



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

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 July 5, 2023, notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the ADDPC.

Members Present

Melissa Van Hook, Chairperson
J.J. Rico, Vice Chair
Monica Cooper

Kathy Levandowsky
Mary Slaughter
Kelly Roberts

Members Absent

James Rivera

Staff	Guests
Jon Meyers, Executive Director Marcella Crane, Contracts Manager Lani St. Cyr, Fiscal Manager	

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 2:32 PM. Roll call and participant introductions were completed.

B. Minutes from June 9, 2023, Meeting:

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook asked for a motion to accept the minutes from June 9, 2023, Executive Committee meeting. The motion was made by J.J. Rico, seconded by Kathy Levandowsky. Kelly Roberts did not vote. The motion carried.

C. Grants Update: Proposal review panel recommendation

Self-Advocacy Leadership Advocacy, The Arc of the U.S. dba The Arc of Arizona.

Marcy Crane provided an update to the final competitive grant solicitation for Council approval. The grant solicitation is to support the Council's Self Determination Goal, which is a federal requirement for Councils to achieve. An outside evaluation committee reviewed two applications submitted in response to this solicitation; based on the scope of work and proposals received, the application considered susceptible for an award and recommended to the committee is The Arc of the United States dba The Arc of Arizona, for a one-year contract at \$60,000.

Marcy summarized the grant proposal detailing the collaboration The Arc of Arizona will have with The Arc of Tempe and its local self-advocacy group, Seeking Equality Leading to Fairness (S.E.L.F.). The proposal is statewide and will meet all the requirements under the Council's goal: leadership training and development, peer-to-peer mentoring; opportunities for self-advocates to engage in public speaking and in community organizations and boards; and support for the ongoing local and statewide coalitions of self-advocates that were previously organized under SWI's efforts.

Further information on their proposal is described: The Arc of Tempe's S.E.L.F. is a local self-advocacy group of 21 advocates that has already organized campaigns to increase voter engagement, presented on numerous disability-related issues, hosted speakers, produced testimonials that highlight self-advocates and continued to build community partnerships. S.E.L.F. still retains complete autonomy in determining its mission and activities as a self-advocacy group. The self-advocacy group's members will continue to have regular meetings independent from the self-advocacy coalition.

S.E.L.F. will have a large role in this proposal and it's important to state that the staff of The Arc of Tempe will assist S.E.L.F. and The Arc of Arizona to fulfill the objectives of this project. The key staff are Melanie Soto with The Arc of Arizona and Ruth-Ann Strom and Ryan Barry with The Arc of Tempe. Ms. Soto will have primary oversight of this grant and report back to the Council staff. The staff with The Arc of Tempe will be carrying out several of the activities with S.E.L.F. members.

Mr. Barry is the project manager for the coalition, currently fulfilling the roles of both a paid staff member at The Arc of Tempe and the lead advisor of S.E.L.F. Mr. Barry's responsibilities for the coalition will include the creation of a leadership development

curriculum and overall coordination in establishing the statewide self-advocacy coalition. It is also worth highlighting that Mr. Barry is not only the project manager but also a self-advocate with a developmental disability.

S.E.L.F. members will fundamentally participate in the initial activities of the coalition, due to their familiarity with components in the grant application. They will assist in encouraging other Arizona self-advocacy groups to participate alongside S.E.L.F. members in shaping the direction of the coalition. S.E.L.F. members will participate in the coalition as equal partners alongside other advocacy groups, especially those that have been part of the self-advocacy grant that the Council funded for two years through Southwest Institute for Families and Children (SWI). S.E.L.F. members will contribute their insights, expertise, and efforts to working with those groups and building upon the work they achieved under the previous grant.

The aim of this project is to foster a collaborative and inclusive environment where all self-advocacy groups can work together on the shared goal of supporting self-advocates in Arizona.

The Arc of Tempe staff will also assist in tracking the leadership abilities of coalition members within coalition meetings and the peer-to-peer mentoring program using self-assessment surveys and will provide guidance and serve as a resource for coalition members, giving information and support for them to become effective advocates.

As stated in their proposal and in their clarification, they plan to conduct specific on-site outreach to the self-advocacy groups in Tuba City and in Nogales, and will meet with other disability groups around the state, such as Self-Direction, Northern Arizona Tribal Disability Coalition, People First of Arizona, the Inclusive Empowerment Network, and the Athletic Leadership Councils, which are a collaboration with Special Olympics AZ.

Through these outreach efforts, the aim is to invite and encourage these groups to actively participate in monthly coalition meetings and in-person activities and to enroll in the peer-to-peer mentoring program. The peer-to-peer initiative will go beyond individual guidance, as it aims to foster inclusive partnerships and collaboration among advocacy groups, promoting cross-disability and cross-cultural connections across Arizona.

Six training sessions will be held, of which five will be in person. The training sessions will take place in the communities of Cottonwood, Kingman, Kearny, Nogales, and Tuba City. The Arc of Arizona already has strong ties to several chapters of The Arc in Cottonwood, Kingman, Nogales, and Kearny. The project team plans to update the training curriculum that will be used, called Learn, Engage, Advocate, Develop, or L.E.A.D. It will be enhanced from S.E.L.F.'s pre-existing catalog and resources from The Arc of the U.S.

Mr. Barry, the project manager, will formulate and conduct the in-person training using this curriculum. Qualitative data will be collected in the form of participant feedback using self-reflection surveys at the end of each training session. These surveys will measure data that includes the specific leadership skills gained or enhanced, changes in the confidence of participants to advocate, and how the knowledge from the session could be applied to their personal or professional life.

The Arc of Arizona will also submit 2 presentation proposals for self-advocates to speak at upcoming conferences in the Spring of 2024. They are potentially looking at the African American Conference on Disabilities and the American Indian Disability Summit. This will give the opportunity for a select number of self-advocates to share their perspectives related to disability advocacy within these cultural contexts.

The total proposal is \$60,000 with cash match being provided by both The Arc of the U.S. and The Arc of Tempe in the amount of \$23,171. This is a one-year project, with the potential to be funded for multiple years based on performance.

Marcy acknowledged and thanked the evaluators: Council member Vanessa Felix, Kyle Beam with NAU/IHD, and Liz Carr with Copa Health.

The other proposal, submitted by ASU, was reviewed but did not meet the scope of work requirements.

Melissa asked if there were any clarifications. Marcy stated there were two clarifications that the applicant addressed. The first included a number of programmatic questions pertaining to The Arc of Tempe's role vs. the S.E.L.F. advocates and the second related to budget items that needed to be updated. Their response was forwarded to the evaluation committee to review and then discuss their final thoughts with staff. Each evaluator approved this proposal with the initial clarification as part of their full contract, if awarded. Staff sent The Arc of Arizona a second clarification to clean up a few budget items, and that information is forthcoming.

Kathy asked how they plan to measure and capture the fuller picture of self-advocates' growth as they participate in this project. She said it's important to capture their journey, not just the number of trainings they attended or any other data point, but how this project has led to their growth. Marcy stated that staff will add that evaluation component to their reporting requirements. Marcy also stated that we need to report more stories of individuals who participate in our projects and how it impacted them on a personal level. It's part of our reporting requirements, so we'll make sure this can be captured.

Mary said the word "coalition" implies these groups will be meeting and working together. Mary asked how they will stay connected since it's a statewide coalition with various local advocacy groups. She agreed with Kathy that she liked the question,

“Where are you going on your journey? How are you progressing?”, to ask self-advocates as part of their evaluation data to collect.

Marcy stated that although the DD Act uses the word “coalition”, we want to ensure that the applicant sustains and grows what SWI has already developed. This is work that is not beginning from scratch, but by awarding this contract to a new organization, The Arc of Arizona will have a new opportunity to assess what is working, what can change as they meet with individual self-advocates, and how to present new ways of creating a statewide coalition and develop a common goal.

Staff is excited for this opportunity as the partners will bring new ideas, new energy, and community connections to the self-advocacy project and to the Supported Decision-Making project, as well. The staff is hopeful and looking forward to hearing about the progress on both grants.

Jon stated that he appreciated all the feedback and said he will be meeting with Melanie Soto, the Executive Director of The Arc of Arizona to discuss the project and expectations that the Council and our federal funders have.

With no further questions, Chairperson Melissa Van Hook asked for a motion to approve the application by The Arc of the U.S. dba The Arc of Arizona in the amount of \$60,000 for a one-year contract. The motion was made by Mary Slaughter, seconded by Monica Cooper. The motion carried.

D. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM.

Dated this 7th day of July 2023
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council