



## MEANINGFUL CAREERS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

12:00 – 1:00 p.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 June 28, 2022. 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  
Erik Jensen, Telephone  
Kristen Mackey, Telephone  
J.J. Rico, Telephone  
J.J. Rivera, Telephone

<b>Guest and Staff</b>	<b>Committee Members Absent</b>
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Liana Dagostino  
Michael Leyva, Contracts/Grants Coordinator  
Jason Snead, Research & Communications Specialist

Wendy Parent-Johnson

### 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 12:05 p.m. Roll call and participant introductions were completed. Melissa announced the order in which Agenda items are to be discussed, so that the meeting achieves its purpose.

### B. Review of December 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Melissa Van Hook asked members if they reviewed meeting minutes and if there were any corrections. There were no corrections to the minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Erik Jensen; seconded by Monica Cooper. The Motion carried.

#### **D. Update on Employment & Transition Webinars**

Mike Leyva shared the Council has partnered with the DD Network to develop a series of six webinars focused on employment and transition. *Creating a Success Path* was launched in April and will run through September. The first webinar *Imagining a Great Life for Your Son or Daughter* was presented by Janna Murrell and CeCi Hartke from Raising Special Kids and had 76 participants. The second webinar *The Critical Role VR Plays in the Transition Process and Beyond* was presented by Betty Schoen and had 136 participants. The third webinar *Yes, Your Son or Daughter Can Attend College* was presented by Sakenya McDonald and had 88 participants. Surveys are conducted for each webinar and so far, feedback has been positive. The webinars are archived on ADDPC's website and will be available on the AZ Employment First website as well. Mike praised the DD Network collaboration for their technical assistance and for helping to make the make the webinar series possible.

#### **C. Review & Feedback FY 2022 Work Plan**

Mike Leyva shared the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Study is under review and more information will be provided to the Committee once a final decision has been made.

Mike Leyva shared information on 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. Mike shared Kristen Mackey's recommendation to include Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP), since it's the statewide interagency system of services and supports for families, with young children entering the system, and AzEIP emphasizes the strength-based approach, and that's positive for families. Mike also mentioned J.J. Rico recommendation to consider utilizing a transition plan app that helps with transition planning that's interactive and involves students, similar to the app used in Kanas.

Mike shared that he, Melissa Van Hook, and Jon Meyers have had a discussion with the Center for the Future of Arizona to request their assistance to develop a plan. The plan would identify and bring new stakeholders to the table, develop a communication and marketing plan, develop a strategy for convening groups to build a statewide collaborative that results in conducting a town hall, and create resource materials.

Melissa Van Hook shared her idea for a Provider Transformation Project. In March 2023 providers will be required to provide employment services that are focused on Competitive Integrated Employment, it will be the law of the land. Subminimum wage and Center Based Employment (CIE) were created but only meant to be time limited. There is a provider/vendor that has successfully transitioned over 50 individuals into CIE so it can be done. They used Discovery to help transition their clients into CIE. They also trained staff on the use of Discovery. The vendor worked closely with a VR office to make the transition from Group Supported Employment to CIE to be successful.

Melissa shared that Mike prepared a draft Scope of Work for a Provider Transformation Project but requested that it be delayed. Training providers through a webinar will not work, a few providers may take advantage of the training, but it will not achieve critical mass as intended. If you have 200 participants in a webinar it's not interactive and there is no accountability. The training will be spread too thin and will not achieve the goal as intended. Melissa proposes key VR representative work on developing a transformation model and include the individual who successfully transitioned 50 individuals from GSE to CIE and a few other key representatives and bring in experienced specialist to conduct initial training to targeted providers.

Kristen Mackey mentioned that some of the specialists mentioned use a rigid training model that may restrict providers, may want to use a consultant or model that allows for flexibility. VR is planning to have a Scope of Work built out in the next three months that would include supported employment for providers and would include training staff. Would also include changes to JDR contracts and launched through MSP because it allows for more people to participate.

The Council will wait to see what kind of training is needed, will collaborate with VR and determine what is needed and go from there to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

J.J. Rico shared that families may push back on the Competitive Employment issues. It's not a Council issue, it's Federal law. Phase out of subminimum wage and CBE is coming in 2023.

A motion was made by Monica Cooper to move the Raising Expectation Project and Provider Transformation Project to FY 2023 from Fy2022; seconded by James Rivera. Motion Carried.

JJ Rico shared a link of Providers that currently hold 14c in Arizona.

#### **D. Call to the Public**

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

#### **E. Adjourn**

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook adjourned the Meaningful Careers Committee Meeting at 1:11 p.m.