



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

3839 North 3rd Street, Suite 306, Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Meeting held via teleconference

MINUTES

The Executive Committee meeting of the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (Council/ADDPC) was convened virtually April 12, 2023, notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the ADDPC.

Members Present

Melissa Van Hook, Chairperson
Monica Cooper
James Rivera

J.J. Rico, Vice Chair
Mary Slaughter

Members Absent

Kelly Roberts

Staff

Jon Meyers, Executive Director
Marcella Crane, Grants Manager
Steve Freeman, Director of Communications
Michael Leyva, Contracts & Grants Coordinator
Jason Snead, Research & Communications Specialist
Lani St. Cyr, Fiscal Manager

Guests

A. Call to Order/Welcome:

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook welcomed everyone to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC or Council) Executive Committee meeting. The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM. Roll call and participant introductions were completed.

B. Minutes from January 13, 2023, Meeting:

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook asked for a motion to accept the minutes from January 13, 2023, Executive Committee meeting. The motion was made by Monica Cooper, seconded by Mary Slaughter. The motion carried.

C. Fiscal / Contract Update:

Lani St. Cyr gave the ADDPC Financial Update. The Council has received the full allotment for FY 2021, in the amount of \$1,500,930 and has met the original September 2022 obligation deadline. However, ACL has granted a one-year no cost extension for FY 2021 funds making the new obligation and project period through September 30, 2023, allowing an additional year for the work to be completed. The Council will have until December 31, 2023, to liquidate FY21 funds. There is approximately \$8,670 to be liquidated.

The Council has received the full allotment for FY 2022 in the amount of \$1,500,930, which is the amount previously estimated. This is level funding to FY 2021 excluding the Puerto Rico reallocation. The obligation and project periods are through September 30, 2023, with the liquidation of funds through September 30, 2024. There have been discussions regarding a no-cost extension for these funds as well, but nothing official has gone through yet. The Council has fully obligated these funds and there is approximately \$656,846 remaining to be liquidated.

The Council has also received the full allotment of FY23 funding in the amount of \$1,500,930, which is level funding with the prior two fiscal years. The obligation and project period are through September 30, 2024, with the liquidation of funds through September 2025. There is approximately \$709,500 to obligate, which staff would like to do before this September so the work can be completed in the second year of funding to meet the period of performance requirement.

ADDPC Additional Awards Update

Access to Covid-19 Vaccines Funding

- The Council has received an additional award in the amount of \$84,288 for COVID-19 specific projects. These funds are being tracked and reported separately. ACL has also granted a one-year no cost extension for using these funds, which the staff submitted a letter requesting. The funds must now be obligated, and work completed by September 30, 2023.
- To date the Council has spent \$43,007 and has encumbered \$40,355 through September 30, 2023. The remaining balance of the award will be used in partnership with NAU/IHD on a project to better understand the lived experiences of people with disabilities throughout the pandemic including barriers to health services such as awareness and access to the Covid-19 vaccine.

Expanding the Public Health Workforce within the Disability Network

- The Council has received an additional award in the amount of \$95,319 to expand the Public Health Workforce within the Disability Network. The funds will also be tracked and reported on separately. The obligation and project period are through September 30, 2024.
- Currently staff is working to get a contract in place for these funds.

Council Funded Projects

The following contract changes were highlighted:

- The Spina Bifida Association of Arizona will no longer be conducting its conference.
- The Opportunity Tree Sexual Education Conference has been granted a 3-month no-cost extension through September 30, 2023.
- The Sonoran UCEDD Online Learning Modules have also been granted a 3-month no-cost extension through September 30, 2023.

Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council Budget Recommendation

- This sheet now reflects the projects outlined in the FY 2023 Workplan. There may be some adjustments made to this document as we continue to review the workplans and what may be shifted for FY 2024.
- There may be additional FY 2023 funding to obligate, so the Work Plan Review Committee is currently discussing ideas for any additional funds that may need to be obligated.

D. Executive Director Report: Council vacancies/renewals/appointments:

Jon stated there is a new director for the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions and he is awaiting information about the candidate proposed to fill the Older Americans Act requirement. Jon is also awaiting reappointment for the Department of Education representative. Once all the appointments have been made, Jon will be notified, and our office will receive an updated Council list to share.

Jon also stated that he will be contact with those Council members whose membership expires this September and work with them and the Governor's Office of Boards and Commission to renew or if members choose to drop off. We have to ensure compliance with ACL requirements.

COVID-19 Hesitancy and Public Health Workforce Development special funding:

A portion of the grant funds from the CDC to address Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy was utilized under contracts with Michele Thorne and Michelle Jacquez. The project included a community survey regarding attitudes toward and acceptance/rejection of Covid-19 vaccines, and a report delineating key issues related to expanding vaccine

acceptance among the I/DD population. ACL required a report on the how the funds were used, and a report was submitted on March 30. The balance of the CDC funds is currently contracted to NAU/IHD for additional work on Covid-19 acceptance/hesitancy and the lived experiences of individuals with I/DD and their caregivers during the pandemic; a contract is in place until September 30, 2023. We'll know more from ACL on the final report due on this portion of the Covid funds.

Jon stated that the Covid-19 Public Health Workforce Development funds of approximately \$95,000 will address the role of public health professionals in serving the aging population with I/DD. Currently, our office is waiting on a final proposal and budget by the Sonoran UCEDD so that a contract can be developed, and the project can begin. Multiple delays include finalizing budgets with the partners, feedback on the scope of work and their role in the project. Public health professionals leading the project will be staff from the Regional Center for Border Health/Western Arizona Health Education Center (RCBH/WAHEC), located in Yuma, and the Sonoran UCEDD.

FFY 2022 PPR Update:

The PPR for FFY 2022 was submitted to ACL on December 29, 2022. Thirty Councils have received feedback from ACL to provide additional clarifications to their PPR. Arizona was not one of the 30 Councils. At this time, we have not received any feedback from ACL and will keep the Council updated.

FFY 2023 Work Plan Update:

Staff met last week, after the second meeting of the Work Plan Review Committee, to review the second quarter of work on the 2023 Work Plan. Each activity under the five goals was reviewed and a status update provided by staff to ensure progress is made. Some activities have been identified as multi-year, there will be three no-cost extensions to contracts and a few more activities may be moved to FFY 2024 to allow staff more time to begin to implement. More information later in the agenda will be provided on the work being undertaken by the Work Plan Review Committee.

Council Office A/V Update:

As previously mentioned, it is the Council's intention to have Council meetings in a hybrid meeting format rather than entirely online, but due to technical and procurement difficulties, it is taking more time than initially anticipated. Lani has been working with IT staff to ensure our needs can be met and we hope to have this in place during the summer.

Legislative/Policy Issues: SB 1411 and SB 1710:

Jon gave an overview of SB 1411 (Developmental Disabilities; parents; guardianship) introduced by Senator Wadsack, which says anyone receiving DDD services will automatically be under guardianship on their 18th birthday. Many disability groups are not in favor of this bill and have been pushing back on the intent of the bill and how harmful it will be if passed. Jon has been working with the disability groups and met with the Senator Wadsack to communicate with her on why this bill is harmful to people with disabilities. There has also been communication with the Senate leadership and with Governor's Hobbs's policy advisor for health.

As of now, the bill passed the Senate Judiciary committee hearing and Senator Wadsack did agree to offer up an amendment, as a strike everything bill once it passes the full Senate and is transmitted to the House. There has been no action on this bill in the House and no one has offered up their own legislation.

It's not clear if this bill will move forward or if the bill will be dead. With our partners, we're monitoring to see if the House takes up this bill and if any language is proposed.

The Council communicated to the Senator that the bill should be focused on educating parents and caregivers on guardianship but not mandating that all persons that receive DDD services be under guardianship once they turn 18 years of age.

Jon also stated that DES is also monitoring the bill and is not supporting it. Mary asked what happens to DDD members who do not have family? Jon stated it is not clear what the sponsor has in mind other than DES will handle it. There is not a good answer on how this would work, if signed into law. Fiduciary offices/staff are overworked and do not have the ability to handle this if this bill passed in the original format.

J.J. Rico thanked Jon's leadership on this bill. J.J. stated he appreciates his role in advocacy to help educate the sponsor, and to coordinate the disability groups to have one voice in their opposition to the bill. J.J. stated ACDL is there to work with the Council and Jon if this legislation moves forward in the House.

Jon has had conversation with the Governor's Office policy advisor for health so that they are aware of the concerns and if this bill would land on Governor Hobbs's desk, that she is fully informed of its impact.

Melissa was also at that initial meeting with Senator Wadsack and stated that she hopes that with our interaction with her about the disability perspective, that we're able

to be seen as allies in helping to pass good legislation for the disability community. Melissa also thanked Jon for his effort to lead this group in opposition to the bill.

From a self-advocacy perspective, this is a reason why we need self-advocates to speak to legislators on how a bill like this would be harmful.

SB 1710 (State Hospital; Governing Board; Governance) is sponsored by Senator Gowan and is related to oversight of the AZ State Hospital. Jon stated that ACDL also has provided input on this bill, and both are not supportive of it.

The bill will move the oversight of ASH away from the AZ Dept. of Health Services to an independent governance committee. The bill does nothing to address all the issues that have been identified with ASH, especially those concerning individuals with I/DD in which their care treatment and release plan are not fully addressed. The Council is not supportive of this bill because of the lack of oversight and support for individuals with I/DD.

Governor Hobbs's policy advisor for health is also not supportive of this bill. However, some community members and organizations are in favor of the bill.

Mary asked what is an independent oversight committee? Jon stated they are tasked to review rules and policy guidelines and are volunteer based. They do not have any statutory authority to enforce anything other than to provide information back to whomever the state designates. Prior to two or three years ago, they were known as Human Rights Committees.

Jon also stated the bill would increase the number of beds at ASH. The disability community is against this provision because it gives the appearance that it warehouses people with disabilities.

Monica asked if this has to do with the national debate on institutions for individuals with I/DD. Jon stated that it is another form of institution because there is so little communication provided to guardians and family members while an individual with I/DD is placed at ASH and no follow-up to address their needs related to reintegration back to the community.

J.J. stated ACDL is against this bill and appreciates Jon's overview of SB 1710. They will also monitor the bill and collaborate with the Council if this bill moves forward in any capacity.

E. Grants Update:

Marcella Crane gave a brief update on the 2 grant solicitations that are closed and the evaluation phase they are in. The Parenting Support for People with I/DD RFGA is under evaluation with 3 applications being considered. The Conference/Training Sponsorship RFGA is under evaluation with 6 applications being considered. The evaluation phase can take several weeks when clarification is needed for the evaluation committee to make a recommendation to the Council.

The other two grant solicitations are open, and applications are due on April 20. This includes the grant solicitation for Self-Advocacy Network Building and Supported Decision-Making. At the June Executive and Full Council meetings, Council members will be able to review all the recommendations and vote. It is anticipated that all awards will begin July 1 for a one-year contract.

F. Work Plan Review Committee Update:

Melissa Van Hook provided the update on the work by the Work Plan Review Committee. It is chaired by Kathy Levandowsky. The purpose of the committee is twofold: 1) to ensure the current Work Plan is making progress and if not, have discussions on what solutions can be in place to address deficiencies in the current work plan and 2) to assist with development of the coming year's Work Plan and associated activities. The committee has met twice since inception, with support by staff. During these meetings, an overview of the Council budget was presented by Lani St. Cyr that provided details on how the Council budgets are developed, tracked, and reported to ACL.

The committee is also reviewing the FFY 2023 work plan in detail. Staff has provided an overview of each goal, objective, and activity. In subsequent meetings, feedback from the committee will provide new activities that may be added for the FFY 2024 and FFY 2025 work plans, as well their input if projects should continue or not, based on performance.

Kathy will report to the full Council on their work.

Mary stated that it has been helpful to see the full picture of the work of the Council and to see how it all fits together. She also stated that Kathy is doing a fantastic job.

Melissa stated the intent of the committee is to inform the Council of their work and to have more interaction with the Council.

Marcy thanked the committee members for their feedback and their perspectives and thanked Lani for her overview of the budget.

Jon echoed what Marcy stated and appreciates all the staff on their ongoing work with multiple projects to oversee. Jon also said it is important to dissect what is currently

being done and to be able to share with the Council what the work plan is. The insight provided by the Council members will only strengthen the work plan.

Lani was asked what is the amount of funds that still need to be obligated by September 30, 2023, and she said approximately \$280k.

Mary stated it helped her to have a better perspective on what the Council can do to spend those funds on the broader whole work plan.

G. Announcements:

Jon announced that ITACC's annual Technical Assistance Institute (TAI) training is taking place online this May over several weeks. TAI is free and is open to all Council members and staff. The NACDD annual conference will take place in July in Orlando, Florida. There is a registration fee and deadlines are approaching. Jon will send out a link to both events for Council members to consider attending. Janna Murrell and Kristina Lopez attended last year's NACDD annual conference and provided their feedback at the September Council meeting on what they learned.

Steve Freeman announced that A.T. Still University in east Mesa is holding their Special Day of Smiles, an event on oral health care needs for people with I/DD. They are looking for families and participants. A link and posting will be shared.

H. Call to the Public:

None.

I. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM.

Dated this 14th day of April 2023
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council