



## **MEANINGFUL CAREERS COMMITTEE**

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council  
3839 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 306, Phoenix, Arizona 85012

A committee meeting of the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) was convened virtually December 1, 2021. Notice having been duly given. Present were the following members of the Meaningful Careers Committee, guests, and staff.

<b>Committee Members Present</b>
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Melissa Van Hook, Chair, Telephone  
Monica Cooper, Telephone  
Wendy Parent-Johnson, Telephone  
Scott Lindbloom, Telephone  
Kristen Mackey, Telephone  
J.J. Rico, Telephone

<b>Staff</b>	<b>Committee Members Absent</b>
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Michael Leyva, Contracts/Grants Coordinator	Erik Jensen
Jason Snead, Research & Communication Specialist	James Rivera

### **A. Welcome & Introductions**

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook welcomed everyone to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC or Council) Meaningful Careers Committee meeting. The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. Roll call and participant introductions were completed.

### **B. Role of Committee and Members**

Melissa Van Hook thanked members for serving on the Committee and asked them to attend meetings, read materials and participate in discussion and contribute in a meaningful way as their role is very important to the Committee and the Council.

### **C. Review & Feedback on FY2022 Work Plan**

#### Raising Expectations Project

Mike Leyva shared information on Community Engagement, also referred to as the Raising Expectations project, which has been a Council activity for several years designed to bring visibility, spark dialogue, and motivate action to ensure more successful transitions of young people with disabilities into career and postsecondary education pathways. The Council's plan was to have an in-person town hall with cross-sector leaders to collaboratively discuss issues, challenges, and collectively come up with new ideas, thinking, and solutions. The project was delayed due to Covid and preliminary planning was pushed to FY2022. Mike shared a proposal the Council received from the Center for the Future of Arizona which he believes has the ability and capacity to conduct and present a comprehensive town hall and bring in diverse stakeholders, but more emphasis needs to be placed on implementation, and what happens after convenings, reports, roadmap, and the town hall? Mike asked the Committee if they had ideas to move forward with the planning, who, and what, should be included.

Melissa Van Hook shared that families have not received adequate support from schools, systems, and the ongoing struggles that exist for children to succeed. Instead of expectations there are limits, instead of supports there is hesitancy.

Kristen Mackey asked if there has been any involvement with the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP). Shouldn't we start there, since it's the statewide interagency system of services and supports for families, with young children entering the system? Kristen said AzEIP emphasizes the strength-based approach, and that's positive for families. J.J. Rico likes the idea of starting with AzEIP, as it's never too early to start. J.J. said Kansas has a great transition plan app that helps with transition planning that's interactive and involves students. It would be nice to have something similar in Arizona. Kristen shared transitions happen throughout the lifecycle. It was recommended that plain language transition guides (at all ages and grade levels) should be available for families. Additional discussion is recommended.

#### Provider Transformation Project

Council is funding a project to support provider transformation activities from center-based to competitive employment. Staff asked AZ Association of Providers for People with Disabilities (AAPPD) for their assistance to survey service providers regarding the type of technical assistance they would like to receive, how they would like to receive T/A and training, and, if they would be willing to mentor other service providers. The information will be used to help develop a scope of work. The Council has allocated \$50,000 for the project but the amount may be underestimated. Kristen Mackey shared in the future, VR may be able to make it a requirement in different scopes of work, to receive the fee for the service a vendor is providing, employees must receive "provider transformation training" to be reimbursed certain

rates. This would be a new incentive to encourage providers to participate in trainings. She also shared trainings need to be consistently provided.

#### **D. Brainstorm Ideas for Employment & Transition Webinars**

Mike Leyva shared the Council would like to host 4 – 6 Employment and Transition webinars to educate and inform stakeholders of Employment First, educators and transition professionals, self-advocates and families, job coaching staff and employment support professionals. The free one-hour webinars will be presented by subject matter experts once a month beginning March 2022 and depending on how many are scheduled, will run through July or August 2022. Council staff will work with the DD Network to present and market the webinars. The Council staff identified topics that have not been presented before and activities the Council has supported recently in its FY2021 Work Plan. Mike asked if Committee members have ideas for additional webinar topics and if anyone would be interested in introducing some of the webinars. Scott Lindbloom suggested a webinar on Customer Service Skills.

Suggested webinar topics (those listed in italics have not been presented before)

- *Supporting Inclusive Practices in Colleges (Arizona's Think College Model)*
- *There is Another Path to Take: Apprenticeships and Career & Technical Education (CTE) Creating Opportunities for Young Adults*
- *The Critical Role VR Plays in the Transition Process and Beyond*
- *An Unexpected Journey – My Story Through a Person-Centered Planning Lens – David Maruhashi, Independent Special Education Trainer and Consultant, Washington State*
- *Transportation and Employment*
- Why Employment First Must Be a Priority in Arizona
- Supported Employment with Fidelity
- The Role of Assistive Technology and Devices in School, Employment and Community Living
- Benefits Planning and Creating an ABLE Account
- The Basics of Supported Decision Making: It's Your Choice

Kristen Mackey indicated VR staff can help assist with CRCs. Kristen asked if webinars will be archived. Webinars will be archived. Mike will follow up with Kristen regarding CRCs.

#### **E. Call to the Public**

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook issued a Call to the Public. No public members were in attendance.

**F. Adjourn**

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Kristen Mackey; seconded by Monica Cooper. The Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Dated this 3rd day of December 2021  
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

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