



FULL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Friday, March 18, 2022

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

3839 North Third Street, Suite 306

Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01 (G), the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and its standing and ad-hoc committees may obtain public comment if it so desires. A formal call to the public will take place at the end of the meeting. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Meeting was conducted by teleconference.

Council Members Present

Melissa Van Hook, Chair

J.J. Rico, Vice Chair

Laura Bellucci

Kin Chung-Counts

Michael Coen

Monica Cooper

Meghan Cox

Bianca Demara

Vanessa Felix

Erik Jensen

Benjamin Kauffman

Katharine Levandowsky

Kristina Lopez

Janna Murrell

Wendy Parent-Johnson

James Rivera

Kelly Roberts

Mary Slaughter

Mateo Tree Top

Council Members Absent

Kristen Mackey

Gabriela Orozco

Vijette Saari

Council Staff

Jon Meyers, Executive Director

Marcella Crane

Steve Freeman

Michael Leyva

Lani St. Cyr

Jason Snead

Member of the Public

Lionel Delgado

A. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook welcomed everyone to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC or Council). Meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM. Introduction of Councilmembers and roll call completed. Jon Meyers was introduced as the new Executive Director of the Council. Jon provided a few remarks and looks forward to working with the Council.

B. Minutes from January 21, 2022 Meeting

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook called for a motion to approve minutes. Kathy Levandowsky made a motion, seconded by Monica Cooper. The motion carried.

C. Fiscal / Contract Update

Lani St. Cyr reviewed the ADDPC Financial Update. The Council has approximately \$111,092 in FY 2020 funds remaining to be spent. The Administration for Community Living (ACL) has provided a one-time no cost extension for FY 2020 funds. Under this directive the obligation and project periods have been extended through September 30, 2022. The liquidation of funds and final reports will need to be completed by December 31, 2022. There currently is no extension for FY 2021 funding.

The Council has received the full allotment for FY 2021, in the amount of \$1,500,930 and has received a reallocation of FY 2021 funds from Puerto Rico in the amount of \$34,412, bringing the Council's total funding for FY 2021 to \$1,535,342. It has fully obligated the award amount and has met the September 2022 deadline; however, the work must be completed within the same timeframe. The Council has until September 30, 2023, to liquidate FY 2021 funds. Approximately \$1,102,809 remains to be liquidated.

The Council has received the second allotment for FY 2022 in the amount of \$314,700. This brings the total amount received to \$576,178. The FY 2022 award amount is currently estimated at \$1,500,930, but the final award amount is still unknown. This amount is level with FY 2021 funding excluding the Puerto Rico reallocation. The obligation and project period are through September 30, 2023, with the liquidation of funds through September 30, 2024.

Next, an update was given on the additional award of \$84,288 received for COVID-19 specific projects and vaccine hesitancy. These funds are being tracked and reported on separately. The funds must be obligated and work completed by September 30, 2022. To date the Council has spent \$22,472 and has encumbered \$56,088, which leaves an available balance of \$5,728.

Finally, the Council has received an additional award from ACL in the amount of \$95,319 for Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Disability Network. These funds will be tracked and reported on separately. The funds must be obligated and the work completed by September 30, 2024.

The next document reviewed was the Council Funded Projects sheet. The Council was informed the staff worked with DES Procurement for a no cost extension to September 30, 2022, for the Arizona Center for Disability Law's Special Education Advocacy Project (SEAP). A no-cost extension was approved, but DES Procurement is still working with ACDL on insurance requirements. As previously reported, there was a delay in the official March 1, 2021, start date, due to the insurance requirement. The work truly did not begin until August 2021.

It was explained the Sonoran UCEDD-Transition AHEAD Roundtable had a delay in subcontractor billing, but they are expected to spend the full award amount. The City of Nogales-Inclusive Recreation grant was extended through March 31, 2022. The City of Nogales is still waiting for the award notification from their grant process. Staff has been in contact with the director of Parks and Recreation to ensure they can obligate and spend the grant dollars. They stated as soon as they do, they'll be breaking ground and obligating the funds. Staff will continue to reach out to City of Nogales to get updates. Committee members expressed they want staff to offer an extension if able to, as this is high need, rural and Hispanic community.

Also, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona let staff know they were having issues meeting their match requirement, as most of the match was coming from donated space and their trainings have been virtual. They have reduced their budget from \$36,380 to \$28,525 to adjust for this. There have been a couple of other budget revisions, but they were shifting funds between line items rather than making changes to the overall budget amounts.

Finally, the Budget Recommendation document showed items to be funded based on the workplan recommendations. The two renewal projects and the three Scopes of Work were highlighted and budgeted for. It showed a surplus of funds available for new projects with anticipated FY 22 and FY 23 funding. Ideally FY22 funds will be fully obligated by September 30, 2022, so work can be completed in the second year. A Request for Information (RFI) process was conducted and has identified potential funding options for remaining funds available. Jon will provide more details on that process next.

There was further discussion about the potential need to revert FY 21 funds due to the fact there is no contract extension. Due to the performance period change and the contract extensions granted, it may be difficult to have the work completed by the September 2022 deadline. Other Councils are also having difficulties with this.

D. Executive Director Report

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) provided councils feedback on the five-year plan that was submitted last year. Jon stated that for AZ, the Comprehensive Review and Analysis (the data collection for AZ) was deemed thorough and complete. There are a few areas that we need to clarify, including:

- Council membership: current list of membership needs to be updated.
- The Designated State Agency, or DSA: we need to provide documentation that for ADDPC, we are grandfathered to have DES as our DSA. ACL states that a council's DSA should not be the agency that provides DD services except under specific circumstances. These circumstances apply to ADDPC.
- Three of the Council's goals need to be measurable and timebound or based on the SMART concept. Those goals will be further clarified.
- Need to be more specific on aspects of the Self-Advocacy requirement and Targeted Disparity population.

Programmatic progress reports for both fiscal years 2020 and 2021 were submitted on February 28; Jon thanked staff and Erica for providing all the information to complete the reports. These are progress reports based on the workplan for each fiscal year. ACL will provide councils feedback in a few months.

E. Committee/Roundtable Reports

1. Grants Committee – Marcella Crane provided an overview of the Sonoran UCEDD Transition AHEAD or TAR project. The contractor is asking for \$120,000 for the final third year that will begin April 1, 2022. Transition In Action (TAR) is a best practice project modeled on the UCEDD in South Dakota, that aims to address the transition needs and outcomes for youth with disabilities ages 14-20 and their families in Arizona. The goal is to provide a space for youth and their families to explore and discuss their interests, goals and barriers to a successful adult transition. In year 1, they met the goal of working with 6 transition age youth and their families, but due to COVID, all meetings were held virtually using the telehealth model, and thus the project had to revamp the way it would interact with participants and partners. Adjustments were made to ensure it was successful in year 2. To date, UA continues to document the success of the project, increasing the total number of participants to 20, including 9 Native

American youth and outreach to Hispanic families and those that live in smaller, rural communities and in urban Phoenix. As of the submission of this proposal, 15 youth with disabilities have participated and families report the experience was helpful to their child by increasing their expectations, expanding goal-setting and growing independence and self-determination skills. School liaisons shared a noticeable impact on students thinking more about ways to accomplish their own goals, more interest in classes and training after high school, and more personal interests due to the experience with TAR.

Activities planned for year 3 include making the project sustainable by establishing a fee for service modality within state agency systems to provide funding for ongoing sustainability beyond the project. They also plan to work with Deaf and Hard of Hearing students and youth in the foster care system, as well as youth for whom English is not their first language. Other expansion points include establishing culturally responsive elements and expanding referral sources from schools only to Vocational Rehabilitation and Developmental Disability agencies. Staff works closely with the Sonoran UCEDD so that partnerships can participate and provide feedback for any changes to make. Partnerships include Sonoran UCEDD Peer Mentors, Tohono O'odham Community College Disability Resource Specialist, DD agency representative, Ability360 benefits specialist, Direct Advocacy and Resource Center representative, Voc. Rehab. representative and Raising Special Kids family advocate. The Sonoran UCEDD has implemented an outcome evaluation process that includes feedback in a follow-up survey after 60 days by participants and youth, and then a 6-month follow-up. They continue to track the data from all participants and will provide that information in their final reports to the Council. Partners also provide feedback on the project and will share the project to potential families.

Council members discussed various points of this project related to the ability of the Sonoran UCEDD to follow up with each youth that has participated in TAR beyond the contract period. Melissa Van Hook, Katharine Levandowsky and Kin Counts all stated similar comments. Wendy stated that it will become difficult to track the participants once the contract ends, however she is collecting data on those who have participated in years 1 and 2 as well as the new cohort of students in the third year. Wendy stated she would provide a summary of the data to Council once the project ends.

A motion was made by Monica Cooper to approve the TAR proposal for a third year at \$120,000. The motion was seconded by Erik Jensen. Wendy Parent-Johnson abstained. The motion carried.

Draft scopes of work were provided by Michael Leyva and Jason Snead. Both presentations were brief as the scopes of work are still under review. Michael gave an overview of two draft scopes of work including one around Refugee Research and another on a Vocational Rehabilitation Study. Jason stated he drafted one training for Plain Language for state agencies. They both offered summaries of the tasks, deliverables, and qualifications required for applicants and how they were determined. Until the scopes of work are finalized by staff and formally released, the drafts could not be publicly shared.

Marcy provided a summary of the Request for Ideas (RFIs) process. The RFI process is a placeholder for approved ideas that can possibly be added to the Council's workplan. These ideas are not approved for funding nor are these full proposals. As needed, the RFI process allows the community and partners to provide an idea of what is currently a need for the Council to consider. The Council will vote on any of these RFIs to add to the State Work Plan, along with identifying funding and contract method. This past year, ADDPC released an RFI process, and 36 brief proposal ideas were submitted in December 2021. An ad-hoc committee was formed to review and consider which ones to set aside as contingency options for further consideration by the Council. Staff thanks Council members Ben, Vijette and Kin on their feedback. The four to be set aside as placeholders include:

ASU Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services proposed a project under the Inclusion goal for \$60,000. This is a project that will also address transportation. ASU proposes to partner with Dot, Inc. to create a “smart hub” pilot, barrier-free smart campus at ASU’s Thunderbird School for Global Management and the Beus Center for Law and Society, that can be expanded throughout the existing structure. By using technology and apps that can be downloaded on a person’s mobile phone, barrier free kiosks will be implemented throughout the campus utilizing 3D map-based operation. Dot Kiosks feature the following capabilities: Auto high adjustments, Sign language, Tactile display, 3D Mapping inside the campus, AI voice recognition, Physical keyboard, Speaker & Earphone, and UI/UX (SW).

DES Refugee Resettlement Agency also addressed a project under the Inclusion goal. The project idea is to support refugee agencies that need funding to support various services for refugees with I/DD, such as assistance with education services with distance learning, assistance with navigating special education, support for a refugee advocate that can accompany the families that attend and IEP meetings and serve as a liaison to a school district. They would also create videos that explain AZEIP and IEPs in various languages. The approximate cost is \$100,000.

NAU/IHD UCEDD RFI is to address the goals System Access/Navigation and Self-Determination. The RFI proposes the “Parenting with a Disability Project” to support individuals with I/DD and family members who want to have children or who are already parents, but need information, resources, advocacy assistance and peer mentoring to succeed. Phase 1 will undertake a needs assessment of disability organizations to determine if and how state agencies and nonprofit organizations currently address services that support parenting with a disability. Phase 2 will create parenting resources that target individuals with I/DD and their families, delivered through a series of webinars and/or in-person events that will provide topic-driven information on parenting with a disability to individuals with I/DD and those that support them. Approximate cost is \$60,000.

Raising Special Kids proposed a project idea under the goal of System Access/Navigation for an approximate cost of \$100,000, to conduct a statewide assessment with local disability and healthcare agencies to better understand what barriers women who are pregnant or desire a pregnancy encounter when they have a disability (physical, mental or intellectual). Barriers to assess include access to care, resource or educational information regarding pregnancy, delivery, etc., peer education and support, and providers who are educated specifically about caring for women with disabilities. Information from this assessment will allow all groups to have more awareness of the needs of pregnant women with a disability face so that appropriate education and resources are available.

2. Mary Slaughter stated the System Access and Navigation committee is meeting and will have a meeting scheduled on Monday, March 21 at 11:00 AM. Her committee is addressing several resource needs in the age groups 0-6, youth transition age group, and transition services and resources for the elder population. An intern is working with Mary to identify the resources that are available for these groups, is the information useful, how it used and is the information easily accessible. There is less information for the elder population. The other issue that is discussed is how to engage parents and family members. Mary will be looking into the additional Covid-19 monies to see if there is a way to utilize those funds and how they be used to support the work of the committee. Kelly Roberts will reach out to Mary on her thoughts on school age transition.
3. Melissa Van Hook gave an update on the work of the Meaningful Careers committee. The work plan is ambitious for federal fiscal year 2022, with 15 activities/projects. Earlier during the meeting, members heard about the Intensive VR Study Scope of Work which was one of the committee’s priority activities. Another priority project, to support provider transformation activities from center-based to competitive employment, was delayed giving Jon Meyers an opportunity to review the Scope of Work.

The committee will meet soon to review and discuss this year's Work Plan to ensure activities are completed by September 30, 2022.

Melissa also shared news about a new collaborative project which was initiated by the Meaningful Careers Committee. It is truly collaborative because in addition to the Council, it includes Arizona's APSE Chapter, Arizona Center for Disability Law, Arizona Employment First, the Institute for Human Development, and the Sonoran UCEDD. Creating a Successful Path is a series of six employment and transition webinars designed to educate and inform stakeholders with an array of content experts to provide the context and necessary components for a statewide system that provides and sustains competitive, integrated employment for all Arizonans with developmental disabilities regardless of complexity or needed level of support.

The webinars are designed for self-advocates and families, educators and transition professionals, employment support professionals, and Employment First stakeholders. The webinar series will launch April 14 from 10 – 11 a.m. and be held the second Thursday of each month.

April 14 – Imagining a Great Life for Your Son or Daughter

May 12 – The Critical Role VR Plays in the Transition Process and Beyond

June 9 – Yes, Your Child Can Attend College: Supporting Inclusive College Transition Practices

July 7 – There is Another Path to Take: Apprenticeships and Career & Technical Education (CTE)

August 8 – An Unexpected Journey: My Story Through a Person-Centered Planning Lens

September 8 – Why Employment First Must Be a Priority in Arizona

Melissa thanked Council members Kelly Roberts (IHD), Wendy Parent Johnson (Sonoran UCEDD), and J.J. Rico (ACDL) who are part of the AZ Developmental Disabilities Network (DD Network) for providing staff support to make Creating a Successful Path: Employment and Transition Webinars possible. Mike has shared that working with Natalie Luna Rose, Jeff Javier, and John McDermott has been great and is very appreciative for their partnership and assistance. Arizona really has a true DD Network.

Last but certainly not least, Melissa thanked Janna Murrell for helping kick-start the webinar series with her presentation Imagining a Great Life for Your Son or Daughter. She will be joined by Raising Special Kids colleague Ceci Hartke. What a wonderful way to set the tone to champion and increase awareness of families of the career potential of individuals with disabilities is an ongoing dialogue beginning in early childhood. Thank you, Vocational Rehabilitation, for also partnering in the webinar series.

4. Jason Snead provided an update on the Behavioral Health and I/DD committee. The Behavioral health and I/DD Roundtable (Roundtable) released a report (Arizona's Crisis Response & People Who Have I/DD: 2022 Policy & Legislative Recommendations) by having a press conference on January 25, 2022. The press conference sparked a lot of interest within the healthcare plans and other invested parties and through conversations it was determined that each health care plan/party operates a little differently. Because of this information it was decided that a core group of individuals made up from the Roundtable would develop key questions to ask the healthcare plans/parties during individual meetings and report back to the larger Roundtable when these meetings were complete to provide an overview and develop strategies to move forward. The goal is to improve the behavioral health system that serves individuals with I/DD. Lastly, if you would like to join the group, please let Jason know.

F. Data Hub Presentation

Dr. Alex Kurz with ASU provided a presentation on the Council's Community Indicator Index, or Data Hub, project. The project began in 2018 with a scope of work to develop a hub of disability data for anyone looking for detailed disability statistics through 12 interactive data dashboards, around six areas: Demographics, Education, Housing, Transportation, Employment, and Income. Dr. Kurz developed this on Tableau web format, and it is live on the ADDPC website.

A second-year contract for additional work and maintenance was recently awarded to Dr. Kurz that will entail updates to the dashboard based on the 2020 census data that was just released. Also, part of this grant is for Dr. Kurz to provide training to anyone who wants to see the Data Hub, such as the Valley of the Sun United Way, and to field questions by anyone who has questions or needs specific data. It is important to point out that when this project was developed, the previous Council executive director wanted the data to focus on Arizona population, from the last Census conducted and using the American Community Survey. Also, to note is that the Census uses specific disability terms for a respondent to know when they fill out this information. The Data Hub allows a user to visualize AZ disability data by county and to compare with other AZ counties. Trend data can also be accessed for the past five years.

The audience of the Data Hub is anyone who is a policymaker, researcher, grant writer, other non-profit agencies that we partner with. It is meant to be interactive, user friendly and accessible per ADA requirements. Dr. Kurz will provide training and field questions from anyone who is looking for additional data or how to interpret the data listed. He will also provide quarterly updates to the Council staff and is interested in knowing what other data sources he should consider looking at for further information to add at a later point. Discussion by Council members showed they were very excited about the Data Hub. They encourage staff to highlight this as much as possible and Melissa encouraged Council members to inform Jon what other data should be looked at, such as behavioral health and I/DD data, AZ Dept. of Education, or the National Survey on Children's Health.

Also mentioned was the role the Council can play in encouraging the disability community to fill out the Census data or other federal surveys so that it accurately reflects the population in AZ. Federal resources and how they are allocated to the states is often based on census data. Melissa thanked Dr. Kurz for his work and presentation.

G. Announcements:

Three Council members provided announcements. Kelly Roberts will share a flyer on their upcoming IHD Evidence for Success Disability Conference, June 19-21, 2022. James Rivera stated ADE will hold its IDEA conference in September. A "Call for Papers" has been released and ADE would like that information shared. Kathy Levandowsky stated that the Public Health Emergency will end in the near future and those families that receive benefits under AHCCCS may see some of their services reduced or eliminated. Kathy is encouraging the Council to get the word out. Melissa Van Hook stated that the Council is still in need a self-advocate to comply with the Council membership requirements. They can apply through the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions.

H. Call to the Public:

Lionel Delgado is a consumer and congratulated Jon as the new Executive Director of the Council.

I. Adjourn:

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook adjourned the meeting at 12:06 PM.