

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes ~ June 5, 2023
On-line meeting / approved August 7, 2023

Present:	Anastasia Douglas, Candice Price, David Frye, Michelle John, Steve Kieselstein, Jesse Suter, Crista Yagjian, Lindsey Owen
Absent:	None.
VTDDC Staff:	Kirsten Murphy, Chelsea Hayward, Susan Aranoff

1. Welcome and Adopt Minutes:

The meeting began at 10:02 am. Anastasia reminded attending members that there were three sets of minutes to review and approve.

Motion: David made the motion to approve minutes from April 10th, March 6th, and May 1st. Michelle seconded. There was no discussion.
Motion approved: 7-0-1.

According to the by-laws, there may only be eight members serving the Executive Committee at any one time. Currently there are nine. Anastasia suggested keeping Lindsey on board so that there is still a member with the perspective of a DD Network partner organization. Jesse, who has served for the past year, would step down. There was mutual agreement.

2. Chairs Report with Anastasia Douglas:

- **Newsletter.** Anastasia collected the copy needed for Chelsea to craft and send the first bi-monthly chair e-newsletter. Susan Yuan was the first alumni interviewed.
- **NACDD National Conference in Florida.** Florida recently made several controversial changes to legislation that affect marginalized groups. The NACDD National Conference has already been booked for Orlando, FL. Anastasia cautioned that people who identify as LGBTQIA, BIPOC, or as a woman who has the ability to become pregnant, may want to consider whether or not they feel comfortable in attending.

Kirsten updated the Executive Committee on the present “travel warning” for those whose civil rights may be affected. She urged those who are attending the conference not to leave the hotel alone. (The “buddy system” is more important now than ever before). Those who choose to attend the conference remotely will not have the opportunity to interact with the presenters. Councils

nationwide are debating if they will attend, as a sign of solidarity with those negatively impacted by Florida policies; or if they will boycott the conference entirely in protest. The Executive Committee decided to move forward with plans to attend.

- **Ideas for June 29th Quarterly Meeting.**

- Discussion of, with the passing of, a working budget is a must.
- An “extended share” so that folks may talk about how current policy has positively or negatively affected them in Vermont.
- Showcase IHPP website and materials.

3. Ending of the Hotel Voucher Program – Discussion:

Susan summarized why the Hotel Voucher Program began and what’s happening to it. Because the program is ending, more than 2000 Vermonters are or will soon be unhoused. Sue mentioned that the Governor vetoed the budget, as well as several bills for this fiscal year. The budget did not contain funding to continue the hotel program, so some progressives are seeking to restore this funding during the June veto session.

This issue splits many housing advocates and Susan has been doing her best to follow all perspectives. The House and Senate are either negotiating amongst themselves or with the Governor’s office to pass a budget by the end of June.

The Affordable Housing Coalition and the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness are considering merging. They know there are strengths to be gained by coming together, but there are also long-standing tensions between advocates who want to direct resources to immediately shelter people and those who want to build affordable housing.

Crista spoke to how difficult it is to navigate the systems for housing, and home and community-based housing. Kirsten agreed that our vulnerable populations will need to be watched closely.

4. Executive Director’s Report with Kirsten Murphy:

- **DIF Grant Application.** With short notice from the federal administration for Community Living, Councils everywhere are scrambling to apply for 1 of up to 30 grants of \$10 million for 5 years. The application requires that several

organizations work collaboratively to improve transition services for youth and young adults with disabilities. Kirsten said that several items in VTDDC's Five-Year State Plan would benefit with support of an expanded budget. She is working to ensure our projects are written into the grant application.

- **FFy'24 Budget.** Kirsten is still refining the budget and shared her screen to show her conservative projections. She suggested a subcommittee of two people to consider the budget and help refine her draft. David and Steve volunteered.

5. Executive Session:

The Executive Committee agreed to begin Executive session at 10:47 am to discuss a personnel matter. Staff members left the call.

"A board may choose to invite into executive session any of the following: legal counsel; staff; clerical assistants; and persons who are subjects of the discussion or whose information is needed. 1 V.S.A. § 313(b)."

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Hayward
Coordinator of Communication