

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council
Draft Executive Committee Meeting Minutes ~ January 10, 2022
On-line meeting with Zoom

Present:	Kaiya Andrews, Steve Kieselstein, Courtney Quinlan, Crista Yagjian
Absent:	Julie Arel, Mike Gruteke, Jesse Suter
VTDDC Staff:	Kirsten Murphy, Chelsea Hayward

1. Welcome and Adopt Minutes:

The meeting began at 10:03 am.

Motion: Steve made the motion to adopt the meeting minutes from November with a correction to the date. Crista seconded. There was no discussion.

Motion passed.

2. Executive Director's Report:

- Implicit Bias Training - Offered by the Vermont Center for Independent Living with Bor Yang, the Director of the Office of Civil Rights. A flyer will be given to all Council Members with a link to this ZOOM training.
- Program Progress – All Developmental Disability Councils will receive funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to work on Public Health and Disability. The money must be used to hire someone for public health, which will meet VTDDC's Goal 2, Objective 1. VTDDC will receive \$80,000 to hire someone for two years. Kirsten mentioned that the LEND intern, Kirsten Isgro, would fit this role well and is likely to be looking for part-time work. Professor Isgro is a researcher and teacher of communication science with a focus on health information.

Steve wondered if it's possible to turn this future public health position into a full-time one. Kirsten reminded everyone because this is one time funding, it will be challenging to keep someone after the two-year project period. She also noted that it may be possible to combine funding with DD Network Partner so that the position could cover more hours.

Kirsten shared a report (attached) of the first quarter of the 5-Year State Plan. There are 20 quarters total for the Plan. She showed everyone how to read the document, emphasizing the summary on page 1. Kirsten will provide a full report at the six-month mark.

Steve talked about the two-term limit for members and the fact that two (2) key people who will be leaving the Council soon. He wondered if there was a way to keep people engaged with the Council and to support them in pursuing their area of interest.

With help from Chelsea, Susan has begun a “video-gram” project to connect Council members with legislators. Each speaker talks for 2-3 minutes about an issue and their personal relationship to it. The videos will be shared with lawmakers.

Kaiya was pleased to share that she has been accepted as a Counselor at Camp Thorpe for summer 2022.

- Budget adjustment - Congress adopted another continuing resolution (CR) for FFY’22 before Christmas. This means the Council must continue to budget based on flat funding for the current year. The CR runs until February 18. At that time, Congress can pass a budget, which includes a \$10 million increase for DD Councils nationwide; or it can pass another CR.

Kirsten shared some background about work the Council is doing to move our Housing Project (Objective 2.2) forward:

- She and Susan have been meeting with and providing technical assistance to a very vocal parent-let group seeking alternatives to shared living.
- There is a bill, H.R. 531, currently before the legislature. It has not yet been drafted. Staff are working with the co-sponsors in the hope that they will adopt the Council’s Housing Plank in the bill.
- Staff have also been working with the Department of Disability, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) and the Housing and Conservation Board. Staff hope to convince these two parties to contract for a needs assessment specific to recipients of Home and Community-Based Services. To incentivize such a study, Kirsten would like to free up \$10,000 to contribute to the cost.

Kirsten presented a revised budget that draws \$10,000 from Council member travel and meals, from the COPAA scholarship fund, and from the Leadership Series. She does not believe that these funds will need to be moved once Congress comes off the CR because there will be an increase in the Council’s total appropriation. However, the cuts could be accommodated if needed.

The Executive Committee agreed to the budget adjustment for the purposes of supporting a Housing Needs Assessment.

“This parent group is extremely passionate, extremely dedicated, and extremely green -- this is our wheelhouse --,” said Steve.

3. Chair’s Report:

Courtney said no one had reached out to her about running for Chair or Vice Chair. Kirsten mentioned that two candidates vocalized interest and she will encourage them to connect Courtney directly.

There was a discussion about whether candidates could stand for both the Chair position and the Vice Chair. The group consensus was that candidates should choose to stand for one or the other officer position. The Committee also talked about how best to provide support self-advocates in an officer role. Kirsten noted that the Council could hire a support provider if this is a necessary accommodation. All agreed that it would be beneficial to the Council to have a leader who is a self-advocate. The Committee asked staff to prepare job descriptions for both positions in plain language.

The Chair the authority to appoint members to the Membership Committee. Kaiya volunteered to serve, and she was so appointed. Courtney will reach out to at least two (2) other members to fill this role.

5. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Hayward,