



FULL COUNCIL MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

Friday, June 23, 2023

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. The meeting was conducted by teleconference.

Council Members Present

Melissa Van Hook, Chair
J.J. Rico, Vice Chair
Monica Cooper
Meghan Cox
Kin Chung-Counts
Bianca Demara
Vanessa Felix
Erik Jensen

Kathy Levandowsky
Kristina Lopez
Kristen Mackey
Gabriela Orozco
Wendy Parent-Johnson
Kelly Roberts
Vijette Saari
Sophie Stern

Council Members Absent

Erik Jensen
Benjamin Kauffman
Janna Murrell
James Rivera
Mary Slaughter
Mateo TreeTop
Janet Vilorio

Council Staff

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

Members of the Public/Guests

Lionel Delgado, public member, Yavapai County

A. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook welcomed everyone to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC or Council). The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM. Introduction of Council members and roll call completed.

B. Minutes from April 21, 2023, Meeting

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook reviewed the April 21 minutes and asked if there were any comments or corrections to be made. As no changes were offered, a motion was called to approve the April 21, 2023, minutes. Monica Cooper made the motion, seconded by Vanessa Felix. The motion carried.

C. Fiscal / Contract Update

Lani St. Cyr reviewed the ADDPC Financial Update and supporting documents. The following fiscal updates are as follows:

The Council has fully obligated the FY 2021 award amount of \$1,535,342 and has met the original September 2022 obligation deadline. However, ACL has granted a one-year no cost extension for FY 2021 funds. This extension made the new obligation and project period through September 30, 2023, allowing an additional year for the work to be completed. The Council has until December 31, 2023, to liquidate FY21 funds. There is approximately \$3,731 remaining 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 will need to complete the work by this September- 2023. There is approximately \$360,732 remaining to be liquidated.

The Council has received the full allotment of FY 2023 funding in the amount of \$1,500,930, which is level funding with the prior two fiscal years. There is approximately \$665,908 to obligate, which we 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 which runs through September 30, 2024, with the liquidation of funds through September 30, 2025.

An update was given on the additional awards the Council has received.

The Council received \$84,288 for COVID-19 Vaccine specific projects. These funds are being tracked and reported separately. ACL has also granted a one-year no cost extension for these funds, which the staff submitted a letter requesting. With the extension, the funds must be obligated, and work completed, by September 30, 2023. To date the Council has spent \$52,017 and has encumbered \$31,345, through September 30, 2022. 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.

The Council also received an additional award in the amount of \$95,319 to expand the Public Health Workforce within the Disability Network. These funds, too, will be tracked and reported separately.

The obligation and project period are through September 30, 2024. Currently staff is working on finalizing a contract for these funds. However, because these funds have not been obligated yet, there is a chance they will be taken back due to the debt ceiling negotiations.

Next, the Council Funded Projects sheet was reviewed. The Committee was informed that both the Impact Analytica Data Hub project and the ACESDV-Education on Reducing and Responding to Abuse Training have been granted no-cost contract extensions through September 30, 2023.

Finally, the Budget Recommendation document was reviewed. It reflects the projects outlined in the FY 2023 Workplan as well as the funding that has already been approved in the prior years. It showed a small surplus of \$17,400, and the Workplan Committee has identified projects for FY 2024 which may be able to utilize these funds.

D. Executive Director Report:

Jon Meyers reported on the following agenda items:

- **Federal debt ceiling agreement:**
Jon stated he was recently on a call with the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and other state directors and informed that the debt ceiling agreement will impact Council funding between 10-20% reduction. At this time, we don't have definitive funding impact for the FFY 24 award from the Administration on Community Living, but as soon as the state Councils know, Jon will inform the full Council.
- **Council vacancies/renewals:**
Several Council positions remain either unfilled or awaiting re-appointment of sitting members. Jon stated that he has been in communication with the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions and the Governor's Human Services and Health policy advisors to request help getting the vacancies filled. We are awaiting official notification to fill the DES/DAAS position and the reappointment of another Council member. Jon is hopeful the Council roster will be completed soon to share. Jon also shared information that will be forthcoming for those Council members whose reappointments will be considered in September 2023.
- **Programmatic Progress Reports (PPR) 2022 update:**
The PPR for FFY 2022 was submitted to ACL on December 29, 2022. The Council heard back from our federal representative that there are no areas to correct in the PPR, only that we need to be mindful to ensure our activities are achievable within the timeframe as listed. Jon thanked the staff for their assistance. He also noted that approximately 30 other Councils had to send updates and revisions on their PPR back to ACL.
- **Covid-19 Public Health Workforce Development special funding:**
As previously stated, 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. 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 CED.

Because there were multiple delays in working through the proposal and budget, we feared that Covid-19 monies that have not been obligated would be clawed back as part of the debt ceiling

legislation. Jon received confirmation from our federal funders that the ISA agreement with the University of Arizona-Sonoran CED can move ahead. As of June 26, 2023, the agreement has been executed and the project will begin July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

- Legislative/Policy Update – 2023 Session:
Jon spoke on the following bills:

SB1710 – State Hospital; Governing Board; Governance

This bill addresses oversight of the Arizona State Hospital (ASH), which is the state's public psychiatric hospital. The bill would move administrative oversight from the Department of Health Services, where it currently resides, and put it under an independent governance committee. There are pros and cons to this bill. ASH has been notorious for quite a few years for a variety of reasons, and in large part, this has to do with issues about quality of care for all the residents, especially when it comes to the I/DD population, and has been noted for its lack of transparency, lack of information, and lack of proper treatment.

Jon stated that the main concern with the proposed legislation is that the bill does nothing to improve AHS and it does not specify anything to improve conditions for people with I/DD. It simply moves the oversight from one agency to a governing body and provides not greater clarity regarding their role. The Council, along with NAMI, ACLU and the Arizona Peer and Family Coalition, signed a letter opposing SB 1710. The bill passed with a lot of changes, and the Governor ultimately signed this bill. We continue to be a part of the discussion with how to improve ASH and are optimistic that the Governor will hold stakeholder meetings where the Council and ACDL will be at the table.

SB1411 – Developmental Disabilities; Parents; Guardianship

This bill, introduced by Senator Justine Wadsack, originally stated that anyone receiving services from DDD would automatically and immediately on their 18th birthday fall under the guardianship of their parents, unless the parents notify DES that they didn't want to become their child's guardian. The bill in its original language was very concerning to the disability community, with many objecting to it.

Jon organized a letter opposing this bill, and he and others were able to meet with the sponsor to convey their concerns. She introduced an amendment in the Senate, however, the amendment was only marginally better than the original language and still wasn't something that the disability advocacy community could live with. But she stated a willingness to work with advocates on a floor amendment in the House once it was transmitted from the Senate. The bill as amended passed and moved to the House, where it died. The Council will continue to work with the sponsor of the bill on educating the members on guardianship and other types of legislation to address guardianship reform and for those cases where it is not necessary.

SB1291 – Conservatorship; Guardianship; Policies; Procedures

This bill passed the legislature this week as a striker bill to ensure Supported Decision-Making is an option for Arizona families and individuals with I/DD who do not need guardianship. Governor Hobbs signed it into law. As stated, this was a striker bill and new language was added to codify Supported Decision-Making. This is exciting news for Arizona, as the Council has been supporting efforts to pass legislation since 2018. Jon stated he appreciated the help from many in the community and especially from the staff at the Arizona Center for Disability Law.

HB2559 – DCS; Federal Benefits; Dependent Children

This bill has also been signed into law. The bill stated that, for those children under the care of the Department of Child Safety (DCS), DCS is responsible to apply for, and establish an appropriate account to hold, any federal benefits to which the child is entitled. The type of account, which may include an ABLE account, must be in the child's best interest. Jon stated that in Illinois, legislation was recently passed that says any child with an IEP must be informed on how to establish an ABLE account. Jon will be researching how this can be replicated in Arizona.

HB2166 – DHS; Licensure; Group Home

This bill requires licensing with the Arizona Dept. of Health Services for behavior-supported group homes, a new category of residential placement in Arizona, serving individuals with behavioral health challenges and I/DD.

Several Council members made comments to the above legislation and also appreciated all those who were involved. Kathy asked if the Council can be involved in the rulemaking efforts for the legislation that passed regarding establishing ABLE accounts for youth in the foster care system and especially for those youth with disabilities and I/DD. Jon said yes, even after rules are drafted to have input from the disability community will be important.

Meghan said that she loved the ability for ABLE accounts to be established because there is a lot of confusion on this topic. Meghan also added that the Council should not forget to address the needs and services of the homeless population and those that live in tribal communities.

Jon appreciated both comments and stated that Jason serves on the statewide overview committee for the ABLE accounts and can bring these comments to their next meeting.

J.J. Rico stated that he can introduce Jon to Drew Shafer at the William E. Morris Institute for Justice regarding the foster care changes. Mr. Shafer did extensive work on this issue with the Minnesota P&A.

J.J. said he appreciated Jon's work to ensure SDM legislation was signed into law and all of his previous work on this legislation when he was the Executive Director for The Arc of Arizona. Through the SDM grant, this was one of the priorities for ACDL and truly a collaborative effort by so many who saw this as an opportunity, including Erica McFadden, the Council's previous Executive Director.

Melissa said she is glad there will be education around SDM, because she frequently speaks to families who need to be informed on how this can be a benefit for them and to understand the pros and cons of both SDM and guardianship. Melissa also stated that guardianship will not afford protections to their adult child if they are in the criminal justice system so we need to keep educating families.

Jon said that he and Jason met with Megan Akins of DDD on how state and local housing services are coming together to address people with I/DD in the homeless population and the tribal communities. Jon said the Council and other partners will keep working on those systemic issues.

E. Committee/Workgroup Reports:

1. Grants Update:

Monica Cooper asked that staff present the new grant recommendations. (As a note, if any Council member would like more information on any application or evaluation process, please contact Marcella Crane.)

Conference Sponsorship & Training: Eleven applications were submitted for consideration and reviewed by an outside evaluation committee. The reviewers are recommending five to be funded by the Council. The Conference & Training Sponsorship is a competitive grant that is released annually. Applicants could apply for a maximum amount of \$10,000 and the purpose is to use our funding to educate the I/DD community on a topic that is of importance. The event must take place in Arizona and within the contract period. Funds are used to support speakers, conference location, materials, supplies, accommodations, staffing and evaluation data collection. The total amount of funds to award is \$36,640. Melissa asked for individual votes.

Marcy thanked the following evaluation committee members: Melanie Soto, Lindsay Ashworth, and Kristina Lopez.

The following applications are summarized:

Bloom 365: Requesting \$8,850

Bloom 365 will host its 2024 Safety for All conference that addresses sexual assault services and programs to increase access to and utilization of trauma-informed outreach, case management, advocacy, and therapy services for with disabilities who are victims of sexual violence. Currently, Safety for All is available on-site at Arcadia High School and Coronado High School, as well as a variety of other disability-centered community organizations.

This one-day conference will take place in Phoenix, targeting K-12 special education teachers, Title IX Coordinators, and parents/caregivers of special education students. It is tentatively set for April 2024 to coincide with Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The format of the conference is a full day session, with 5 speakers, lunch, and an exhibit hall. Experts in the topic will be invited to present and participate, the conference committee will also issue a request for proposals, from which 6 will be chosen based on their topic, experience, and format.

Melissa called for a motion to approve the application by Bloom 365 for \$8,850. Kathy Levandowsky made the motion, seconded by Gabriela Orozco. The motion carried.

Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona: Requesting \$5,000

Brain Injury Alliance of AZ will host its annual conference, Rays of Hope Brain Injury Survivor and Family Conference, in May 2024. Rays of Hope provides an opportunity for survivors, their families, and caregivers to share experiences on their respective roads to recovery, learning from professionals and from each other. The conference engages the brain injury community, including those with I/DD, in the planning of the conference where they influence selection of speakers, session topics and other details.

Rays of Hope is a two-day conference that will take place in Phoenix. The previous attendance was approximately 300 participants, and 60% of attendees were those with an I/DD and a brain injury. There is no cost to attend. Ten stipends will be offered to participants from rural areas of the state to assist with their travel costs. Those from the rural communities in Navajo, Apache,

Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz, and La Paz counties will be eligible for the travel stipend. Session topics may include Introduction to Assistive Technology, Your Rights at Work, Dating with a Disability, the ADA and Returning to Work, Exploring Integrative Medicine and Healing, and Mediation and Mindfulness.

Melissa called for a motion to approve the application by the Brain Injury Alliance of Arizona for \$5,000. Kelly Roberts made the motion, seconded by Monica Cooper. The motion carried.

Care 4 the Caregivers: Requesting \$9,040

Care 4 the Caregivers will conduct 6 in-person sexual education training courses, in the communities of Tempe, Anthem, Peoria, Phoenix, Nogales, and Flagstaff, for caregivers who are raising children with disabilities and I/DD. This promising practice training on sex education for families/caregivers is titled, "Healthy Foundations: Caregiver Workshop about Sexuality and Disability." Unique to this proposal is that Care 4 the Caregivers will take this curriculum and will seek feedback from self-advocates from The Arc of Tempe -S.E.L.F. to identify any gaps in knowledge within the curriculum, evaluate resources, and provide input on other strategies that might not have been considered.

Training will be open to 15-20 caregivers per training location and there is no cost for attendees. If attendance is low or a virtual meeting is better suited for a community, Care 4 the Caregivers will consider all options. The format is 1 ½ hours for the training with 30 minutes for Q&A. Attendees will have materials with them for each training session and they will be required to complete a survey at the end of the session.

Melissa asked if the staff have experience in this topic and to conduct the training. Marcy did not know for sure and stated she would reach out to verify.

Melissa called for a motion to approve the application by Care 4 the Caregivers for \$9,040. Sophie Stern made the motion, seconded by Kin Counts. J.J. Rico abstained. The motion carried.

NAU/IHD: Requesting \$10,000

Funding will be used to support IHD's 2024 Evidence for Success Disability Conference, specifically only for conference sessions that cover the topic of customized, competitive integrated employment. Funds will cover two speakers' fees (at \$2,500 each) and costs for IHD's staff to oversee the tasks in conference planning and final reporting to the ADDPC. The in-person conference will be held in Phoenix, over two days, in June 2024.

The IHD annual conference is designed to educate service providers – such as schools, therapists, Voc. Rehab. counselors, DDD support coordinators and families/caregivers – about the trends, research, and evidence-based practices that support the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all life activities.

Melissa called for a motion to approve the application by NAU/IHD for \$10,000. Kathy Levandowsky made the motion, seconded by Vanessa Felix. Kelly Roberts abstained. The motion carried.

United Cerebral Palsy of Southern Arizona: Requesting \$3,750

UCP of Southern AZ will offer 4 free training sessions, September through May 2024, on four key topics covering Independent Living. The four-part series will provide resources and tools to self-advocates to enhance their independence, build community, and encourage quality of life. The theme is "Powering through Life: by People who have Developmental, Intellectual, and Physical Disabilities." Sessions will be in-person and via Zoom platform.

Each session will be facilitated by self-advocates and professionals and is meant for self-advocates that are 18 and older and use mobility devices. The format will allow participants and speakers to share their stories, exchange information and ideas, and help educate and support one another.

Melissa called for a motion to approve the application by UCP of Southern Arizona for \$3,750. Vanessa Felix made the motion, seconded by Gabriela Orozco. The motion carried.

The six applications that were also reviewed and not selected for a grant include:

- AZ Caregiver Coalition
- Choose a School/AZ Inclusion
- Idea Analytics
- Milemarkers Therapy
- Neurodiversity Education & Research Center
- Special Olympics of AZ

Marcy stated that each of these six will receive a letter stating who was awarded and encouraging these applicants to contact the Council to receive feedback on how to improve their application.

Parenting Supports for Persons with Disabilities: Three applications were received and evaluated by an outside evaluation committee. They each went through several clarification reviews; the committee liked all three applications and is recommending them to the Council. The three proposals will total \$178,969.

Marcy thanked the following evaluation committee members: Joyce Millard-Hoie, Michele Thorne, and Susan Voirol.

Arizona State University, School of Social Work: Requesting \$35,604

ASU School of Social Work will carry out a best practice model in three phases, targeting four groups for each phase. The groups are parents with disabilities and their family members; social service organizations; policy advocates and policy makers; and social workers who work with parents with disabilities.

Phase 1 is to develop a user-friendly guide of best practices and models of support. The guide will be developed by an expert in accessible design and distributed freely online. The guide will include case studies outlining at least 6 different models for services or supports for parents with disabilities, sections on relevant policies affecting services and supports for parents with disabilities, and links to state and national resources.

Phase 2 will be to develop an interactive training curriculum on best practices and models of support and services for parents with disabilities. The general theme of both the guide and the

development of the training curriculum is the notion of supported parenting, meaning that parents with all types of disabilities can parent with appropriate accommodations and supports.

In Phase 3, ASU will conduct four training courses - in Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma, and Flagstaff. One training will be virtual and recorded and participants will be recruited by their networks of social service providers and the larger disability advocacy groups. The expected number to be trained is 125 individuals; a pre- & post-test will be conducted, and a 3-month post-test will also be conducted to provide data on how effective the training and materials are.

ASU also plans to submit at least one peer reviewed journal article to gain awareness and learn from others in the field how this issue is being addressed and by what promising and/or best practices.

Also important to note is that ASU School of Social Work will work with a culturally diverse expert panel that will provide feedback on the guide and training curriculum to ensure cultural appropriateness is imbedded in both products. The guide will also be developed in Spanish and in plain language; interpreters will be provided for the trainings, if requested. Other accommodation costs will be covered by ASU if requested.

Melissa called for a motion to approve the application by ASU School of Social Work for \$35,604. Vanessa Felix made the motion, seconded by Kathy Levandowsky. Kristina Lopez abstained. The motion carried.

Northern Arizona University-Institute for Human Development (NAU/IHD): Requesting \$75,046

NAU/IHD proposes to improve access to high-quality parenting support for Arizona parents with I/DD who have infants or young children (focus is 0-5 years of age). As a statewide project, IHD will build capacity within the existing Arizona evidence-based home visiting (EBHV) parenting programs to serve parents with I/DD. Because this focus will improve the capacity of EBHV's programs, there is the potential for future funding to continue researching and enhance implementation. Also, the national network of EBHV parenting programs, funded through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program has shown an interest in research for those families that experience the greatest needs.

The project will conduct research for the first four months to gather essential information for informing the development of the training and program materials. Key research components will include a literature review of published programmatic materials used by Arizona home visiting programs, what is done in other states, and other parenting programs for diverse parents with I/DD. IHD will also convene a project advisory research team that will be comprised of parents with I/DD and home visitors to review the data and all aspects of this project.

IHD will interview five program leaders of AZ's home visiting programs that are part of the national Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. The interviewees will be selected through targeted recruiting occurring in Maricopa, Coconino, Yuma, and Pima counties. Based on this research and survey collection, IHD will draft materials and training in the remaining months of the project period. Assessment of the training and materials will still be gathered, even after each training, to review for effectiveness and make any changes if needed.

Project materials will include materials used by the home visitor to improve the delivery of home visiting services and the home visiting program; and materials will be developed for the parents with I/DD. Materials will be in multiple formats, adhere to universal principles, and be fully accessible – including online, downloadable, and range of text from low text to pictorial and narrated versions.

Three training courses will be done online for the home visiting program leaders and home visitors. As a benchmark, IHD will aim for five supervisors of each of the named five Arizona home visiting programs (N=25), and 10 home visitors representing the named home visiting programs (N=50) to complete the 3-part training series.

The training courses will a) increase awareness and basic knowledge; b) increase knowledge of integrating materials into home visiting practices; and c) increase implementation knowledge essential for sustaining the use of materials in home visiting practices. Three additional training courses will be conducted at statewide events/conferences to reach the Early Childhood Home Visitors and for disability professional/providers.

Melissa called for a motion to approve the application by NAU/IHD for \$75,046. Sophie Stern made the motion, seconded by Vanessa Felix. Kelly Roberts abstained. The motion carried.

The University of Arizona Sonoran CED: Requesting \$68,319

The Sonoran CED, in collaboration with Ability 360, Raising Special Kids, DDD, the Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association, and UnitedHealthcare, submitted the third proposal recommended for a grant. The project will build upon work done by the collaborative team for the past two years. The funding they are requesting from the Council will support additional research into the topic by gathering surveys, conducting interviews, and holding focus groups. National research will be done to collect data on what is currently being done and assess what best practices are in place. All data will be analyzed and used by the collaborative team to inform their training and development of resource materials.

Resource materials will be developed and targeted to three sets of groups: The first group are individuals and parents with disabilities to support them in their decision-making, access to quality medical care, and support to assist them during their pregnancy and parenting.

The second group targeted with resources is the medical community to increase their awareness and improve service delivery practices that are accessible and available to individuals with a disability to address their pregnancy and parenting questions, needs, and care.

A third set of resources will focus on the developmental disability community of individuals, family members, and professionals to increase the choices available, support for individual decision-making, and the medical care and assistance during pregnancy and parenting a child.

Each of the partners mentioned will have active roles in recruitment for the surveys, focus groups and interviews. They will also analyze the information and determine the best ways to create resources; how information will be disseminated through multiple formats; and the group will be tasked to evaluate the effectiveness of their approach and make any adjustments to their project, as needed.

Other specifics to mention:

- The targeted number for research data includes 30 survey respondents and 25 interview, focus group, and content expert participants (N=55). Individuals with I/DD, parents and professionals will be targeted for this activity.
- A total of 13 products and resources will be developed to include 2 webinars, 5 infographics, 3 presentations, 1 Ob-Gyn resource list, 1 adaptive equipment resource list, and 1 resource flyer.
- A total of 8 training products and resources will be developed to include 1 self-paced module, 1 CME course, 1 recorded Zoom training, and 5 training PowerPoints and handouts, along with attendance at 2 family informational events.
- Recruitment materials will be developed and designed to be culturally responsive and disseminated through their listserv, newsletters, website, the UA Native Center webinar series, and the project collaborative team.
- In-person training will be developed and delivered on site around the state to include Tucson, Yuma, Flagstaff, Phoenix, and a tribal community.
- The evaluation process will include survey responses collected from participants to understand training satisfaction, knowledge gains, and impact. User satisfaction and feedback data will be requested from those who receive products and resources. Partner organizations who interface with people with I/DD, family members, and disability and health care professionals will do field checks on a regular basis to gain anecdotal insights to learn how the information shared is being received and used. And two stories will be written and disseminated that highlight the experiences and journeys of one person with I/DD and one healthcare professional because of the information and skills they gained from the project resources and training.

Melissa called for a motion to approve the application by UA/Sonoran CED for \$68,319. Sophie Stern made the motion, seconded by Vanessa Felix. Wendy Parent-Johnson abstained. The motion carried.

The final grant application for the Council to consider was the competitive grant application for Supported Decision-Making. The evaluation review wrapped up a few days after the Grants committee on June 5, thus staff presented this one application to the Council for a recommendation to award.

The Arc of the United States, dba The Arc of Arizona: Requesting \$80,000

Marcy thanked the following evaluation committee members: Maureen Casey, Janna Murrell, and Jill Pleasant.

Supported Decision-Making (SDM) is an alternative to traditional guardianship or substitute decision-making models and is based on autonomy, self-determination, and inclusivity. The Arc of Arizona's SDM Agreement Training proposal will focus on understanding legal capacity; communication and decision-making skills; person-centered planning; identifying and managing risks; identifying support networks; legal and ethical considerations; advocacy and empowerment; and development of practical tools and resources.

The Arc of Arizona will partner with the Arizona Center for Disability Law. Components of the proposal and training include:

Curriculum development: Review current SDM curriculum training materials and enhance the materials to reflect national principles, best practices, and legal aspects of SDM. Information on SDM will come from the National Center for SDM and will be tailored to the needs of the diverse populations in Arizona. Information will also be tailored to professionals in the education and judicial systems.

12 in-person and virtual training sessions will be conducted for various stakeholders, including individuals with I/DD, their families and caregivers, educators, service providers, and legal professionals. Outreach efforts will also include unserved/underserved populations and communities. Training sessions will be interactive and participatory, involving discussions, case study review, role playing and other methods.

The applicant will collaborate with local disability organizations, advocacy groups, local chapters of The Arc and other stakeholders to promote the importance of SDM. The ACDL was part of the first four years of the previous SDM grant and will build upon and expand the project's outreach efforts.

The Expected Outcomes include:

Increased awareness about the importance of SDM as a person-centered approach for individuals with I/DD to retain their right to make their own choices.

Enhanced ability for participants to acquire practical skills and strategies, to include communication skills, active listening, decision-making processes, understanding the dignity of risk, and strategies for addressing challenges and barriers to allowing people to exercise their right to make choices.

Increased collaboration that fosters partnerships among stakeholders, including individuals with disabilities, families, school systems, judicial systems, service providers, and legal professionals.

Other programmatic considerations:

- The Arc of Arizona will afford accommodations as requested, and recorded trainings will be closed captioned.
- Training sessions will be done together by The Arc of Arizona and the Arizona Center for Disability Law.
- As SDM legislation has been signed into law by the Governor, The Arc of Arizona will ensure that the curriculum, as well as any promotional materials that are created, will reflect the new provisions in the law.
- The Arc of AZ will also have information for those families that want to rescind guardianship and implement SDM agreement.

Evaluation data will include both output numbers and outcome measurements, following up with attendees on how the information they received is being used. This information will inform The Arc of Arizona of any changes to make.

Melissa called for a motion to approve the application by The Arc of the United States dba The Arc of Arizona for \$80,000. Kathy Levandowsky made the motion, seconded by Sophie Stern. J.J. Rico abstained. The motion carried.

2. System Access & Navigation:

Jon stated that there was nothing to report at this time. Mary Slaughter is unavailable due to a medical concern and will reschedule the June 27 meeting for a later date and time.

3. Meaningful Careers:

Melissa Van Hook provided the update on behalf of the committee. The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) is conducting Research on Arizona's Vocational Rehabilitation policies and programs. Earlier this year, ICI staff began outreach to stakeholders and groups recommended by ADDPC and VR. So far, they have conducted interviews with 29 people connected to Voc Rehab, including supervisors, counselors, program managers, Pre-ETS providers, attorneys, and directors. In addition, ICI has conducted interviews with people connected to the Department of Education and local school systems, including school district transition program directors and transition coordinators. ICI is utilizing ADDPC's network to recruit youth with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities who received services from Arizona VR program to interview. These include youth who have participated in a Transition from School to Work program (TSW), career exploration, job readiness skills, self-advocacy and determination, work based learning opportunities, and much more. ICI also wants to interview parents of youth under the age of 25 with I/DD who have received VR services/employment preparation activities within the past 3 years. To date, they have conducted interviews with 3 individuals and 6 family members. The goal is to interview 30 youth and 30 family members to find out what went well and what should have been done differently. Melissa acknowledged it has been a struggle to recruit youth and family members to interview. She asked Council members who know of individuals that fit the interview criteria to please contact Mike Leyva. There is a \$25 Amazon gift card per household for each completed interview.

The Center for the Future of Arizona and Arizona Town Hall are working on the Communities at the Center Project. They have been meeting with groups and organizations to inform and prompt dialogue around issues impacting the transition of young people with disabilities into postsecondary education and career success. The project's intent is to engage cross-sector leaders to understand the challenges in, and opportunities for, advancing equitable access and to surface opportunities for action. On Wednesday of this week, the Center for the Future of Arizona and AZ Town Hall presented the Communities at the Center Project at the Institute for Human Development's Evidence for Success Conference. It was an excellent presentation which helped generate awareness and interest for the project. During the presentation, information was collected from the audience that will be helpful to the project and some attendees said they would like to continue to be involved. Melissa stated that is exactly what we were hoping for! She thanked Kelly Roberts for providing an opportunity for CFA to share information and gave kudos to the IHD team for a great conference! She also thanked Kelly for giving Melissa an opportunity to present at the conference.

Melissa also shared that she recently represented the Council at the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Conference with Jon in Columbus, Ohio. This is the only national conference focused solely on the advancement of Employment First and competitive integrated employment. She and Jon heard about best practices, had an opportunity to network, and were pleased to learn that APSE regional representatives will soon provide technical

assistance to help support state APSE chapters.

In the next quarter, the Meaningful Careers Committee will release new resource materials for individuals and families to help them make informed decisions regarding postsecondary education, employment and future careers, Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts, DB101 – how benefits support work, and transition. Michael Leyva sent the resources via email to the Council members.

4. Behavioral Health & I/DD:

Jason Snead provided the update. The behavioral health and crisis response for persons with I/DD core team met with the Governor's Health and Human Services policy advisors on May 30, 2023, and are scheduled to have a follow-up meeting on June 27, 2023, that will include the Governor's advisors and the Assistant Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). While there has been some minor progress in the crisis system since the crisis report was released nearly a year and a half ago the core team continues to receive reports that individuals with I/DD are not receiving proper services. They want to use the meeting on June 27 to discuss the best way to move forward. They also are developing a survey to see if there have been any changes in the way that individuals with disabilities are being served by the Arizona crisis system since the report has been released.

5. Work Plan Review:

Kathy Levandowsky provided the update. Kathy discussed only the areas of the draft 2024 Work Plan that are highlighted in yellow as New Activities that the committee is recommending, and activity language that is cleaned up.

Those activities that are not highlighted are projects that are carried over from the FFY 2023 Work Plan and will continue to be either funded by a grant or are projects led by staff and committee work. Kathy also noted that the 2024 draft is also the same for FFY 2025 and both work plans will be submitted to the Administration on Community Living (ACL) by the deadline of August 15.

Melissa thanked Kathy and the other committee members for working diligently with staff to update the Council's work plan. The work was undertaken this spring and the committee met frequently to review each Goal, Objective and Activity.

Jon apologized for the oversight of not attaching the drafts when the meeting notice was sent. Jon sent the documents via email during the meeting and said that Council members can still offer any changes or updates prior to the deadline. He asked that they contact him to discuss this further.

The drafts need a vote to proceed, and Melissa asked the Council members if they felt comfortable voting on the approval of the FFY 2024 and 2025 work plans as presented by Kathy, without seeing the documents ahead of time. Melissa shared that she was receiving a lot of positive feedback and there was no need to delay this vote.

Melissa asked for a motion to approve the draft FFY 2024 & 2025 Work Plan drafts. The motion was made by Kin Counts and seconded by Vijette Saari. The motion carried.

F. Announcements:

J.J. Rico wanted to thank everyone who went to the African American Conference on Disabilities. More than 400 people attended, including several Council members.

Kristina Lopez added in the chat box a link to invite Council members to a community advisory board for a project she is directing for Latinx/e transition age autistic youth.

G. Call to the Public:

Mr. Lionel Delgado, a public member, made the following comments:

- Concerns about the cost for families for their child to attend a camp in Northern Arizona.
- Could a public member add feedback to the Council on grant proposals? Do the Council's bylaws prohibit community feedback? Jon responded that the public does not have input on the grant selection process, and that the Council's bylaws do not provide for public input on the grants. This is because the members of the Council are appointed by the Governor and are representatives of the public. They have the final word on this process. Jon further stated that the public has the ability to provide comments on the five-year plan, or on surveys the Council releases every other year. However, when it comes to regular grant meetings and during the evaluation process, there is no legal means to have the public provide input.

H. Adjourn:

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook adjourned the meeting at 12:14 PM.

Dated this 30th day of June 2023
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council