



**Utah Developmental Disabilities Council
Tuesday, October 8, 2013
Meeting Minutes
State Capitol, Copper Room**

Members Present: Deborah Bowman- Chair, Eric Stoker- Vice Chair, Kim Belliston, Vicki Clayson, J. Bryan Dial Bryce Fifield, Cheryl Hansen, Linda Hansen, Alice Hirai, Nels Holmgren, Kristen Hone, Tracy Johnson, Jennifer Kuhn, Glen Larsen, Kayci Lynam, James McFadden, Jennifer Morgan, Paul Smith, Rita Bouillon, Russ Thelin, Christine Timothy

UDDC Staff: Claire Mantonya, Frank Long, Troy Justesen, Libby Oseguera

Guests: Kris Fawson, Steve Jardine, Patsy Martinez

Excused: Sen. Pat Jones, Rep. Paul Ray, Kelie Babcock, Robyn Chidester, Dustin Erekson, Karen Hansen, Richard Harward, Donald Holt, Lenny Jones, Lori Packard, Ginny Rouse, Nevah Stevenson, Adina Zahradnikova

Meeting convened at 10:10 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deborah Bowman called for the approval of the September meeting minutes. Eric Stoker made a motion to approve the minutes and Bryan Dial seconded the motion. The September meeting minutes passed unanimously.

2013-2014 PAPERWORK

Council members were given time to fill out a conflict of interest form and an audio/visual waiver after they were given a brief explanation of the forms.

UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Each citizen member was given the opportunity to learn who their legislators are based on their home address. A large part of the council's mission is building leadership skills and getting to know Utah legislators. Claire encouraged Council members to meet with their legislators about the issues that the Council represents, speaking as a citizen who is a part of the council, and not speaking from a council position. Claire also suggested that Council members find another person who shares their legislators so that visiting is less intimidating. Bryce Fifield commented on the fact sheets that the Council has produced stating that these are useful tools to provide information to legislators on these visits. The importance of the visits is making legislators aware that their constituents understand disability issues and can be a resource to them regarding disability issues. Troy Justesen discussed the "Understanding the Medicaid Waiting List Program" fact sheet and answered questions pertaining to his discussion.

AGENCY UPDATES

Christine Timothy spoke about a new alternative assessment that is being offered in education. The assessment has been developed over the last several years with a few other states, and focus on creating dynamic learning maps that are specifically for intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Essential Elements are the core standards for special education students. The Essential Elements measure all basic subjects except math. It is an expectation now that special education students should be learning better with the learning maps. With the quarterly monitoring of the process, administrations will be able to show more growth than has been possible in the past. The expectation will start at the appropriate grade level and curriculum will be modified with adapted information. The students' target grade level experience will be had by special education students.

Glen Larson is hoping the Legislature will continue to fund the transition program this year. The transition program is for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that are in institutions and wish to move into community services. The grant typically funds 12-16 people a year. The Department of Health sends out notices in April to citizens at ICFs and then they can make application to the transition program. They fill positions based on longevity of living in an ICF and by random draw. There are about 700 people who live in intermediate care facilities in Utah presently. Funding for the autism waiver will hopefully be continued. Glen will attend a HHS subcommittee meeting on November 20 to report on the success of the autism waiver program which just completed its first year of a 2 year pilot.

Russ Thelin is excited that Utah was awarded the Federal Promise grant. The demonstration project was with a consortia of states, with Utah being the lead. The grant required 2000 participants ages 14-16 (to enroll) who are on SSI, so Utah partnered with ND, SD, AZ, MT, CO as a six state collaboration to qualify. The participants will have opportunities to utilize training and education to set students up for successful employment upon the completion of school. This will also impact families of the students. Utah will receive \$7.5 to \$8 million of the grant funding over a period of 5 years. Vocational Rehabilitation completed their performance year last week with an all-time agency high for successful closures that resulted in clients being successfully employed. With the number of people being served by Vocational Rehabilitation, during this legislative session Utah State Office of Rehabilitation will be asking for a one time allocation of \$1 million for the Vocational Rehabilitation program. If funding is not awarded, a wait list will need to be put in place for new clients enrolling in the Vocational Rehabilitation program. Assistive technology and Independent Living Centers were awarded as a onetime allocation last year and the waiting list was served. A new list was formed so they will be asking for another allocation of funding this year to serve that list again. Vocational Rehabilitation staff has been trained in entrepreneurial skills so that counselors of clients who are seeking self-employment are better equipped to guide them to those goals.

Nels Holmgren discussed the need for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, but with the government shut down, this is overdue and will hopefully be considered soon. Nutrition money is in jeopardy in the next rounds of sequestration cuts. This will affect supplemental programs, but Senior Cents and Meals on Wheels will not be affected. The agency is planning accordingly and forecasting so that programs are disrupted as little as possible.

Paul Smith talked about the new leadership that will be coming into the Department of Human Services as Palmer DePaulis retires and Ann Williamson comes on board. He explained that there are many Utahans with disabilities that are not using Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) services. Last legislative session, there was a \$500,000 allocation of funding to the waiting list. DSPD has requested a rate increase to make sure that as the need for services increases, private service providers will be prepared to provide services. Paul explained about the need for children in the technology waiver to be able to transition to the community supports waiver, so there may be discussion about that in the upcoming legislative session. Claire reviewed the Take Your Legislator to Work program that the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council and the Division of Services for People with Disabilities are partnering on.

Cheryl Hansen gave an overview of community services. She spoke about families with a family member with disabilities who are in need but are not aware of DSPD or the waiting list for services. Food stamps and Social Security Disability Insurance are concerns due to the recent government shutdown. Raising the amount of money a person can have and still receive Social Security Disability Insurance is a goal that community service providers would like to see come to fruition in the near future so people can save for retirement. The Affordable Care Act is going to be taxing on TURN and other providers, as they are having a hard time with retaining staff with the current pay rate compared to the cost of living. She would like to see their staff have a higher wage.

HIRE MY CARE PRESENTATION

Stacy Johnson, from HireMyCare.org, presented on his organization and about their website and how to use the service. HireMyCare.org matches care seekers and care givers and is partly funded by a grant from the UDDC. Johnson answered questions about the organization following the presentation.

CLOSING REMARKS

Claire briefly discussed the budget and how future sequestration could affect it. We have carryover money from last year so the Council can continue operating. Council spending is at 92% of the annual budget.

The UTABS adult sibling group and the meeting on November 14 was discussed. Hank Liese, at the U of U, is helping to form the group and led some discussions with adult siblings of people with disabilities that were held at the Council office last month. It is important to support siblings because with the rising life expectancy, people with disabilities are out living their parents more often than in the past and siblings are taking care of their brothers and sisters with disabilities.

Claire discussed the UDDC subcommittees, their duties, and the accomplishments of those committees at this point in year three of the five year plan. Groups broke into committees.

Deborah Bowman thanked everyone for coming. The motion to adjourn was made by James McFadden and Eric Stoker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Next UDDC Full Council meeting will be Thursday, February 6, 2014 at the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired 11:00 – 3:30 pm

Minutes prepared by Libby Oseguera

****Attachments available by contacting Libby Oseguera at 801-533-3965 or loseguera@utah.gov**