

Council Meeting Minutes

Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
Thursday, January 31, 2013 - 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
West Conference Room, Joe R. Williams Building
700 W. State Street, Boise, Idaho

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Baugh, Toni Belknap-Brinegar, Shiloh Blackburn, Dona Butler, Ritchy Cardwell, Jean Christensen, David Dekker, Jane Donnellan, Raul Enriquez, Alison Lowenthal, Debra Parsons, Joe Raiden, TeRonda Robinson, Joni Sullivan, Paul Tierney, Jacquie Watson, Denise Wetzel

MEMBERS ABSENT

Julie Fodor, Jo Lynn Garrison, Jenniffer Halladay, Colleen Sisk

GUESTS

Pam Blackburn, Acena Dekker, Suzie Hanks

STAFF PRESENT

Marilyn Sword, Amanda Holloway, Tracy Warren, Christine Pisani, Shane Carlton

MEET IN COMMITTEES

Council Committee meetings (concurrent) 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
(See separate committee minutes for details)

- Membership
- Public Policy
- Governance

FULL COUNCIL CALL TO ORDER

Denise Wetzel called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Suzie Hanks was introduced. She will be joining the Council staff on a part-time basis is to provide support and information to non-agency Council members who may request additional explanation of information regarding public policy issues that the Council may be working on.

- Alison Lowenthal was welcomed as the new Council representative from the State Department of Education.

PERFECTION OF AGENDA

Due to early Council member meetings with legislators, the review of the guardianship fact sheet will be moved to the morning.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Council reviewed the unapproved section from the July 2012 minutes and the October 2012 minutes.

Dave Dekker moved to approve the last two pages of the July 2012 meeting minutes and the minutes from the October 2012 meeting as amended; second by Debra Parsons. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT – Denise Wetzel

Moscow SALN chapter is selling raffle tickets for an IPAD. Proceeds from the raffle will be used to send self advocates to the 2013 Possibilities of All Abilities Conference in May. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased from Joe Raiden or Dave Dekker. Dave was able to get the Hampton Inn to donate a couple of rooms to raffle.

In November, Denise and Christine attended the National Learning Collaborative on Community Engagement training in Chicago facilitated by John McKnight. The focus of the training was to explore community building and investing in ideas that are not standard in the field of developmental disabilities. Denise and Christine may be able to put together a presentation for the Council in time for the April Council meeting. Denise will be attending a meeting in Ohio February 28th – March 1st to discuss in greater detail how to make the Real Communities Initiative work in Idaho.

Denise attended the Inclusive Education Task Force strategic planning meeting January 25th.

Denise has been working as a support broker and has taken on six new clients in the last two months.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Marilyn Sword

In November, Marilyn and Jim Hansen presented at the Coeur d'Alene Disability Advocacy Day event.

Marilyn presented Council's budget proposal to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee on January 17th.

Marilyn has had the opportunity to meet with both of the Health & Welfare Committee chairs about what they see coming this session as well as what the Council's concerns are.

Marilyn attended the Collaborative Work Group on Adult DD Services meeting December 12th in Boise and the group will be meeting again the 11th of February. Marilyn will distribute a report to the Council tomorrow.

Marilyn presented the Inclusion Award that was presented to the Caldwell YMCA to the full Treasure Valley YMCA Board in December.

Marilyn attended a breakfast put on by Voices for Children on Medicaid Expansion. Director Armstrong had a good PowerPoint presentation that graphically illustrates Medicaid expansion. Marilyn will put a link to the presentation on the Council website.

Marilyn did a presentation on disability issues at SILC last week.

Christine Pisani, Tracy Warren, Ritchy Cardwell and Toni Belknap-Brinegar were nominated for Community Builder Awards at the Human Partnerships Conference last fall. Christine was the recipient of the Building Bridges Award.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Amanda Holloway

Amanda presented the financial position report.

Dona Butler moved to accept the financial position report as presented; seconded by TeRonda Robinson. Motion carried.

REVIEW FACT SHEET ON CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR POTENTIAL GUARDIANS – Christine Pisani

Council members reviewed the fact sheet that will be used when discussing the guardianship legislation with legislators this afternoon.

Toni expressed concern that the H&W Criminal History Unit would be unable to meet the increased workload that this bill would create. Some applicants are waiting more than 21 days for pre-employment background

Full Council

January 31 – February 1, 2013

checks to be completed and providers can't allow employees to continue working if the background checks are not completed within the 21 day timeframe. Amanda mentioned that H&W is seeking approval for two full time positions for the Criminal History Unit.

Current guardians do not have to go through a background check.

Fernando Castro, head of the H&W Criminal History unit, will be available for legislator questions when this bill goes to the House Judiciary, Rules & Administration Committee. The print hearing on the guardianship legislation will be on February 7th at 1:30 p.m.

REVIEW HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS AND PREP FOR LEGISLATIVE VISITS

Council members reviewed the contents of the legislative packets.

TRAVEL TO STATEHOUSE TO MEET WITH LEGISLATORS

The meeting recessed for the day to allow Council members to meet with legislators from 2:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, February 1, 2013 - 8:30 am – Noon

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Baugh, Toni Belknap-Brinegar, Shiloh Blackburn, Dona Butler, Ritchy Cardwell, Jean Christensen, David Dekker, Jane Donnellan, Raul Enriquez, Jo Lynn Garrison, Alison Lowenthal, Debra Parsons, Joe Raiden, TeRonda Robinson, Joni Sullivan, Paul Tierney, Jacquie Watson, Denise Wetzel

MEMBERS ABSENT

Julie Fodor, Jenniffer Halladay, Colleen Sisk

GUESTS

Pam Blackburn, Acena Dekker, Suzie Hanks, Trina Balanoff (for Julie Fodor)

STAFF PRESENT

Marilyn Sword, Amanda Holloway, Tracy Warren, Christine Pisani, Shane Carlton

WORK TEAM MEETINGS

Work Team Meetings (concurrent) 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Full Council

January 31 – February 1, 2013

- Education
- Employment
- Capacity Building and Public Awareness
- Leadership Development

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Denise Wetzel called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

DEBRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE VISITS

Dave met with Senator Patrick and he indicated that he had heard about the guardianship legislation but had not read up on it yet. He agreed to read the guardianship fact sheet that Dave left for him.

Dave met with Representative Kauffman who seemed to be very interested in the work that the Council is doing. Dave left a guardianship fact sheet with him. Representative Kauffman, Representative Bell and Senator Patrick are going to be working on a newsletter and will send a copy to Dave to distribute to those interested.

TeRonda met with Representative Vander Woude and gave him the information on the guardianship legislation. He said that he felt that he could support the legislation. He has worked with Representative Burgoyne and would get more information from him regarding the legislation.

TeRonda left information for both Senator Fulcher and Representative Monks. Senator Fulcher emailed TeRonda and thanked her for leaving the information for him.

Jim met with Representative Erpelding who is a former Developmental Specialist. He said that he had a lot of experience with people who were guardians who should have had background checks. He said that he could provide stories that would support the legislation. Jim asked if he would be willing to share that with committee members and he said that he would.

Joni met with Senator Vick who has a daughter with a developmental disability. He was receptive to the guardianship legislation but he was not sure if he agreed that family members should have to go through a background check. She explained that family members can be bad

guardians too. He agreed to read the guardianship fact sheet that she left for him and think about it. Joni also spoke to the senator about restoring dental services. He is on JFAC and said that he would have to see how the numbers add up and see if there is money available.

Joni sent emails to Representative Morse and Representative Barbieri. Representative Morse responded that he was unavailable. Representative Barbieri did not respond.

Shiloh and Christine met with Senator Guthrie who was in Shiloh's legislative district last year prior to redistricting. He is very open minded on our issues and could be a strong ally in the future. Shiloh discussed the guardianship legislation with the senator and left information for him. Christine discussed restoring dental and vision services and the senator indicated he would look at the legislation when it is put forward and encourage his peers to support it.

Shiloh and Christine met with Representative Meline who is on the Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee. She has a great respect for Representative Burgoyne and is very supportive of the guardianship legislation. She could benefit from information on people first language.

Joe and Denise met with Representative Ringo who sits on the Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee. The representative seemed interested in the guardianship legislation. Regarding dental, Representative Ringo said that she would like to see funding restored for all of the cuts made to Medicaid services 2 years ago.

Joe and Denise met with Representative Agidius who is supportive of the guardianship legislation. She agreed that we need to help protect our most vulnerable citizens. Regarding dental, she understands that preventative care is critical. She seems sympathetic to the struggles that people with mental illness face.

Joe and Denise met with Senator Schmidt about the guardianship legislation. He had concerns about a person with a criminal past who had turned themselves around not being considered. Denise explained that the findings of the background check would be presented to the courts for a decision. Regarding dental, Representative Schmidt said that he is trying to track the number of people going to the emergency room with dental

related emergencies. He would like to use Joe's story and would like to hear more stories about the effects of the dental cuts.

Ritchy, Toni and Paul met with Representative Anderst. He was concerned that someone with poor credit could be excluded from being a guardian. He noted that poor credit could be tied to the financial difficulty of caring for a child with multiple medical needs. He also wanted to know if the bill is supported on the Senate side. He recommended that we speak with Christy Perry because she is familiar with background checks because she owns a gun shop. Regarding dental, Representative Anderst would like to know how many people would benefit from the restoration of dental services. He would like to know if Medicaid expansion would include dental benefits. He indicated that he could support restoring dental benefits if we could show that it would cost less to restore the benefits that it costs in emergency room visits resulting from lack of preventative care.

Ritchy, Toni and Paul met with Representative Youngblood. He was receptive of the information that was provided to him and indicated that he would support the legislation.

Ritchy, Toni, Paul and Dona met with Senator Lakey. He is supportive of the guardianship legislation. He currently does not support Medicaid expansion. He supports the repeal of the personal property tax.

Dona dropped off letters to her legislators. She met with Senator McKenzie who is supportive of the guardianship legislation. Dona sat in on a hearing on juvenile justice and had the opportunity to speak with Representative Bolz afterward. He is supportive of the guardianship legislation.

Tracy gave Senator Bock, who is on the Senate Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee, information on the guardianship legislation. He wants to have a phone conversation after the legislation makes it out of the House. He said there are a couple of legislators on the Senate side that he thought would have trouble with this and he could give us some tips on how to approach them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee – Tracy

Committee members reviewed Council responses to the Full Council Evaluation form and discussed whether there are additional questions that need to be added to the next Full Council evaluation.

The Council is working with Suzie Hanks to provide the additional support needed by Council members. Suzie is observing this Council meeting to see if this position might be a good fit for her. Suzie will be the contact person for Council members that need help understanding Council meeting materials, legislative slate, etc. Marilyn is working with human resources to come up with a job description and we hope to have Suzie come on as a part time staff member to assist with Council member support in the near future.

Committee members reviewed two applications received for the self-advocate openings on the Council. The Membership Committee asks that Council members follow up with recruitment contacts. There are several Council members whose terms will be expiring this year and committee members will be talking to these members about whether they intend to reapply for another term.

Governance Committee - Debra

Committee members discussed having one of the Council self-advocate slots officially designated as an SALN representative. In order for this to be achieved, the Council would have to either add an additional Council member slot or remove a non-governmental agency slot from the Council membership. Neither option is something that the Council is able to do at this point. Marilyn referred to a past instance in which the Council was expanded by two members and the Governor's Office was reluctant to support the addition. Committee members also noted that SALN has good representation on the Council currently.

The committee also discussed the conference funds that the Council has available that are not getting used. Fewer conferences are being offered for economic reasons and parents and self-advocates are not attending conferences for the same reason. The Governance Committee will try to get the word out that conference funds are available.

- Council members discussed the possibility of adding some flexibility to the policy regarding conference funds to allow more than one person to attend the same conference or to allow additional funds to

be used for an applicant facing larger costs to attend a conference out of state.

Consumer Leadership Caucus - Dave

Marilyn came to the CLC meeting to provide some clarification as to the role of the CLC.

CLC discussed having someone come in on a part time basis to assist in answering some of the questions that parents and self-advocates may have regarding Council meeting packets, understanding legislation, etc. This would free up staff to focus on Council projects. Suzie Hanks sat in during CLC to see if this might be a role that she would like to take on.

Committee members reviewed the Council meeting packet materials.

Dave Dekker moved to accept the committee reports; seconded by Debra Parsons. Motion carried.

COUNCIL EVALUATION SUMMARY

Council members reviewed the responses to the Full Council Evaluation form that was filled out by Council members and staff. There were 24 completed evaluations. This is a self-evaluation tool that has been encouraged at the federal level and the Council has built this into its five year evaluation plan.

Council members reviewed the 2012 Stakeholder Survey Results. There were 22 completed survey returned. The survey questions seek information that we need to submit to our federal partners.

MEMBER REPORTS

Jo Lynn Garrison

Jo Lynn and her son will be attending the Tools for Life Conference, along with the Special Ed Director and a high school teacher. Their school district will be covering Jo Lynn's registration costs.

The Star News wrote an article on the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy and on the front page of the paper wrote an article about the number of students in special education in the district. The following week, a letter to the editor recognized the difficult jobs that teachers, specifically special education teachers and it came across as extremely offensive and portrayed students with disabilities in extremely poor light. Jo Lynn wrote a

letter to the editor in response to that article. The following week there was a letter from a mom in Oregon that called Jo Lynn and her friend “naïve do-gooders” who couldn’t possibly understand what it was like when she was raising her child. The mom went on to say that she was blessed to work in a sheltered workshop and blessed that her child was removed from the home and that some people don’t have a place in society.

Trina Balanoff

Trina mentioned that the CDHD is going to be engaging in a study within the next couple of months on all aspects of the children’s redesign. Part of the issues that are coming out about family direction is that not all family members are able to become support brokers for their children because of the DHW’s criteria. There is a large support broker list that was just started on Facebook.

Jacquie Watson

Jacquie reported that one of the more recent events at the Maternal & Child Health Program is that they just established a subgrant with the CDHD to support the Tools for Life Conference. This support will continue on an annual basis for at least four years.

The primary purpose of Maternal & Child Health is to focus on the needs of children with special health care needs. The program provides financial support for kids who are uninsured and meet certain diagnostic criteria. In 2014 when everyone has insurance, the program will likely be going away. They will be looking for ways to repurpose what the program will be doing.

Alison Lowenthal

Alison reported that the SDE is working to revamp the students come first legislation. SDE needs to determine how the evaluation process would work. They are working with the federal government to get the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) waiver passed. Some of the language in the waiver was based on the students come first legislation and needs to be changed.

The SDE’s Annual Performance Report was due today but the federal government granted an extension until February 15th. The report focuses on graduation and dropout rates, post school outcomes, and transition planning for students.

Raul Enriquez

The six Area Agencies on Aging have signed an agreement with the Commission on Aging to be designated as the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's) for their local areas. The job of the Commission is to streamline access to services for people. They accomplish this by collaborating with other agencies and through utilization of technology. The Commission on Agency has been working with the 211 care line and the State Independent Living Council (SILC).

The Commission's five-year plan was reviewed and approved by the federal government and is available on their website. The Commission is working with the State Independent Living Council on options counseling. This is an approach similar to the independent living philosophy that the Centers for Independent Living use when interacting with consumers.

Denise Wetzel

Denise will be meeting with Chad Cardwell this afternoon about crisis intervention for people on family direction and how that is different for people using the traditional model.

Shiloh Blackburn

Susan Langley was hired on December 1, 2012 as a part-time accountant for SALN. Sue has evaluated SALN accounts and entered them in QuickBooks. SALN is now able to review the status of income and expenses through the reports that Sue provides to the board. Sue's research uncovered an \$11 bank charge that has been deducted from SALN's account each month. She got US Bank to stop assessing the charge.

SALN will be holding elections for President, Treasurer and Sergeant at Arms during the 2013 Self-Advocacy Conference.

Debra Parsons

Debra's daughter Olivia graduated last year and got a job in late December. In November, Olivia voted for the first time.

Joni Sullivan

Joni's son Ryan is in his second semester at NIC and is maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Jill Smith wrote an addendum to his self direction plan and it paid for his second semester. Ryan has a college buddy that was in his first semester class that calls him at least once a week and takes him to social events.

Jean Christensen

There are about 300 people on self-direction across the state. It has been a good option that has allowed many adults to become more independent. Part of the confusion with family directed services is that the budgets are assigned differently for kids and adults. For adults, there is a cost comparison to institutional level of care that includes all of the supports in the plan that increases a person's independence in the community.

The Developmental Disabilities Bureau presented the rules on children's redesign and they passed this year. Rule changes were made to align the A&D waiver language and the DD waiver language to avoid confusion. They have similar services but were defined differently within the waivers. These rules passed.

Jean Christensen and Art Evans continue to participate in the Collaborative Work Group on Adult DD Services. The group is looking at the adult benefit package to make sure that the supports on the waiver are really supports that help a person in the community. There are several waiver services that are rarely used and it might be appropriate to remove these services and replace them with other services that might be better utilized.

Managed care, as required by CMS, is coming for about 1,300 people with developmental disabilities that dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The Department is in the process of writing an RFP for the DD portion of managed care and is writing the RFP to reflect the DD waiver guidelines to cover those people that are waiver eligible. Plans will be submitted to and approved by the contracted entity. CMS has not approved the Department's plan for managed care yet but it looks like everything is on track to start in January 2014.

Jean serves on the Idaho Employment First Consortium. Idaho is not doing all it can regarding employment for people with developmental disabilities but this group has a good plan in place to move this issue forward.

The Department is in a class action law suit regarding the notices it sends to people. A federal judge ruled that the notices did not give people enough information about their budgets, how they were determined and why they are different from year to year. The Department's AG's Office has been working on the notices and it is nearing final draft. The Department is

Full Council

January 31 – February 1, 2013

expecting to take it back through the federal judge and have this resolved in the next three months.

Dave Dekker

The SALN Board met last week and Dave was elected the new Communications Coordinator and is the person to contact if there is information that needs to be distributed through SALN.

DISTRIBUTION OF 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Council members received a copy of the Council's 2012 Annual Report. The topics in the report cover events that occurred between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012.

PROGRESS ON 2013 WORK PLAN

Council members reviewed the 2013 Work Plan First Quarter progress Report.

The Council is looking at bringing on a part-time Public Information Specialist to assist the Council with public outreach awareness and to bring attention to the Council's accomplishments.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADRC Presentation – Raul Enriquez

Real Communities Initiative – Denise Wetzel

Employment First presentation – Tracy Warren

Legislative update

Tools for Life report – Tracy Warren

Disability Advocacy Day at the Capitol

Recognition of retiring members

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.