellaneous.

No adjustments were made for the Aging Caregivers goal.

Adjustments were made to the Broad Systems Change/Emerging Needs goal to increase funding for the National Project SEARCH Research Project contract in the amount of \$17,508 to extend work from June 2023 to September 2023, and for continuing the Postsecondary Models project in the amount of \$125,000 for a fifth year.

V. Task Force Updates

A handout titled State Plan Projects was shared that provides detailed information on the current status of all of the Council's State Plan projects, including a tri-annual update for this meeting. This document has been shared with all Council members. Supplemental materials also included draft minutes from the January 11 Aging Caregivers Task Force meeting and September 14 Broad Systems Change Task Force meeting.

Each Director, Programs and Contracts, briefed State Plan Committee members on the projects that fall under their Task Forces and highlighted one or two of those projects by providing more detailed information on their current status. Council members chose one project update from the collaborative Task Force presentation to be shared with the full Council. The Florida Project SEARCH Adult Model was selected, and we will hear from Jan Pearce shortly as a part of this report.

VI. Approval of New Project

The State Plan Committee approved a new project for research that will span over two years and assist in understanding the perspective of families and bridging the gap between the aging and developmental disability networks. The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) houses the Research and Training Center on Developmental Disabilities and Health across the Lifespan with a major research focus on aging and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Dr. Tamar Heller is a professor and head of the Department of Disability and Human Development at UIC and Director of the Illinois' University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Dr. Heller is nationally known for her research in aging and developmental disabilities and will serve as the principal investigator for this initiative.

VII. Florida Project SEARCH Adult Model Presentation


Jan will now share the Florida Project SEARCH Adult Model presentation segment from our State Plan Committee meeting yesterday.

Florida Project SEARCH Adult Model

The original contract term (after amendments) was from September 30, 2020 to September 30, 2022.

Highlights:

- Four Florida Project SEARCH Adult Model sites were operational.
- 28 interns completed the program.
- 12 individuals were employed at the conclusion of the project year.
- The remaining interns were continuing their efforts to locate employment at the end of this project year.




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Florida Project SEARCH Adult Model (cont.)

Additional accomplishments for the 2020-2022 project term include:

- 21 sites were trained in the Project SEARCH model.
- VR provided the opportunity for the employment of interns to become vendors for "Other Goods and Services" that allowed VR to help fund items not covered by FDDC.
- An 11-member Emergency Workgroup/Advisory Committee and a Sustainability Workgroup met to provide guidance and support to the project.



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Florida Project SEARCH Adult Model (cont.)

Current contract began September 30, 2022, and will run through September 29, 2023.

Highlights:

- Four sites began operation in January 2023.
- This includes two original sites – Zoo Tampa and Beck Automotiva.
- Two new sites were added – Springhill Court and HCA Florida Paradise Hospital.
- 35 interns have been selected.
- The current contract provided funds for additional technical assistance.




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Florida Project SEARCH Adult Model (cont.)

Primary challenges encountered this project year to date:

- **Item Selection**
 - Lack of referrals from Adult Day Training Programs
 - Lack of referrals for the targeted age range
- **Sustainability Plan**



FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL, INC.

Finance Committee Report

January 26, 2023

Action Items:

1. Approved minutes from the 9/22/22 Finance Committee meeting.
2. Approved Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending 9/30/22. FDDC is required to have an annual audit by Independent Certified Public Accountants in accordance with our grant award agreement. We received an Unmodified Opinion which is a 'clean audit' and the highest opinion that can be achieved.

Review/Discussion:

1. Reviewed the Administrative Expenditures Budget to Actual Report for 10/01/22 through 11/30/22. Line items were highlighted with details and the overall administrative spending is in line with the budget with anticipated unspent funds.
2. Reviewed Programmatic Reserve. Programmatic Reserve is initially funded at an amount equal to 1.5% of our grant award. Programmatic Reserve is also made up of unspent funds from Administration, Advocacy & Communication, contracts, and projects. Our current policy allows for these funds to be used, with approval, to enhance contract amounts, or other funding needs, or address emerging needs. The total estimated programmatic reserve funds available as of 1/08/23 is \$726,780. These funds must be spent by 9/30/23. Staff are working to procure and spend the funds.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
Thursday January 26, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m. and quorum was established.

The committee unanimously approved the November 15, 2023, minutes. The minutes from the applicant interviews conducted on Wednesday January 25, 2023, were also approved. Two applicants were approved to move forward to the Governor's office for consideration for appointment. Chair Johnson asked that since the local non-government agency seat remains open, Council members think of recommendations to move forward to the Executive Committee for consideration. Johnson also reported that the current Council application on the website will be re-designed to obtain more comprehensive information about those who apply. In the meantime a simple form will be on the site to obtain contact information from interested parties.

Breen provided an update on her meeting with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to secure the 25% in-kind state match required to secure the Council's federal funding. She reported that the meeting was held to clarify which APD budget line items could be utilized to secure the match if the agency could no longer use their room and board appropriation as currently committed in our cooperative agreement, which ends June 30, 2023. Breen reported it was a positive meeting and that a cooperative agreement would be renewed for the in-kind match in the amount of \$2.5 million once the legislative session is concluded.

Johnson provided an update on the re-organization for FDDC which created two new positions. He reported that Sue Kabot was hired to fill the position of Chief of Programs and Research. He reported that the Chief of Operations position would be hired after Breen returns from medical leave. He reported that Vanda Jenkins, Executive Assistant resigned from her position and will be leaving February 2, 2023. Sue Kabot will serve as Interim Executive Director during Breen's medical leave which will be February through April 2023.

There was no one in attendance from the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.