

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

Draft Executive Committee Meeting Minutes ~ January 8, 2024

On-line meeting

Present:	Anastasia Douglas, David Frye, Michelle John, Crista Yagjian
Absent:	Lindsey Owen
VTDDC Staff:	Kirsten Murphy, Susan Aranoff, Chelsea Hayward

1. Welcome and Adopt Minutes:

The meeting began at 10:07 am.

It was noted that both Candice and Steve have asked to step down from the Executive Committee. With a membership of 5, there was a quorum present.

Motion: Crista made the motion to approve minutes from November 6, 2023. David seconded. There was no discussion.

Motion passed: 4-0-0.

2. Chair’s Report with Anastasia Douglas:

• **Executive Committee**

Because Candice is stepping of the Executive Committee, she will not be able to serve as Co-vice Chair. As the other Co-vice Chair, Crista can continue to serve in the role.

Anastasia suggested inviting Justin to join the Executive Committee.

• **Recruitment**

Anastasia, Amanda Bianchi, and Michelle will serve as this year’ Membership Committee. The Council has up to five slots to fill. We especially need members from Rutland and the southern part of the state. It would be good to have someone who uses the Choices for Care program.

The group discussed finding members who would be committed to the council and its committees. “It’s about helping folks other than yourself,” said Anastasia. Some names were suggested, and staff will contact them be called.

Staff have crafted several outreach initiatives to spread the word about applying to join the VTDDC.

- **Vice Chair election**

Materials would be made to notify members of the upcoming election in March for a new Vice Chair. Interested members will reach out to the Executive Director or Council chair to have their names added to the ballot.

3. Update from Council liaison about NACDD

David has been attending a discussion series sponsored by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities. The last session was about voting rights. David believes the series would be better if more self-advocates were the main presenters.

David's second term on the Council is nearing an end. It was suggested that once he rotates off the VTDDC, he might enjoy joining NACDD's Self-Advocacy Committee. Kirsten will follow up with him.

4. Location of March 28 Quarterly Meeting

Anastasia requested the next Quarterly Meeting take place in Burlington. Kirsten said there would be plenty of accessible places. Members can stay in a hotel the night before if they have a long drive.

Technology is one of the biggest factors in finding a good space for meetings. It may be helpful to own an OWL that can travel with us.

5. Legislative Session begins, with Susan Aranoff

Susan mentioned that the Coalition for Disability Rights (VCDR) no longer has someone following policy at the Statehouse. Cove, which was the advocacy organization for older Vermonters, has also been disbanded. The Council's e-newsletter "Policy Matters" is more important than ever before.

- **What can we expect during this session?**

The legislative session began January 3rd. The ABLE claw back, which is a part of VTDDC's platform, was already gaining momentum in discussions about adjustments to the FY 24 budget.

- **Make a Date.**

Once a week Susan would like to host a self-advocate or family member at the

State House. She would introduce folks to their legislators, sit with them to witness committees they're most interested in, and give a personalized tour of the building. Susan encouraged masks.

6. Executive Director's Report with Kirsten Murphy:

Last summer, Kirsten discovered that the State Business Office has made a technical error regarding VTDDC's required non-federal match. The Business Office significantly overestimated the match required, and VTDDC has been unable to secure enough match to meet the estimated requirement.

With the help of the national technical assistance firm, she has reviewed the error with the Business Office. This is important because the Office of Budget and Management at our federal agency is currently auditing DD Councils to see if they are providing adequate match. With the recalculation, VTDDC will now meet the matching requirement.

- **Program performance report.**

Kirsten was pleased to announce that the yearly report, which is required by the federal government, was almost completed. Our federal partner has given Vermont a small extension on the due date.

7. Other

Members asked about the "All Inclusive" Committee. Because one of the co-chairs is out sick, there is a pause on this work. However, Anastasia hopes to have consultant with expertise in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility provide the Council with some training in June.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Hayward
Executive Director