

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes ~ September 29, 2016
Compass Music and Arts Center, Brandon

Approved December 01, 2016

Present: Fred Breunig, Stacey Emerson, Catherine Hybels, Dion LaShay, Clare McFadden, Miriam Stoll, Ed Paquin, Lisa Rudiakov, Susan Ryan, Cinn Smith, Adrian Vaut

Absent: Gary De Carolis, Terry Holden, Carol Hassler, MD, Marcy Ryan, John Spinney, Kay Stambler, Jennifer Stratton

Support Staff: None

Guests: Senator Peg Flory, Representative Butch Shaw

VTDDC Staff: Kirsten Murphy, Chelsea Hayward

1. Welcome and Minutes:

Fred began the meeting. Council members introduced themselves. Roles were assigned. Lisa read “What helps at meetings”. Members discussed the July 28, 2016 Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Ed made the motion to accept the minutes with the correct (“remove “unfortunately”). Cathys seconded. **Motion passed:** 9-0-0.

2. Executive Director Reports:

Kirsten read a letter from United States President, Barak Obama, to Council Member, Adrian Vaut. The letter from President Obama was written in July.

- *ABLE:* Vermont is too small to sustain its own ABLE savings program. Three States announced ABLE programs that are nationally available – Nebraska, Ohio, and Tennessee. Nicole LeBlanc, Kirsten Murphy, and the treasurers office interviewed representatives of those programs. A formal agreement will be made once stakeholders are able to review the different plans and make a choice. In Kirsten’s opinion, Ohio was best.
- *Five Year State Plan:* The plan was submitted on time. There was not yet an official approval, but Kirsten was confident that approval would be provisional. Kirsten also had to submit a two-year work plan – those documents are not binding and are simply working documents to guide decisions. After reading and grading the state plans of five other states, Kirsten was confident VTDDC’s state plan was well built.
- *Hiring:* The *Senior Planner and Policy Analyst* position had a number of strong applicants, but only four people were interviewed by Kirsten.

- *SEEDS*: Chelsea presented a new grant program titled “SEEDS”. SEEDS will replace “Advocacy in Action” and the Executive Committee Fund. Council members voted for the SEEDS program when they voted on the budget.

3. Budget:

The Council reviewed the proposed budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2017.

Motion: Ed made the motion to accept the budget with SEEDS. Cinn seconded.

Motion passed: 10-0-0.

4. Council Presidents Report:

- *Meeting dates:* for FFY2017 typically fall on Thursdays towards the end of the month:
 - December 1, 2016 (Burlington)
 - March 23, 2017 (Montpelier)
 - June 22, 2017 (Location to be determined)
 - September 28, 2017 (Location to be determined)

Ed asked Council Members to note March 2, 2017 for Disability Awareness Day. Also, VCDR will have a Board of Governors Meeting on December 9, 2016.

- *Sub-Committees:* The Executive Committee meets monthly, but there is additional work to be done. Fred announced that he’ll appoint Council Members for two additional sub-committees:
 - *Advocacy Committee:* Will meet during the legislative season to follow bills as they are built and worked on, and build position statements to represent the full Council. Most meetings will be by phone, and few in person.
 - *Program Committee:* Will build Requests-for-Proposals (RFPs), and evaluate and support them as they go.

The Membership Committee will meet soon to enroll new Council Members.

5. Process for New Grants and Recommendation (Round 1):

The Executive Committee temporarily acted as the Program Committee to build the first Request-for-Proposal (RFP); it is for Peer-Lead Training on leadership and advocacy for youth. The Council will circulate its Scope of Work (the description of the project we want people to apply to) to the public on October 3, 2016. This RFP will take 1/3 of the budget. It will begin January 1, 2017 and end December 31, 2017.

Per the State of Vermont guidelines, one of the years RFP’s must 1) Establish or strengthen a self-advocacy organization, OR 2) Be in partnership with one of two of the Council’s DD partners.

Miriam wants the RFP to say it will not only help self-advocates learn how to ask for help, but to also follow-up and increase the likelihood of success.

Claire would like to see self-advocates participate in the evolving approaches to healthcare.

Cathy and Kirsten will adjust the language in the RFP to meet Miriam and Clare's concerns.

Motion: Lisa made the motion to approve the RFP with the suggested changes. Cinn seconded. **Motion passed: 11-0-0.**

6. Lunch with Legislators

Council Members reviewed Goals and Objectives from the Five Year State Plan that are relevant to Legislators, and assigned specific members to attest to them to get conversations started.

7. Council Leadership Development

The Brandon Training School infographic was passed around. Council Members discussed their experiences and knowledge of the institution and its history.

Cathy said, "We may not have people "stuck" in mental health facilities, because we don't have any, and they're either out of state or receive NO services at all."

Dion reflected his personal experience with being in an institution.

Council members were given their new handbooks. Kirsten will take an afternoon portion of the Quarterly Meetings for "re-orienting" members. She described the unique and amazing service that Council members have the honor of being a part of. VTDDC talked about who its partners were and the importance of networking.

8. Meeting Evaluation

Members gave feedback about how the meeting went and how accessible it was.