

STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

June 17, 2019 – 11:46 am

Felton-Farmington Room/DelDOT Administration Building, Dover

Present: Terri Hancharick, Vice-Chair; Daniese McMullin-Powell, ADAPT/Advocate; Lloyd Schmitz, Council of the Blind/EFOC; Sybil Baker, GACEC; Kyle Hodges, Staff; and Jo Singles, Support Staff.

Guest: Bill Powell

CALL TO ORDER

Terri called the meeting to order at 11:46 am. Daniese made a motion to approve the April 1st minutes as submitted. Lloyd seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no one abstaining or opposing.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

- HB 164 (Daniese)

BUSINESS

Group Homes for Individuals Who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing

There was general discussion about the presentation at last month's SCPD meeting regarding group homes for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. Kyle referred to the PowerPoint (handout) presented. Kyle stated that there seemed to be agreement that there is a lack of communication in the current group homes. His thoughts were that the group wanted deaf interpreters. He spoke about reasonable accommodations and that there may be many ways to provide this, although their preference should be given consideration. Kyle commented that the group presented would probably be asking for SCPD's support or nonsupport. There was concern about assistive technology not being discussed at last month's SCPD meeting. Terri commented that we can understand communication support and 3-4 in a group home, but has concern about a whole community being segregated. Kyle said that there seemed to be conflicting information presented. Lloyd commented that we could not support segregated communities. He added that we could support education and assistive technology to accommodate. Daniese commented that we could not support segregated communities using federal funding. If people choose to do that on their own, that would be different. Lloyd suggested enhancing TTY (teletypewriter) services with video as a communication tool. He added that we need to encourage inclusion rather than separate housing. Terri noted that the PowerPoint presentation quotes information from 2003 and part of the problem is that they are

against social integration. This will be discussed today at the SCPD meeting so see what support the SCPD can give.

Kyle suggested that a small group could convene to discuss this further, including inviting several of the presenters from last month's meeting. Lloyd commented that he did not think we needed to do this and that the SCPD should state their position regarding support. There is a difference from a group choosing to live in a separate community with their own resources. Daniese commented that she also felt uncomfortable telling someone else what they need and what they should do regarding accommodations. Kyle spoke about a few people living in a group home and having various accommodations. Lloyd commented that individuals may request to live together, but the State could not assign them to a home of exclusively deaf individuals. Kyle will follow-up with Terry Macy (DDDS). Terri stated that we are fine with anything that follows the Community Rule, which is four people or less in a group home with reasonable accommodations, group homes not next door to each other, and no segregated communities. The goal is 100 percent inclusion.

### Review of SCPD "Operating Plan"

After a short discussion about the SCPD "Operating Plan" (handout), a decision was made not to utilize this document because Nick Fina, who created it, is not here to be the lead person and he would have a full understanding. Kyle commented that the intent was good, it is too complex and laborious for people who are already busy. Kyle noted Rita's PowerPoint presentation (handout). Daniese commented that a council should counsel or guide. The "Operating Plan" will be kept as a resource. Lloyd commented that although, Nick's points are valid to an extent, he is not here to lead and is the one who would have a full understanding. Lloyd added that, as a Council, our expectations need to be higher and we need to say our expectations a little louder and more forcefully.

### Other Business

Daniese spoke about HB 164, which codifies the DDC. This bill was initiated by a non-profit agency, which consists of providers. DDC had not been contacted for their input. Kyle commented that the bill is on hold and the sponsor of the proposed legislation will meet with DDC over the summer.

Terri spoke about SB 154, which establishes the Quality Improvement Advisory Council ("Advisory Council") to promote collaboration and problem solving with stakeholders in the system of care administered by DDDS. Terri noted that DDDS has an Advisory Council and providers should not be put on an Advisory Council. DDDS has multiple meetings with stakeholders around the table. Kyle noted that SCPD gets to recommend four people.

Terri spoke about proposed legislation that would separate DHSS into two Departments, one Department would focus on advocacy and services to people with disabilities and Medicaid and the other would focus on Health Care and Policy. This proposed legislation would create a Task Force to study this. Terri commented that nothing would happen before 2021.

There is proposed legislation about moving the Office of Child Care Licensing, currently under DSCYF, to the Department of Education.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Singles

executive committee/2019 min-6-17-19