

Children and Families Committee
June 11, 2018, 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
DDDS Fox Run, 2540 Wrangle Hill Road, Bear, DE
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Laura Greene, Chairperson; Carrie Melchisky, Parent Advocate; Shawn Rohe, Parent Advocate; Angela Mitchell, Parent Advocate; Nancy Lemus, Parent Advocate

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Kristin Harvey, Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)

I. Call to Order:

A quorum being present, Chairperson Laura Greene called the meeting to order at 9:44 AM.

II. Approval of Agenda:

The committee voted to approve the June 11, 2018 agenda as written.

III. Approval of Minutes:

The committee voted to approve the May 30, 2018 meeting minutes as written.

IV. Chair's Report:

Laura Greene declined to give a report.

V. Staff Report:

Kristin Harvey reported that the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council's federal granting agency, the Administration for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) may be changing the guidelines regarding the timeline to obligate and liquidate our federal funds. More information will be available after the Information and Technical Assistance Institute (ITACC) session at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Conference in July, 2018. In a nutshell, the time period for the committees to come up with ideas for projects to address the committee's objectives, put them out for Request for Proposal (RFP), receive proposals, review and vote on the proposals at both the committee and Council level, get a contract in place, start work, evaluate work, and spend all the funds allocated to that project may be decreased from three years to two years. Needless to say, this would have a huge impact on how the committees and Council do business. It is more important than ever that the committees achieve quorum so that they can move forward in a timely manner on their objectives. Kristin said she will provide an update after the NACDD Conference next month.

VI. New Business:

A. Unaddressed State Plan Objectives and the path forward- brainstorming, planning, work plan, action RE: projects, RFPs, funding allocations:

The committee discussed the objectives assigned to them in the 2017-2021 State Plan, and reviewed the status of each objective (e.g. is there a contract in place? Does it still need to be addressed?). Carrie Melchisky asked if there were any opportunities for other disability service organizations to submit proposals for funding. Kristin stated that yes; the DDC will accept unsolicited proposals. The DDC Executive Director will then assign the proposal to one of the DDC's committees for review. The committees will first determine if the proposal ties in with any objectives in the 2017-2021 State Plan, and if it does, they will then review and score the proposal and make a recommendation to the full Council. Angela asked if it was possible to provide funding toward supporting the Special Education State Plan development process. Carrie asked if funding could be given for accommodations at the LIFE Conference. Kristin said that funding for the Special Education State Plan development would first have to tie in somehow with the DDC's 2017-2021 State Plan. If a proposal were to be submitted with a clear tie-in to the DDC's state plan, then the proposal could go through the process mentioned above. For the LIFE Conference, there is currently funding in place for the provision of accommodations through the budgeted amount for the LIFE Conference.

The committee reviewed the status of the following objectives (*note, these descriptions are summaries of the objectives, and not an exact transcription of how they are written in the DDC's State Plan).

- Increase the amount of information that is readily available and accessible for people with disabilities to use, and provide opportunities to increase social capital among people with disabilities (Status: in progress with other Council activities)
- Low cost health and wellness options for kids, expand CHIP (Status: not addressed, committee will discuss at the July meeting)
- Curriculum/training for physicians (Status: contract pending for proposal approved at May 30, 2018 meeting)
- Increased awareness and opportunities for early interest identification and career readiness for children who receive services in segregated settings (Status: prepare to put out for RFP. See discussion below)

Ideas presented by the committee members to address the objective focusing on early interest identification and career readiness included:

- Build on the Junior Partners in Policymaking Program sleepaway camp idea.
- Camp could focus on "what I want to be when I grow up", and feature different speakers from different careers (e.g. law enforcement, medical, education). Partner with Project SEARCH, DVR, etc.
- Develop an after school club for young adults with both kids with disabilities and those without
- The club would focus on interest identification and career readiness, and could still feature speakers from different types of careers
- Develop a cohort of kids, beginning in middle school, and follow them throughout their school career until graduation

- Year 1- personality testing, interest identification, presentation of different career options, “what I want to be when I grow up”, why a person needs a job, etc.
- Year 2 and 3- short term job trials, and/or shadowing
- Year 4- assist with earning and arranging for internships or paid positions in the area of interest identified by the child

The committee asked Kristin to draft an RFP for \$20,000 focusing on finding a contractor to conduct research and development over the course of six months. The focus of the research would be on existing clubs, services and opportunities so that duplication of effort can be avoided and opportunities for partnerships (“not reinventing the wheel”) can be identified.

VII. New Business:

- Angela Mitchell asked how she could ask the Council to fund her participation for the 2018 Outside the Box Conference which will be held in Sussex County in October
- Kristin told Angela to send an email to Pat Maichle, DDC Director, to ask if her request could be included on the July 18, 2018 Council agenda
- Angela said she would do so
- Nancy Lemus asked how she could request the Council’s assistance with funding her travel to the Medicaid information conference in New York that is coming up in August
- Kristin asked Nancy to send an email to DDC Director Pat Maichle asking her to include Nancy’s request for travel on the July 18, 2018 Council agenda
- The committee voted to hold their next meeting on Monday, July 2nd from 10 AM to 12 PM
- Laura asked Kristin to reserve both sides of the DDDS Training Room for the July meeting
- Kristin said that she would check with the scheduler at DDDS and let the committee know the status of the request

There being no other new business, Chairperson Laura Greene adjourned the meeting at 11:17 AM.