

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes ~ September 11, 2023
On-line meeting / Adopted November 6, 2023

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| Present: | Anastasia Douglas, David Frye, Michelle John, Steve Kieselstein, Candice Price, Crista Yagjian |
| Absent: | Lindsey Owen |
| VTDDC Staff: | Kirsten Murphy, Chelsea Hayward |

1. Welcome and Adopt Minutes:

The meeting began at 10:03 am. Anastasia asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August 7th, 2023.

Motion: David made the motion to approve the August 7th Executive Committee minutes. Steve seconded. There was no discussion.

Motion approved: 5-0-1.

2. Chairs Report with Anastasia Douglas:

- **Communication with Chair.** Anastasia’s schedule will be fairly packed, so she thanked committee members for their patience as she takes a few days to respond.
- **Member training resources.** She recommended several ITTAC podcasts (<https://itacchelp.org/event/chair-leadership-series-lunch-and-learn/>) about being a Council Chair and how to lead effectively . She noted that it’s especially useful to co-Vice Chairs, Crista and Candice.

3. Executive Director’s Report with Kirsten Murphy:

- **Updates on Public Health Workforce funds.** VTDDC’s yearly appropriation is a little more than a half a million dollars. About a year ago leadership at the Administration for Community Living arranged for DD Network partners to receive funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. The funds are intended to “expand the public health work force in developmental disabilities.” They must be used to hire or support existing staff. Several organizations in Vermont, VTDDC included, partnered to create new initiatives in the state. The Council has designated some of the funding to the Inclusive Healthcare Partnership Project. Kirsten has been working with the Disability Law Project and Vermont Family Network to increase support for parents of special education students, including accompanying them to

meetings of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team. The project is based on a successful model in NJ called Special Education Volunteer Advocates or “SEVA.”

Kirsten has put out a Request for Proposal for about \$35,000 dollars to launch VT SEVA project in Chittenden and Franklin counties – with the right approach she hoped that financial support could be on-going in years to come. Crista was interested in contributing to the project.

- **Update on national association, NACDD.** Our national association helps DD Councils lobby Congress for funding, addresses disability issues at the federal level, provides Councils with technical assistance, and hosts annual NACDD Conference. NACDD has a board of directors made up of Council representatives across the 56 states and territories.

Kirsten has served the board for about a year. She proudly announced that she has been nominated for President of the board. One of the board’s priorities will be recruiting and hiring a new Executive Director for NACDD. She feels well supported on the board and does not plan on being a part of the search committee to fill that position.

- **Stakeholder input process for changes in case management.** VTDDC has hosted several online opportunities for public comment and education. Kirsten is attending all six of the open discussions as hosted by the State.

Steve said he is concerned about how the State would interpret and use public input. Kirsten explained that she is attending all the meetings so that the Council can independently assess public input.

4. Schedule for Oct. 1, 2023 – Sept. 30, 2024

Kirsten shared the draft for next year’s meeting schedule. She asked committee members to review it and let her know their thoughts. Executive Committee and Quarterly Meetings were set to follow the same pattern/schedule as previous years.

Candice proposed shifting Executive Committee meetings to mid-afternoon. Anastasia wondered if an 11:30 am start-time could work. Crista would not be able to make it. David was ok with the change. Michelle said, “maybe.” Anastasia suggested tabling any change while she follows-up with committee members individually.

5. Agenda for Sept. 28 Quarterly Meeting

Since the flood, the Governor's office has taken over the Dill building. For security reasons the Council will not be able to hold their September Quarterly Meeting there. Sue met with State House officials and secured VTDDC members and staff the opportunity to meet in the cafeteria for the September and December Quarterly Meetings. Kirsten reported that there is accessible parking and members can use the cafeteria for lunch. Staff have scheduled a dialog with Rep. Theresa Wood and additional legislators have been invited for lunch.

Anastaisa suggested an icebreaker, a discussion about the many roles and experiences members brought to the Council, an overview of the DEIA working group, and – if needed – revision to the FFY'24 budget.

David proposed breaking into small groups and asking them “what would you like to see change?” He also suggested presenting to folks at Wake Robin about the Council. Council Alumni, Kay Stambler, lives there.

Steve and Courtney will be rotating off the Council in March 2024. Steve has a few ideas he wants to propose before then and will write something up to share with Council members.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Hayward
Coordinator of Communication