

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.

**Full Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday September 21, 2023 & Friday September 22, 2023
In-Person
Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, Florida**

Thursday September 21, 2023

Council Members Present: Kevin Johnson, Chair, Mirna Diaz, Caitlyn Clibbon, Conney Dahn, Dr. Beth Boone, Marcy Hajdukiewicz (sitting in for Andrea Gary), Sarah Goldman, Elly Hagen, Eddie Hall, Laurie Harlow, Dr. Dennis Hart, Yolanda Herrera, Kimberly Quinn, TJ Moon, Frank Shalett, Dr. Jean Sherman, Catherine McGrath, Jack Kosik, Lisa Miller, and Jennifer Duggar.

Council Members Absent: Kali Wilson and Victoria Zepp

Staff Present: Valerie Breen, Executive Director, Jamie Mayersohn, Dr. Susan Kabot, Kristin Vandagriff, Jan Pearce, Lisa Taylor, Sheila Gritz-Swift, Margaret Hooper, Monica Moye and Thomas Hutchins.

Guests Present: Alex Kobrin, Suzanne Rastgougard, and Noelle Denny-Brown from Mathematica, Inc.

Breen conducted roll call and quorum was established. Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

I. Approval of May 2023 Minutes

Action Taken: Kosik made a motion to approve the May council meeting minutes as presented. Herrera seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

II. Chair/Vice Chair Report

Johnson provided the Chair report. He welcomed Valerie Breen back from her extended medical leave. He thanked Sue Kabot for serving as Interim Executive Director and the FDDC staff for their efforts during Breen's absence. New FDDC staff were introduced- Monica Moye Director of Operations and Contracts and Thomas Hutchins, Executive Assistant. Johnson reported that managed care has been more front and center in Florida service discussions recently. He noted that it is critical that we stay laser focused on the Council's mission- to assure that people with disabilities can live active meaningful lives.

Hall provided the Vice Chair report. Hall reinforced that independence is critical and highly connected to self-advocacy. He also highlighted transportation as an important component to achieving self-advocacy goals stating that he was asked to apply for a seat on the Transportation Disadvantaged Commission and is awaiting Governor approval. He highlighted affordable housing as another critical issue for self-advocates.

III. Executive Director Report

Breen provided the Executive Director report. She provided Power Points for everyone to refer to. She thanked the Council for their words of encouragement and support during her medical journey. Breen reiterated FDDC's mission and purpose and highlighted the vision for 2026 based on the Council's state plan goals. She highlighted the development of FDDC funded partnerships, and reviewed FDDC's social media presence and future awareness plans, including a tool kit for local communities to promote Developmental Disabilities Awareness month activities in their communities. Breen provided suggestions on how to engage in strategies for identifying key players in, for example, the managed care pilot initiative. Questions were asked and Council member comments were made surrounding FDDC having an active role at the table in the managed care pilot, concerns regarding accountability with the legislature and those implementing the managed care pilot, and low reimbursement rates for providers pushing them to only take private pay clients (this was based on a study being conducted by the Florida State Independent Living Council). Goldman noted how critical it will be to tell the stories of people behind the services.

Breen thanked each Council member who served in a Chair/leadership capacity this past year.

IV. 2024 Legislative Platform

Goldman presented on the Council's proposed 2024 legislative platform titled "**Sustain and Expand Home-and-Community-Based Services**". The four recommendations were 1) include the iBudget Medicaid waiver in the social services estimating conference, 2) no one waits for services from the iBudget Medicaid waiver, 3) require a well-trained support coordination workforce that uses the best techniques identified by case management research, and 4) address the behavior needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In addition, other public policy issues were identified for oversight by the Council's public policy committee for 2024. Those included 1) monitoring any new legislation developed to expand managed care, 2) monitor and support the new Supported Decision-Making bill, 3) monitor any new legislation addressing eligibility, and 4) monitor any employment legislation for people with I/DD.

Action Taken: Hart made a motion to approve the 2024 FDDC legislative platform as presented. Harlow seconded. Motion passed with 14 yes, 0 no and 5 abstentions from state agency representatives.

V. Election of FDDC Officers for October 1, 2023

Breen provided the list of members present who could legally vote in the election. She noted they would be voting for Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and two At-Large members. The newly elected Chair will appoint two additional At-Large members- making a total of seven members of the Executive Committee.

Action Taken: Newly elected positions are as follows: Chair- Kevin Johnson; Vice Chair- Eddie Hall; Treasurer- Dennis Hart; Two At-Large Members- Sarah Goldman and Elly Hagen.

VI. Public Input/Adjournment

There was no public input. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Friday September 22, 2023

Council Members Present: Kevin Johnson, Chair, Dr. Beth Boone, Marcy Hajdukiewicz (for Andrea Gary), Sarah Goldman, Elly Hagen, Eddie Hall, Laurie Harlow, Caitlyn Clibbon, Dr. Dennis Hart, Yolanda Herrera, Kimberly Quinn, Catherine McGrath, Mirna Diaz, Lisa Miller, TJ Moon, Frank Shalett, Dr. Jean Sherman, Conney Dahn, Jennifer Duggar and Jack Kosik.

Council Members Absent: Victoria Zepp and Kali Wilson.

Staff Present: Valerie Breen, Executive Director, Jamie Mayersohn, Dr. Susan Kabot, Kristin Vandagriff, Jan Pearce, Lisa Taylor, Sheila Gritz-Swift, Margaret Hooper, Monica Moye and Thomas Hutchins.

Guests Present: Alex Kobrin, Suzanne Rastgougard, and Noelle Denny-Brown from Mathematica, Inc.

Breen conducted roll call and quorum was established. Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

I. Presentation on Case Management & Measuring Service

Kabot introduced the staff from Mathematica Inc. She reported that they were here to present to the Council their work related to two Council funded projects: Best Practices in Case Management and Measuring Service Quality.

Noelle Denny-Brown presented Mathematica's work on Best Practices in Case Management. Highlights from her presentation included the six core competencies in their core competency tool kit: 1) case management competency list, 2) competency matrix, 3) participant feedback toolkit, 4) caregiver feedback tool, 5) case manager self-reflection tool and 6) supervisor reflection tool. Discussion ensued regarding modalities for tool use including which items should be made available publicly, used on an app, be utilized on a website, or have data aggregated to a data dashboard. Early pilot testing plans were denoted and a strong focus on validating the competencies themselves will occur. Accuracy, consistency, and importance will be core areas to be validated for each competency. This will include testing with self-advocates, case managers, and administrators.

Mathematica staff met in person with Council members the day before in small groups to obtain additional feedback from those with lived experience. Miller asked how Mathematica plans to reach across the state to get enough varied and diverse voices. Denny-Brown denoted that diversity is a strong focus on their planning efforts and they are looking to assure that representation is strong. Leaning on the stakeholder work group will be a core strategy to

address diversity of input. Miller suggested making the process easy to assure participation and stressed how critical it was to obtain input from rural counties.

Alex Kobrin and Suzanne Rastgoufard presented on the measuring service quality project and the service quality tool. The tool highlights where the provider is aligned with positive client outcomes and promising practices. Ultimately, this tool helps to show if provider services are aligned with best practices or not. Draft content was discussed noting that there are six topics: 1) program participant choice and preference, 2) program participant feels respected, 3) program participant community and social engagement, 4) program participant family and service provider communication, 5) positive staff and peer culture, and 6) care for challenging behaviors.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the tool should be first developed for a residential or an adult day training setting. The group concurred that residential should be the priority with several intervals for implementation within the setting.

II. 2024 Task Force Draft List and FDCC Outreach Discussion for Surveys

Johnson referenced the task force assignments presented for 2024. He stated that if Council members wished a change, to discuss it with staff.

Breen facilitated a discussion regarding how the Council could engage members (especially state and sister agencies) in distributing Council surveys to increase outreach to individuals and families in a larger population of persons living with I/DD that are not served by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Ideas and suggestions were shared. Most members will go back to their agencies and see what is possible.

III. State and Sister Agency Reports

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)

Kimberly Quinn provided APD's report. The most significant change is the very recent adoption of First Lady DeSantis's Hope Florida initiative at APD. Originally implemented through the Department of Children and Families, this initiative involves Hope Navigators, whose responsibility is to assist an individual to identify and navigate through services, faith-based, non-profit, and governmental entities to breakdown silos and maximize resources. Services include goal identification and overcoming barriers through referrals and developing one-on-one plans to thrive. 850-300-HOPE (4673) is the main phone number. Anyone can access this assistance. APD has 14 individuals assigned as Hope Navigators.

Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) Report:

Catherine McGrath provided AHCA's report. The most significant highlight was how APD and AHCA are working together to develop the Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) for a managed care pilot for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities currently on the iBudget waiting list, which was required by the legislature in 2023. The application for the pilot was already submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid within the required timeline. Meanwhile the Council, and many others, provided written public input for consideration in the

development of the ITN. Discussion and questions ensued. Johnson recommended that staff set up an ad hoc Managed Care Task Force through the Council. Staff will pursue this request. Breen and Hooper will work on this initiative.

Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Report:

Mirna Diaz provided VR's report. Specific to the Council she reported that from the 2021-2022 outcomes, the Adult Project SEARCH service codes through VR were launched with their new case management system in August 2023. Twenty-four interns graduated in the first year of the Project SEARCH Adult Program.

Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES)

Report:

Jennifer Duggar provided the BEES report. The developmental disability exceptionality can be held through 9 years of age. She reported that House Bill 19 included fixing rules regarding informed consent. BEES is working with Project 10 to make resources available for transition specialists in school systems.

Department of Health, Children's Medical Services (CMS) Report:

Marcy Hajdukiewicz provided CMS's report. She reported some helpful components related to the movement of their early steps program under managed care. She suggested that FDDC consider inviting managed care providers to future meetings.

University of Miami, Mailman Center Report:

Dr. Sherman provided the report for this University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disability (UCEDD). The Mailman Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary on September 29, 2023. They have been a leader in the development of UCEDDs across the country.

University of South Florida, Florida Center for Inclusive Communities Report:

Dr. Beth Boone reported for this UCEDD. Boone distributed their annual report. She announced Dr. Heather George has joined as the second co-director.

Disability Rights Florida (DRF) Report:

Caitlyn Clibbon provided the report for Florida's protection and advocacy organization. DRF is researching managed care looking at other state data regarding managed care for the I/DD population. A white paper will be forthcoming. DRF continues their work on Supported Decision-Making.

IV. Committee Reports

Sherman provided the state plan committee report.

Action Taken: Hall made a motion to accept the report as presented. Kosik seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Hart provided the finance committee report.

Action Taken: Miller made a motion to accept the report as presented. Kosik seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Johnson noted that although a public policy committee meeting was not held since August 2023, he required those in attendance from the public policy committee to approve the August minutes from the last public policy committee. Attached to the minutes provided to the Council was the written public comment to AHCA on the managed care pilot.

Action Taken: Herrera made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Hagen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Johnson provided the Executive Committee report.

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

Johnson reported that the next Council meeting will be held at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando, Florida January 25-26, 2024.

Johnson reported Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day will be held in Tallahassee on February 7, 2024, with the dinner the evening of February 6, 2024 at the Double Tree Hotel in Tallahassee, Florida.

There were no comments from the public.

Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.