

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council
Draft Executive Committee Meeting Minutes ~ March 7, 2022
On-line meeting with Zoom

Present:	Anastasia Douglas, Mike Gruteke, Steve Kieselstein, Candice Price, Crista Yagjian
Absent:	Jesse Suter, Courtney Quinlan
VTDDC Staff:	Kirsten Murphy

1. Welcome and Adopt Minutes:

The meeting began at 10:00. There was a quorum present.

Motion: Steve made the motion to adopt the meeting minutes from March 7, 2022 and April 18, 2022. Crista seconded. There was no discussion.

Motion passed.

2. Chair's Report:

- a) **Tribute to Deborah Lisi-Baker:** Mike would like to pay tribute to Deborah, who died unexpectedly in April. Deb was a leader in the disability rights and independent living movements in Vermont for more than thirty years. She was the Executive Director of the Vermont Center for Independent Living and taught as the Center for Disability and Community Inclusion at UVM. She was still actively involved in the Coalition for Disability Rights.

Kirsten will help Mike collect materials for a tribute to Deb at the beginning of the June Quarterly Meeting.

- b) **NACDD Conference, July 20-22, 2022:** There has been a lot of interest in going to NACDD's annual conference in Washington DC this summer. The following have asked to be considered: Gina Carrera, David Frye, Mike Gruteke, Candice Price, Courtney Quinlan, Havah Walther, and Crista Yagjin.

Kirsten explained that there is \$10,000 set aside in the budget to cover the cost of members participating. This fund could potentially cover conference fees, meals, hotel accommodations, and airfare/transportation. The conference is a hybrid, with all sessions being offered both live and on-line. In the past, the Council has placed priority on members who have not had an opportunity to go before.

The group decided that:

- Candice and Havah have not gone, so they have priority.
- Mike, Crista, and David will be offered the opportunity to go in person, if the budget allows.
- Kirsten will move some funds within the Council's \$20,000 budget to try to cover as many members as possible. The Council is underspend in this category because our meetings have been online.
- Gina and Courtney will be offered registration for on-line participation.
- Steve and Anastasia would also like to participate on-line.

The conference program has not been published yet. Kirsten will circulate it as soon as she has a copy.

3. Executive Director's Report:

- a) **Housing Discussion with the State:** The Council has been asked by the Division of Developmental Disability Services to meet with DDS staff for a stakeholder engagement session regarding housing options for Vermonters with I/DD. The Session would be in late May or early June. It would be two hours.

The committee discussed whether to use this opportunity to provide a unified message or to have each member describe their own situation and recommendations. The group decided to go both.

- Kirsten will develop a Council statement that can be read at the beginning of the Session. She will share the draft statement with the members of the Executive Committee for their individual feedback.
- Each member will also have an opportunity to talk about their personal situation and what types of housing options would make it better. Staff will help prepare individual members who have not had a lot of practice speaking a forum like this.

- b) **New Member Orientations:** Kirsten and Mike provided an orientation for our new member Jonathan Gardner. Kirsten also gave an orientation to Michelle Jones. She has an orientation scheduled with Kate Daly later this month.
- c) **Grant Funding Sought:** Kirsten reported that over the weekend, she submitted a grant to the Vermont Community Foundation for \$140,000. This grant opportunity is part of the VT Department of Health's work to reduce the health disparities faced by marginalized groups, including people with disabilities. The grant would support work creating plain language documents about health

topics and training for healthcare providers. Kirsten noted that if we receive the grant, the Council may want to revise Goal 1, Objective 1 (Universal Design) to encompass the grant activities. [Exec. Director’s Note: The Five-Year Plan can be revised on August 15 and on January 1 each year].

4. Update on Legislation: Because time was running short, the committee decided to table this part of the agenda.

5. Executive Session:

Motion: Steve made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Mike seconded. There was no discussion.

Motion passed.

Motion: Steve made the motion to go out of Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Mike seconded. There was no discussion.

Motion passed.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kirsten Murphy
Executive Director