

FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL, INC.
FULL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
May 18-19, 2023

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Members Present: Kevin Johnson, Chair, Conney Dahn, Sarah Goldman, Elly Hagen, Eddie Hall, Laurie Harlow, Dr. Dennis Hart, Yolanda Herrera, Lisa Miller, TJ Moon, Frank Shalett, Dr. Jean Sherman, Peter Sleasman, Kali Wilson

Members Absent: Jack Kosik, Victoria Zepp

Staff Present: Susan Kabot (serving as Interim Executive Director), Sheila Gritz-Swift, Margaret Hooper, Jamie Mayersohn, Jan Pearce, Lisa Taylor, Kristin Vandagriff

Agency Representatives Present but Not Appointed: Dr. Beth Boone, Marcy Hajdukiewicz (for Andrea Gary), Catherine McGrath, Kim Quinn (for Taylor Hatch), Johana Valdivieso, Mirna Diaz

Others Absent: Jennifer Duggar, Kira Houge

Guests: Sheila Mohler, Valerie Whitaker (FDDC provider)

I. Call to Order

Pearce conducted roll call and quorum was established. Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

II. Approval of the Minutes

Action Taken: Hall made a motion to accept the January 26-27, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Sleasman seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Chair/Vice Chair Reports

Johnson shared an update on Executive Director Breen's health. He thanked staff for taking on additional responsibilities over the past few months. He also thanked the Council members for their support of the staff. He shared his participation in the NACDD's ITACC's Pathways to Inclusion: Engaging People in Expanding Access Across the Lifespan. His major takeaway was that we could do a better job of supporting our members with I/DD to participate more fully in the work of the council. He also spoke about the challenges providers face with limited rate increases in the budget and the end of pandemic funding. Johnson also shared that the FDDC's

public relations firm would like Council members to be active on their social media to promote Council postings.

Hall also thanked the staff and Council members for their support over the past few months. He also spoke of the importance of self-advocates sharing their voices and their stories. He emphasized that this is a way to empower people to be active in their communities.

IV. Executive Director Report

Kabot reported that Breen's projected return date is July 10, 2023. Kabot explained Valerie Whitaker's attendance at the meeting. Kabot explained that Whitaker is contracted with the FDDC for the COVID and Public Health Workforce funds. Kabot stated that Whitaker supports the Paramedicine Project. Kabot reported that she is revising job duties within the Tallahassee office, and to look for two positions to be posted for the administrative side.

Kabot stated that since the pandemic, the Tallahassee office is much larger than needed since four staff are working remotely. The leasing agent is trying to rent out either $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ of the space.

FDDC explored applying for some Hurricane Ian funding that ACL had available, but decided not to apply for that money since we don't provide direct service. We were not selected for a supported decision-making Project of National Significance. We did have a presentation chosen for the July 2023 NACDD conference in Orlando in July.

Sarah Goldman, Kevin Johnson, Sue Kabot, and Margaret Hooper attended the Disability Policy Seminar.

She also thanked Tom Rice, who was not in attendance, for his support to the FDDC and wished him luck in his move to Ohio. A gift was presented to him that will be given to him by Kim Quinn from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

V. DD Day Presentation

A video created by FDDC's public relations consulting firm, RB Oppenheim and Associates, Inc. was shared. It highlighted the March 2023 Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day event. The video included stories shared by Dennis Hart, Kali Wilson, and Sarah Goldman and included pictures of the dinner, Idelio Valdes award presentation, breakfast, and visits to legislators. There were 65 legislative meetings reported, and 2,000 views of the DD Day pages on the website. The suggestion was made to break apart each of the stories so they would be available separately.

VI. Legislative Session Outcomes

Goldman thanked everyone who participated in DD Day 2023. The FDDC 2023 legislative priorities were shared and included (1) Invest in Home- and Community-Based Services, (2) Supported Decision-Making, (3) Foster Care Recommendations, (4) Dental Services, and (5) Waitlist Initiatives. For the Home- and Community-Based Services, \$80 million was appropriated to transition individuals off the iBudget waitlist, \$5,980,368 for an increase in rates for support coordinators of \$10.00 per hour, and funds placed in reserve for AHCA to support individuals in ICFs if needed.

Goldman reported on Bills that passed this legislative session. They included:

- HB 019 Informed Consent

- SB 290 Public School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities

- HB 391 Home Health Aides for Medically Fragile Children

- SB 226 Support for Dependent Adult Children

- HB 1275 Persons with Disabilities Registry

- HB 1277 Public Records Persons with Disabilities

- HB 1517 Services for Persons with Disabilities

Goldman reported on bills that did not pass:

- SB 156 Student Elopement

- HB61 Medicaid Expansion through a Medicaid Buy-In Program

- SB 228 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Hooper shared relevant portions of two bills that passed as well as the most recent FDDC Capital Update. SB 1084 is the managed care bill, noting that a pilot project focusing on Miami-Dade was expanded to include the Florida Keys and Hillsborough, Highland, and Polk Counties. Federal approval will need to be requested by September 1, 2023. Individuals served must be 18+ and in APD categories 3-6. HB 1531 became a part of HB1517. FDDC was denoted as a stakeholder group in the final version along with ARC of Florida.

Discussion: Council members expressed the need to monitor the managed care project and requested information about managed care programs in other states. An external evaluator is required in the bill.

A discussion ensued regarding priorities for consideration for 2024. Hooper reported that this usually takes place during the September Council meeting. Support coordination rate increases may be necessary if the \$10 hourly rate increase does not increase the supply. An examination of the effects of the winding down of the COVID funds on providers will also take place. Severe cuts in waiver services was noted by Sherman and supported by others in attendance. The need

for training behavior therapists in challenging behavior is also an issue that has developed out of the FDDC project in this area.

VII. Public Input/Meeting Adjourned:

There was no input from the public. Johnson reminded the Council members that the next meeting is September 21-22, 2023, at the Florida Hotel, Orlando.

Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:01 pm.

Friday, May 19, 2023

Members Present: Kevin Johnson, Chair, Sarah Goldman, Elly Hagen, Eddie Hall, Laurie Harlow, Dr. Dennis Hart, Yolanda Herrera, Lisa Miller, TJ Moon, Frank Shalett, Dr. Jean Sherman, Peter Sleasman, Kali Wilson

Members Absent: Conney Dahn, Jack Kosik, Victoria Zepp

Staff Present: Sheila Gritz-Swift, Margaret Hooper, Susan Kabot, Jamie Mayersohn, Jan Pearce, Lisa Taylor, Kristin Vandagriff

Agency Representatives Present but Not Appointed: Dr. Beth Boone, Marcy Hajdukiewicz (for Andrea Gary), Catherine McGrath, Kim Quinn (for Taylor Hatch), Johana Valdivieso

Others Absent: Jennifer Duggar, Kira Houge

Guests: Sheila Mohler, Valerie Whitaker (FDDC provider)

I. Call to Order

Pearce conducted roll call and quorum was established. Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

II. State and Sister Agency Reports

Reports were provided by Kim Quinn, Agency for Persons with Disabilities; Catherine McGrath, Agency for Health Care Administration; Johana Valdivieso, Vocational Rehabilitation; Marcy Hajdukiewicz, Department of Health, Children's Medical Services; Dr. Jean Sherman, Mailman Center, University of Miami; Dr. Beth Boone, Florida Center for Inclusive Communities, University of South Florida; and Peter Sleasman, Disability Rights Florida. Representatives from the Florida Department of Education and the Department of Elder Affairs were not in attendance.

III. Committee Reports/Discussion

Sherman gave the State Plan Committee Report. She updated the Council on new Contracts with the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network and University of Illinois at Chicago that were executed since the last Council meeting. The Strive to Thrive project was selected to be presented to the full Council. Pearce provided information about this project, which will begin soon.

Action Taken: Miller made a motion to accept the report as presented. Herrera seconded. The Council voted unanimously to accept the state plan committee report. There was no discussion or abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.

Hart gave the Finance Committee Report. He highlighted administrative spending, which was in alignment with the time elapsed from this fiscal year. All reserve funds have been allocated to programs. A 12-month extension was requested from ACL for 2022 federal funds and is expected to be approved. Those funds have already been allocated to programs for next year.

Action Taken: Sleasman made a motion to accept the report as presented. Herrera seconded. Motion passed unanimously. There was no discussion or abstentions.

Johnson gave the Executive Committee Report. He reported that an updated Background Screening Policy for FDDC staff was reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee. An annual attestation will be required for staff between screenings and staff will complete a Level 2 background screening every 3 years. FDDC will pay the cost of staff background screenings.

Action Taken: Hall made a motion to accept the report as presented. Goldman seconded. Motion passed unanimously. There was no discussion or abstentions.

IV. Youth Ambassadors/Postsecondary Models

Jamie Timmons and Deborah Hart, from ICI at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, gave a presentation of their 5 years of work on postsecondary models. They then shared their current 1-year project to develop youth ambassadors through a curriculum that is being developed.

V. Public Input/Adjournment

No one from the public asked to speak.

Johnson announced that the next Council meeting is scheduled for September 21-22, 2023, at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.