



## **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

Friday, May 21, 2021 10:00 a.m. –  
12:00 p.m.

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. Meeting was conducted by teleconference.*

### **Council Members Present**

Melissa Van Hook, Chair  
J.J. Rico, Vice Chair  
Bianca Demara  
Monica Cooper  
Janna Murrell  
James Rivera  
Meghan Cox  
Kristen Mackey

Mary Slaughter  
Wendy Parent-Johnson  
Kelly Roberts  
Scott Lindbloom  
Vanessa Felix  
Steve Freeman  
Michael Coen

### **Council Members Absent**

Ray Morris  
Angelina James  
Traci Gruenberger  
Kathy Levandowsky  
Matthew Isiogu

### **Council Staff**

Erica McFadden, Executive Director  
Marcella Crane  
Michael Leyva

Lani St. Cyr  
Jason Snead

### **Member of the Public**

Meghan Velasquez - Improvement Assurances Group  
Lauri Ganzenmiller -United healthcare Community Plan

## **A. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions**

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook welcomed everyone to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC or Council) Meeting started at 10:02 AM. Roll call and participant introductions were completed.

**B. Minutes from March 19 and April 9, 2021 Meeting:**

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook asked members if they had a chance to review the minutes and if there were any changes. No changes were requested. Melissa asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion was made by Steve Freeman; seconded by Monica Cooper. The motion carried.

**C. Fiscal/Contract Update:**

Lani St. Cyr reviewed the ADDPC Financial Update. The Council has fully obligated FY 2019 funds by the original September 2020 deadline, but must ensure all work is completed and the remaining \$242,000 is spent by September 30, 2021.

For FY 2020 there is approximately \$830,600 in funding remaining to be spent. The Administration for Community Living is providing a one-time no cost extension for FY 2020 funds. Under this directive the obligation and project periods will be extended through September 30, 2022. The liquidation of funds and final reports will need to be completed by December 31, 2022. There currently is no extension for FY 2021 funding

The Council has received the full allotment for FY 2021, in the amount of \$1,500,930 and there is approximately \$539,800 remaining to be obligated by September 2022. The Council has already identified projects for these funds and has contingency projects to cover contract awards that are not fully spent.

The Council has received an additional award in the amount of \$84,288 for COVID-19 specific projects. These funds will be tracked and reported on separately. The funds must be obligated, and work completed by September 30, 2022. (From the CDC)

Next, the Council Funded Projects sheet showed the addition of projects reviewed and voted on during the last Full Council meeting. These include the year two renewal of Sonoran UCEDD's Transition in Action Clinic as well as the two new projects that came out of the last Request for Information including the Sonoran UCEDD's Online Healthcare Learning Modules and NAU/IHD's Technology Enabled Employment project. This sheet also reflected a 3-month no cost extension that was granted to the Sonoran UCEDD for the Sexual Abuse Research project.

Finally, the Budget Recommendation document showed items to be funded based on the workplan recommendations. The two Request for Grant Applications (RFGAs) to be discussed and voted on were highlighted on the document. The budget amount for career exploration for parents and kids has been removed per the discussion at the last Full Council Meeting. Also, there is a \$48,530 surplus chowing for projects with 2021 funds. We anticipate projects will not fully spend their award amounts, so contingency project can be considered. The goal is to have FY 2021 funding fully obligated in the first year, so projects can be completed in the second.

**D. The ARC of Arizona- RFGA Proposal:**

Marcella Crane gave an overview of the competitive grant solicitation to support the work of the Council, agency, and community stakeholders to address sexual violence/abuse towards people with I/DD. The Community of Practice (CoP) was formed two years ago, known as the Arizona Sexual Violence & I/DD Response Collaborative.

The CoP meets to address how to strengthen the systems for better access to and increase the monitoring, detection, prevention, and survivor support efforts around the state to better promote safety and well-being of individuals with I/DD of all ages. The ADDPC currently serves as the lead facilitator of the CoP; however, this RFGA is meant to fund a qualified organization to take the primary responsibility of lead facilitator and to reengage the current members, seek new members, develop a strategic plan, conduct training, and develop resources for hosting on an efficient website. Numerous other tasks and eligibility criteria was outlined in the RFGA.

The ARC of the United States/The ARC of AZ was the only proposal received for this RFGA in the amount of \$90,000. Key staff with The Arc of the U.S. and The Arc of AZ will work together over the contract period to assess the current CoP collaborative by seeking information from the current members (by surveys and focus groups) to determine how best to take their ideas on what's working, and what needs to be changed to move forward with a updated five year strategic plan, recruit new members that represent self-advocates, family members, and representatives from tribal, the legal, law enforcement, and healthcare professionals. The grantee will also work with two organizations (to be determined as it will be the CoP's decision) that represents the Latino and Tribal communities. All decisions and tasks that are a requirement to fulfill by the end of the first year of funding will be made by the collaborative. Other tasks that are required to be completed include: a minimum of one training to the collaborative and/or to outside groups, development of or establishment of the central repository of all materials developed by the collaborative, including training materials. The ARC of AZ will take on that responsibility, and development of benchmarks and outcome performance measures to track the effectiveness of their work. The proposal was approved by the Grants and Executive committees.

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook called for a motion to approve the Coalition Coordinator proposal submitted by The ARC of AZ in the amount of \$90,000. Motion was made by Scott Lindbloom.; seconded by Mary Slaughter. Steve Freeman abstained. The motion carried.

#### **E. ACESDV- RFGA Proposal:**

Marcella Crane gave an overview the competitive grant solicitation released to support the work the Council is undertaking to address the increased likelihood people with I/DD will experience abuse and exploitation. The field of services and supports for people with I/DD, as well as people with I/DD themselves and the public need to better understand when and how abuse and exploitation occurs in this vulnerable population, what to do if it happens, and how better to support people to help them heal.

The objective of this RFGA is to increase education efforts around the state to help stakeholders, including people with I/DD, to better identify, respond to and/or prevent abuse. Any proposed project must include the coordination and delivering and dissemination of continuing education materials, development of materials on abuse recognition, prevention, reporting, and support to any of the following target populations.

Four proposals were received under this solicitation and the outside Evaluation Committee recommended two for funding. The first is ACESDV in the amount of \$27,942.

ACESDV will expand and modify current curricula they have developed on appropriate responses to sexual abuse survivors with disabilities to use for educating providers that serve people with I/DD, including staff at group homes, day treatment centers, independent living centers, community-based advocacy organizations and long-term care facilities. Additional materials will be developed that include materials on updating organizational policies to protect survivors and anti-retaliation language. ACESDV will conduct one in-person training, two live webinars and will record one 4-hour training to be made available on their learning management system. Pre/Post tests and 3-month follow up survey will be conducted to assess knowledge change. The expected number to train is 100 during the contract period.

Councilwoman Mary Slaughter asked if there was going to be any follow-up after the three-month period? Marcy said that she would follow up with the contact to ensure that information is obtained during the contract period and submitted in their reporting.

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook Cooper called for a motion to approve the ACESDV proposal in the amount of \$27,942. Motion was made by Monica Cooper; seconded by Steve Freeman. The motion carried.

#### **F. Prevent Child Abuse Arizona- RFGA Proposal:**

Marcella Crane reviewed the proposal submitted by Prevent Child Abuse Arizona in the amount of \$36,380. They will be partnering with Differently Abled Mothers Empowered Society (DAMES) Charities to create a child abuse prevention strategy that targets families of children with disabilities. Prevent Child Abuse Arizona and DAMES will supplement the curriculum of Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework to create a presentation designed to strengthen families and prevent child abuse within the disability population. The target group includes parents and grandparents of children with disabilities and organizations that serve the disability community. Trainings will take place both in Maricopa and Pima counties, with a goal of reaching 150 families (80 families and 80 grandparents) and at least six disability organizations.

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook called for a motion to approve the Prevent Child Abuse Arizona proposal in the amount of \$36,380. Motion was made by Kristen Mackey; seconded by Michael Coen. The motion carried.

#### **G. COVID Vaccine Funding:**

Erica shared that the Council received approximately \$84,000 from the CDC to expend until 9/30/22 to increase the number of people with disabilities who are vaccinated. Our DD network partners also received funding. We have already started meeting to discuss how we are expending the funding, and we will be regularly meeting. One gap that was not identified was reaching out to doctors' offices, including developmental peds, and medical clinics, since that where many who refuse to get vaccinated will have conversations with their doctors. Erica shared she wants to fund one or two positions to be the boots on the ground and work with the medical community to ensure they have the info they need for these members and their families. We should keep in mind that the strategies may need to change, but these staff members would be able to be responsive to what is needed.

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook called for a motion to approve the Covid Funding Plan (putting two or more people on contract) in the amount of \$84,000. Motion was made by Bianca Demara; seconded by Mary Slaughter. The motion carried.

Janna Murrell brought up a webinar surrounding this issue that is going to take place soon and suggested the contract workers listen to the webinar to gain information and ideas.

#### **H. Making Permanent HCBS payment of Parents of Minor Children:**

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook discussed signing on to a letter created by advocates for parents of minor children who want to continue to receive payment for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). (A provision that was put in because of the pandemic). She mentions that the letter is very well written and a personal issue for her. Mary Slaughter comments that anything that gives parents more flexibility is a great option and if this can do that, she's all for it.

Steve Freeman asked whether feedback is there against this besides providers? Melissa Van Hook answered that the provider's objections are it and it is not even a valid argument in her opinion.

Vanessa Felix shared that coming from a position where her grandmother is her primary caregiver, she fully supports this.

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook called for a motion to approve the signing on to a letter making permanent HCBS payments to parents with minor children. Motion was made by Mary Slaughter, seconded by Steve Freeman. Motion carried.

#### **I. 2022-2026 Activities:**

The Council already went over the Goals and Objectives for the Five-Year Plan the next step in the process is to look at the Activities with input from the six community forms. Meghan Velasquez from Improvement Assurance Group shared that she has been collecting activities from the public for the Council to consider. Some of the Activities that were suggested by the community forms are already being done, in fact all the Activities that the Council is doing now was supported by community feedback. The Activities (**the Activities are in red**) that need to be added to the Five-Year Plan are listed below:

Under the first Goal: Self-Determination- Objective-C

**Advocate for inclusion of people with I/DD in all conversations related to supporting them (e.g., legislative discussions, City Council decisions, ADOT, etc.).**

**Advocate that all inclusion, equity, and social justice conversations in Arizona are expanded to address individuals with disabilities.**

**Advocate for and support participation in local and state government structures (e.g., City Council meetings).**

- Outreach to increase awareness of opportunities to participate
- Mentor/Model engaging in defined processes (e.g., call to the public processes)
- Advocate for increased involvement in discussions and decision-making
- Train self-advocates (leadership development)
- Support application processes

Councilwoman Mary Slaughter brought up that idea of including 'advocate for' in the third activity which is seen above. Kristen Mackey asked question of how do you provide funding to do that? Mary answered by suggesting that we focus on foundational issues such as plan language creation.

Under the second Goal: Meaningful Careers - Objective A

#### School staff training

- Promote expanded use of ABLÉ accounts

Advocate for streamlining and improving access to vocational rehabilitation.

- Collaborate with ADE/ESS and VR on a pilot project to develop a mechanism to ensure all high school IEP and 504 plans include a VR referral. Create a method to track and evaluate if it leads to improved PSE and employment outcomes. (This was Tim Stump's recommendation) (May require training, materials, and development of a database, estimated \$10,000 - \$15,000)
- Collaborate with VR on a pilot project to review existing school-to-work programs and other Pre-ETS services to determine how VR can expand opportunities for youth to participate.
- Advocate for more specialized vocational rehabilitation counselors in local field offices (e.g., counselors qualified to work with individuals with hearing and/or visual impairments).
- Support information sharing and training that builds families' awareness of eligibility criteria for and purpose of vocational rehabilitation.

Advocate for increases in training and support for "soft" job skills in vocational rehabilitation and school-based programs.

- Work with ADE and/or schools to offer more experiential (v. observational) fieldtrips (e.g., using Uber or rideshare services, buying groceries, etc.).

Support coordination of VR, DDD, and behavioral health to increase support for folks with dual diagnoses in obtaining and retaining integrated, inclusive, competitive employment.

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook asked Kristen Mackey her thoughts regarding the public's comments. Kristen responded by saying at one point there was a program that addressed 504 concerns were both Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) worked together to educate parents and students. However, that program has faded away. VR and ADE do have a data sharing agreement already in place, so to starting a program like the one suggested above would be easy to do, in theory. Lastly, VR specialized counselors depends on the number of clients they have. There is a push to do better with regards to specialized counselors in the future.

There was some discussion around Article 9 and how to alleviate some of the confusion related to it.

Under Objective B of Meaningful Careers add:

**Promote self-employment among individuals with I/DD**

Under Objective C of Meaningful Careers everything is new mostly because it is a new objective and caregivers want to be involved with the Council according to the comments made by the community.

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook tabled the discussion on the activities with regards to the five-year plan to give people proper time to review them. Erica McFadden will send out a doodle poll to determine the proper time to meet again.

**J. Announcements:**

No announcements

**K. Call to the Public:**

No public

**L. Adjourn:**

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook called for a motion adjourn. Motion made by Scott Lindbloom, seconded by Steve Freeman. Motion carried.

Completed by ADDPC on May 26, 2021