

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

Draft Executive Committee Meeting Minutes ~ August 5, 2024

On-line meeting

Present:	Kelly Bordeau, Justin Thunderbear Deth, Michelle John
Absent:	Anastasia Douglas, Lindsey Owen
VTDDC Staff:	Kirsten Murphy, Chelsea Hayward

1. Welcome and Adopt Minutes:

Michelle chaired the meeting while Anastasia was on vacation.

Amanda apologized for being unable to attend; she would like to learn more about what the Executive Committee does.

The meeting began at 10:06 am. The drafted minutes from May will be reviewed in September. Everyone was familiar with the drafted minutes from June 10, 2024.

Motion: Justin made the motion to adopt the meeting minutes from June 10, 2024.

Motion seconded by Kele.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Next Quarterly Meeting:

The Executive Committee discussed the following in preparation for the October Quarterly meeting:

- **Committee confirmed moving the date to October 10th 2024.** The meeting location at the Waterbury Office Complex is available on that date.
- **Who will follow up with self-advocates?** Kirsten and Chelsea planned to work with self-advocates and their support providers to arrange transportation.
- **Which guests should we invite?** Kirsten observed that there were several important leaders in the Agency of Human Services who had never met the DD Council. She said a simple 10 minute “Hello” would be enough time for advocacy. Representative Theresa Wood and Representative Tom Stevens live in Waterbury and could be invited to join the Council for lunch.

Kirsten asked the group about their preferences for catering. Everyone agreed that as long as individual diets were met, either an independent caterer or the cafeteria in the Waterbury Office Complex would be fine.

3. NACDD debrief:

The Executive Committee discussed the following.

- **Think about your trip. How was your travel? The hotel? What did you learn at the conference? Who did you meet?**

Michelle was excited to share that David Frye was selected to join the NACDD Leadership Circle. Justin especially enjoyed meeting members from different cultures and making new friends.

Justin played his flute at the VTDDC's table during Council Showcase. Kirsten was proud of Vermont's display, which attracted lots of attention from other Councils at the conference.

Kirsten reminded the group that NACDD will not host its annual conference next year. NACDD is taking a pause while it works with its members to "refresh" the conference. There are also several issues related to the conference. These include cost and the need to have stronger policies around hotel accessibility, language access, and Covid protocols.

4. Chair's Report (5 minutes) – Kirsten M on behalf of Anastasia:

Kirsten shared that Anastasia's priorities were to check-in with each Council member, double-check their access needs, and coordinate assigning buddies to new members. Kirsten reminded the group that the Council would soon begin the process of developing its next Five-Year State Plan. The Plan requires a "Comprehensive Needs Analysis" that looks at how well people with I/DD in Vermont are supported.

5. Executive Director's Report (25 minutes) – Kirsten M:

- **Hiring Peer Support Specialist.** Self-advocates receive less support and service hours than they did before the pandemic. Often, they don't have the supports they need to attend Council meetings. Kirsten and Anastasia want to try hiring a

Peer Support Specialist to help self-advocates participate in meetings. The Peer Support Specialist must have a clear understanding of their role: They would be there to support members, not to act as another Council member.

- **Filing revised work plan for FFY'25; new work plan for FFY'26.** The program committee was tasked with reviewing the work plan for FFY'25. Kirsten will write the draft plan for FFY'26, which can be revised next year, when we have more information about the DD Council's budget and policy priorities.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Hayward
Coordinator of Communication and Administration