



PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Friday, September 14, 2020

11:00 A.M. – 11:50 A.M.

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

DRAFT MINUTES

The Public Policy Standing Committee meeting of the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) was convened Monday, September 14, 2020 via webinar. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the ADDPC.

Members Present

Scott Lindbloom, Chairperson, Telephone George Garcia, Telephone
Wendy Parent-Johnson, Telephone

Members Absent

Katharine Levandowsky
Janna Murrell

Staff

Erica McFadden, Executive Director
Marcella Crane, Staff
Jason Snead, Staff

Guests

Riana Burnett, ASU MSW Student

A. Call to Order/Welcome

Chairperson Scott Lindbloom welcomed everyone to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC or Council) Public Policy Standing Committee meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 A.M. Roll call and participant introductions were completed.

B. Review of Minutes

The minutes from the March 13, 2020 Public Policy Standing Committee were reviewed. A motion was made by George Garcia approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Wendy Parent-Johnson. The motion carried.

C. Mental Health & Self-Advocacy Work:

Scott Lindbloom shared that he will be participating in a webinar for self-advocates to discuss the link between mental health and self-advocacy, especially as more of us are working from home and isolated from family and friends. The webinar is hosted by the NACDD and will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2020. Also leading the discussion is Eric Stoker with the Utah DD Council.

D. Update on Sex Abuse Legislation/AZ Legislation

Erica McFadden made four points for the committee members that she is addressing with a larger coalition of stakeholders. First, there is no statewide training for teachers and school administrators for them to follow regarding mandatory reporting of sexual abuse of students, especially as it relates to students with I/DD. Our school group reached out to Senator Boyer, and he was interested in joining forces on legislation for the coming year. 2. The group is working with Adult Protective Services and DV shelters to address the need to have new caregivers provide supports for an individual with I/DD that leaves their home because of abuse and neglect, and seek shelter at a domestic violence shelter. If their current caregiver is suspected of abuse, these individuals need support and care and will need a new caregiver. There is gap in services for this and Erica is working with APS and DV shelters to address this need. There is a need for a line item to fund this effort. 3. Also with APS, new legislation needs to be reintroduced to add emotional abuse as a criteria to current policy; and 4. Working with The Arc of AZ, we're also addressing the need to change the Request to Speak system at the AZ Legislature. Currently, individuals need to physically show up at the legislature to sign up and create an account. This is not reasonable for many individuals who live outside of Phoenix, and especially a hardship for individuals with I/DD. So discussion is ongoing with the Sargent of Arms to have the system updated and accessible for anyone to sign up at home.

E. Seeking Changes to the RTS

Erica addressed this as the fourth point in the paragraph above.

F. Update on Supported Decision-Making Legislation

Marcella Crane stated that The Arc of AZ with the Southwest Institute for Families and Children (SWI), will be proposing in the 2021 AZ Legislative session, Supported Decision-Making legislation as an option to guardianship. During the spring 2020 session, HB 2769 was sponsored by Representative Longden and Co-Sponsored by John Allen; the bill was amended and passed the House and was sent to the Senate but at this time, the legislative session ended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. All bills were stalled during this time. Jon Meyers will take the lead again to work with Representative Longden to sponsor the bill in the upcoming session. Much depends on who will win their seats in the upcoming state elections. George Garcia stated that with current funding by the ADDPC to support SDM, they are in the process of conducting online trainings of what is SDM for various groups and stakeholders to include Medical, Legal, Educators, Social Services as well as individuals with I/DD and their families/caregivers. The Council will review SWI's third year renewal application on Friday September 18.

G. Federal Legislation Update

Marcella Crane provided briefly an overview of what is proceeding nationally through updates by the public policy committee of NACDD. Committee members were provided a excel sheet that lays out the priorities for legislation, thus being the top priority is continual funding of the Council's at level funding. Another priority is to get the Senate to pass the Heroes Act, which the House passed earlier this spring and has multiple funding provisions to support Covid-19 needs for businesses, people who lost income, housing support, support for PPE for hospitals and nursing homes staff, and also funding for various groups that are high risk including individuals with disabilities and seniors.

Also mentioned is the Senate tried to pass a "Skinny Covid-19" relief funding package, but this bill failed with no Democratic support and this bill did not address many of the provisions in the Heroes Act. Also mentioned and included for members was a report issued by NACDD on state Councils activities and initiatives under the Covid-19 pandemic.

H. Other actions? Group Discussion

Wendy Parent-Johnson stated that the Sonoran UCEDD will have 2 policy fellows that will begin shortly to work on public policy. Erica stated that they should connect with Jon Meyers at The Arc of AZ.

Jason Snead clarified that the ABLE accounts age limit is a national fix so that more individuals can apply for the money savings account. Jason also mentioned that he is creating videos around Voting Rights and those videos will be shared on social media accounts.

Erica mentioned that the Council still works The Arc of AZ to share their Capitol Roundup which is their weekly legislative updates during the session. She encouraged groups to share upcoming legislation updates. Erica mentioned we will also be working with groups to introduce legislation around Employment First this year. Wendy Parent Johnson offered to be a resource as she helped draft the initial legislation passed in Kansas, and knows the pitfalls we should avoid.

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by George Garcia to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Wendy Parent-Johnson. The motion carried, meeting adjourned at 11:50AM.