



Monday,
March 21 2022`
System Access &
Navigation
Committee meeting

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

DRAFT MINUTES

The System Access & Navigation committee meeting of the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) was convened on Monday, March 21, 2022, via Google Meets (virtual). Notice having been duly given. Present were the following members of the ADDPC.

Members Present

Mary Slaughter, Chairperson,
Kin Counts, parent/family
Vijette Saari, parent/family
Bianca Demara, parent/family

Staff

Jon Meyers, Executive Director
Steve Freeman, Staff

Guests

Kelly Roberts
Rahlah Piller
Holy Hulen
Sakenya McDonald
Amber Owens
Yumi Shirai
Michael Coen

Members Absent

Janna Murrell
Barbara Picone
Kathy Levandowsky

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A. Call to Order/Welcome

Chairperson Mary Slaughter welcomed everyone to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC or Council) System Access & Navigation Committee meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:01 A.M. Roll call and participant introductions were completed.

B. Overview of System Access & Navigation Goal reviewed by Mary Slaughter. She went over the background of the committee to allow us to focus our efforts. The goal for the next 5 years of the Council is to enhance, strengthen and increase access to accurate and user friendly information and the services needed for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to lead more self-determined lives. This committee is focusing on 3 different transition points: early childhood, youth & young adult and the aging population. This is where we have been trying to start our activities. We have been fortunate to have Amber Owens working as an intern with the Sonoran UCEDD. She has been mainly focusing on the early childhood and youth transition.

Amber Owens - student intern with Sonoran UCEDD reviewed the Resource Guide that she has been working on since January of 2022. Link was shared with committee members and guests. Amber said that she first started looking online for resources and she was able to see what it is like for someone that is just getting started. It is very difficult because the resources are spread out everywhere. From there, she started putting a list of resources together. She then started meeting with parents, and others who work with individuals with disabilities, to gather the questions they had and asked them about the questions that they thought someone might have who are looking for resources. From there, she was able to put the questions and resources into sub categories so that when parents followed the questions they were able see the resources that could answer their questions.

Mary Slaughter said that we floundered a little at the beginning but we then came back to what the focus of what we are doing is to get the accurate and user friendly information mostly for families and individuals. There is a great deal of information that is already accessible for youth transition. How can we make it more user friendly for families with Amber's document? There is currently a "slide guide" that is available through the community of practice but not enough parents and families are aware that it is available.

Mary then asked Kelly Roberts and her team to talk about the Transition Portal that they are working on. Kelly did say that their idea was not funded but they would be willing to take a look at it again if this group felt that it was worth doing. The idea behind the portal is that it would be a Gateway as a primary No "wrong door" access point to link youth with disabilities, families, teachers and community and state partners to effective transition. Kelly will email the Abstract to Steve so that he can share with the rest of the committee and guests. Kin Counts said that whenever we plan what we put together it needs to go in with a "blank" starting point. We can't assume that parents have any knowledge of the system. There are too many acronyms that are used and parents many times have no clue as to what people are saying to them. Many times the system is like a foreign language to parents. The resources should also be categorized so that parents do not have to navigate so much. If I have a child with autism I will be going straight to the autism resources and skip right over the other resources.

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Yumi Shirai stated that sometimes when she is working with families, the parents start taking over the conversation for their young adult. This is even after the parents have been made aware of the transition process and they are still not letting their young adult make decisions about their own life.

Mary requested that Amber Owens come back on and share her screen so that committee members can see what she has been working on. Amber then guided the committee through an example of how a parent would utilize the

resource document by first asking themselves a question of where they might be in the education process with their child.

Mary remarked that she liked how the questions are used as a guide to the resources. She loved how it is organized.

Mary asked Raylah Pillar to share what she has been working on as an intern for the elder population with I/DD. Raylah is working on her MSW. Raylah shared the link to her google doc in the chat. She explained that it is similar to what Amber put together but for seniors with I/DD. She just listed resources around the state that are helpful for families. She knows that we want it to be concise but it is difficult because descriptions were left out being that it would make it longer than two pages. Ideally, the descriptions would be added to help people navigate the document. She asked what would make sense for this committee. Kin Counts said that it would be helpful if we include the area that the resource covers. For example, some places only work with people in Tucson or Phoenix and vice versa.

Michael Coen let the committee know that the Area Agency on Aging will only assist someone in their region. For instance, the Pima Council on Aging will not assist someone living in Maricopa county. They will serve adults with disabilities and they do not need to be over 60 plus years of age.

Raylah Pillar is going to update her document with the feedback provided today by calling the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and clarify how someone who is currently receiving DDD services can access Adult services through AAA. She will also include the age at which someone is able to access services through each agency along with a short blurb that tells what services are available through the agency.

Yumi Shirai said that we should keep in mind that many families that already have DDD services would do well to consider the differences between AAA and DDD. They may find that DDD is something they do not want to relinquish.

Next meeting Mary asked the committee members how often the committee should meet. Members felt that meeting monthly was too frequent. Everyone agreed that we should continue meeting every other month. Mary asked if May 16th is a good date for the next meeting? Hearing no objections, the meeting will be held on May 16, 2022, 11:00 A.M.

Adjourn Mary Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 12:11 pm.

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Dated this 6th day of May 2022
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

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