

**Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
Council Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2016**

Council Members Present: Jill Barker, Kristen Columbus, Heidi DeVries, Steven Johnson, Barb Leroy, Paul Palmer, Jane Reagan, Deborah Rock, Rich Suhrheinrich, David Verseput, Deborah Wiese, Marnie Wills, Tammy Yeomans

Council Members Absent: Elmer Cerano, Justin Caine, Jeremiah Prusi, Andrea Sargent, David Taylor

Council Staff Present: Vendella Collins, Yasmina Bouraoui, Meredith Smith, Brett Williams, Dee Florence, Tedra Jackson, Tracy Vincent,

Guests Present: Tracy Reihl

Meeting called to order at 11:00 am. A quorum was established and introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda

January 5, 2016 agenda approved by consensus.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the October 6, 2015 draft minutes was delayed until the April 2016 meeting.

Public comment – None

14(c) Waiver Legislation Review

Brett Williams presented the research completed by the Public Policy Committee and Economic Justice Work Group regarding 14(C) waivers for Council review. Both work groups recommended the council support pursuing state legislation that would repeal and/or phase out 14(C) waivers in Michigan.

MOTION

Jane Reagan moved to amend the motion to state - The DD council supports state legislation that either repeals or phases out 14(C) waivers in Michigan.

Rich Surherinrich seconded.

MOTION

Deb Weise moved to table the motion until the April meeting to explore how the department she represents feels about the idea of repealing or phasing out 14(C) waivers..

Dave Verseput seconded.

CARRIED.

Council members representing agencies will report back to the April council meeting their department's view on phasing out and/or eliminating 14(C) waivers.

Review of Planning Process and Public Input

Tedra Jackson reviewed previously established criteria required for developing the Council's State Plan. Each strategy in the State Plan must meet the following criteria. It must:

1. Have an impact on the lives of people with developmental disabilities;
2. Make a difference in changing systems;
3. Support and advance full community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities;
4. Support and advance self-directions and self-determination for people with developmental disabilities;
5. Support and strengthen the rights of people with developmental disabilities;
6. Bring the voices of people with developmental disabilities to the policy table;
7. Address economic justice and poverty;
8. Include and benefit people with complex or high support needs;
9. Need to be done by the DD Council, take the Council to the next level, and enhance the council's presence.
10. Link to the Council's strategic priorities, have a targeted market audience, and build upon past successes;
11. Have likely, measurable success;
12. It must be adequately funded for success

The process used to gather public input was also explained. The goal was to gather information on what is important to individuals with developmental disabilities and what are the barriers keeping them from living self-directed self-determined lives. The council gathered public input, to assist in developing the next 5-year strategic plan, by holding community conversations throughout the five (5) council regions conducting a family quality of life survey and a community input survey. The community input survey was designed for individuals who were not able to attend a community conversation in person. This survey asked the same questions as those asked at the community conversations.

Two hundred thirty (230) people attended the community conversation statewide. The majority of people at the community conversation were people with developmental disabilities. Topics of the community conversation included:

1. Employment
2. Housing
3. Inclusion
4. Self-advocacy
5. Transportation
6. Self-determination

Next think tanks were held on nine (9) topics. At least one council member was present at each think tank.

Information gathered from public input was used to develop possible strategies for the council to explore supporting in the next 2017-2021 5-Year Strategic Plan.

Director's Report

Written report was submitted. Additional information not included in the report is that there are currently three (3) vacancies in the office; the Executive Secretary, Community Service Consultant and Grants Manager. The council is waiting on news from HR on finalizing the offer that was made to fill the Executive Secretary position.

The Community Service Consultant and Grants Manager will not be filled until the final 5-Year state plan is developed and presented to the Council.

Executive Committee Report

Written report was submitted in the council meeting packet.

Agency, Committee & Work Group Reports

Chairperson, called for any questions, comments to reports that were included in the meeting packet. There were none.

Establishment of Council Priorities

Traci Reihl the facilitator for the community conversations assisted Council members in an exercise to prioritize strategies for the upcoming 5-Year State Plan. The exercise resulted in a ranking of the strategies.

Motion: Paul Palmer moved to adjourn meeting.

Seconded: Heidi DeVries.

Meeting adjourned at 3:44 pm

Next Council Meeting:

Tuesday, April 5, 2016