



**Draft Minutes  
Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council  
July 16, 2020 Meeting**

**Present:** Shamra Baez, Kelly Hill, Danny Holmes, Thanh Kirkpatrick, Cami Nelson, Ronnie San Nicolas, Pat Shivers, Donna Tiffan, David Carlson (DRW), Sherri Brown (UCEDD), Shannon Manion (DDA), Tavares Terry (ALTSA), Alexandra Toney (OSPI), Katie Mirkovich (DVR), Paige Lewis (HCA),

**Absent:** Julia Bell (Chair), TK Brasted, Anthony Nash

**Staff and Support:** Jeremy Norden-Paul, Aziz Aladin, Brian Dahl, Emily Rogers, Adrienne Stuart, Linda West, Kathy Easton, Sulana

Call to Order:

Jeremy explained that do to a family illness Julia will not be attending the Council meeting.

Cami called the meeting to order.

**Approval of April 2020 Council Minutes**

Jeremy explained that the minutes sent out with the original mailing were incomplete and to use the minutes sent the day before the Council meeting were complete. The difference was correcting the attendance.

**Motion: to approve the April 2020 Minutes as written. Danny moved and Pat seconded. The motion carried.**



## **Executive Director Report**

### Virtual Advocacy Days

Jeremy shared that the Council, SAIL and the Arc of Washington are co-hosting a virtual Advocacy Day series every Thursday at 10:00 am. There is a link in the slide to access the facebook post. If you need the link emailed let him know. Legislators from districts around the state will be there to listen and answer questions from constituents in their districts. Information about advocacy tools that people can use will be available.

These advocacy days are happening because Washington State is looking at a 9 billion budget gap over the next few years. We are very concerned this will result in cuts to services.

The meetings are being recorded and posted on facebook in case you are unable to attend any of the sessions.

### Community Grants

Jeremy reminded the Council that we were able to give out the grants was because of the savings the Council realized in not meeting in person. 43 applications were received from around the state. He, Emily and Adrienne screened all of the applications. They looked at different criteria around what the project focused on and made sure that there was equity in terms of ethnic, socioeconomic and geographic balance.

Six grants were awarded to:

Asotin County Community Services;  
Puyallup Tribe Adult Services Department;  
The ARC of King County,  
Community Colleges of Spokane Foundation;  
Easter Seals Washington; and  
Morningside



The projects range from purchasing tablets or other equipment to allow the agencies to stay in touch with the people they serve to allowing students with developmental disabilities in Spokane to attend college.

Aziz clarified that the bulk of the savings that allowed the Council to be able to provide the grants was from not filling a vacant position on staff.

If continuing to meet virtually and not in person contributes to additional savings we can have this discussion at that time.

Thanh expressed a disappointment with the outcome of the recipients. She didn't feel that there was enough consideration for diversity and equity in terms of looking at organizations that traditionally don't receive funding. Also, to look at those who actually have cultural competency dealing with ethnic groups. Especially those who traditionally and historically do not get access to services.

Ronnie also expressed the same concerns and would like the Council to create a process where standards for inclusion, equity and diversity are looked at in selections processes.

David agreed and would like to see the Council think how to use its position to make a concerted effort in communities of color, in communities where English is a second language, difficulty in accessing services.

Jeremy shared that he would talk about the process that was used to screen the applications with anyone who was interested. He stated that it is always good at looking ways to improve the process. Jeremy also stated he would like to review the process that was followed with Council members and look at ways to improve it.

He also would like to consider the projects that proposed by organizations for the grant in creating the Council's state plan for ideas to incorporate into it.



### Community Trust (Dan Thompson Trust)

Jeremy gave a history of how the trust came into existence and historically how funds are administered into the trust. He shared that a challenge to the trust is that there is currently no process for it to be spent on any community initiatives or projects. There is currently a balance of 3.6 million and one of the leans on the trust is that the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has to get recommendations from the Council on how to spend funds.

Currently there isn't a process on how to do that and conversations have begun between the Council and DDA to form an ad-hoc committee. The committee will be tasked to talk about a process, gather community input and to design a process and submit recommendations to DDA on how to spend the funds in the trust.

### ADA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Jeremy reminded the Council that there will be a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration event on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. with another airing that evening. It will be broadcast on TVW and the website. The celebration will have some entertainment and a review of the thirty year history and a panel discussion.

### **Budget Report**

Aziz gave a budget review through the end of May. He stated that the Council is currently using its federal year 2019 award. The award was a total of \$1.3 million, as of the end of May \$1.1 million with \$251,000 left to spend.

The federal year 2020 award of \$1.4 million has been received however, the Council has not yet begun to spend it down.



The Council does have an inter-agency agreement with DSHS of \$294,000 and as of the end of May \$190,000 has been spent which leaves a balance of \$109,000.

Aziz stated the budget is broken into two main sections; operations and state plan activities. Per federal law 70% is allotted to the state plan process. The operation side of the budget is for administrative tasks such as rent and supplies. The state plan area of the budget is for grants, salaries, travel, council meetings along with travel and equipment.

Informing Families budget comes from an inter-agency agreement between the Council and DSHS. This is an annual agreement is the Council's communication project, which funds six local coordinators. The coordinators cover six different geographical areas within Washington State. The agreement also funds the Front Door Project, which creates an inviting and transparent experience for people applying for services.

Jeremy shared that the Council has been working closely with the DDA to develop a quality assurance survey that will go to the Community Guide and Engagement services. It was unable to go out before the COVID pandemic occurred. Since the beginning of the new federal fiscal year the Council has been able to reinvest the funds into other areas of Informing Families project.

### **State Plan Update**

Jeremy stated that the State is foundational and the most important part of what the Council does. Without the state plan the Council wouldn't have any goals or objectives. This is all how the Council spends its time and resources and Council member roles will be a part of the discussion.

Part of the comprehensive review and analysis is the state plan survey that is active and we share as a way to gather input all communities statewide. It is an important way to get information and define gaps is services are.



We hope to hold a virtual town hall meetings in August and September. It is also helpful to hear from the agency representative on where the gaps are from their agency perspective. Jeremy has been working the agency representative to record video presentations to talk about the issues and gaps.



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Jeremy recognized Pat for his work on the Council. He appreciated Pat for the welcome he gave Jeremy during the past year. Jeremy also expressed hope that Pat would remain in the Council's advocacy circle.

Several Council members thanked Pat and to let him know how much he is appreciated for everything he gave to the Council.

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**Public Policy**

Adrienne introduced Senator Claire Wilson and shared that she agreed to help the Council members become comfortable on how to educate legislators. She will also help members to learn how to educate their communities and advocate for policies and rules that would help people with developmental disabilities and their families live meaningful lives in their communities.



Senator Wilson and Emily roll play an example of how Emily as a citizen would talk with a Senator or Representative. The role play assumed that an appointment had been scheduled and that the two met to discuss Emily's concern. The role play was to show that to Legislators one of the most important things is to hear your story. This puts a personal touch to an issue that they can take back to their colleagues.

The Senator shared that the first thing she listens to is who the person coming to see her, is. Then she looks for if what the person has to share will lead to a change in an issue and about the resources to pay for the changes.

She also would like to know what the impact to an individual has been because of any services and supports that were cut. Senator Wilson would ask for more in depth information she felt would be helpful.

The meeting really is about an individual's experience getting deeper knowledge of an issue and what impact it is or will have on them. She doesn't want anyone to be afraid to talk with their legislator, to remember that they are people just like you.

Senator Wilson was unsure if there would be a special session or not. If one is called, she felt strongly that it would be virtually like the Council meetings have been. The legislature has already been doing remote testimony and she felt it would be a great opportunity to hear from a broader group of people from around the state.

Discussion followed regarding the new digital world and how it effects people with IDD. Access to devices simply isn't enough it is also about access to the internet, both financially and actual ability to receive internet service. Also, supporting people to use a tablet or a computer is just as important.





## 2021 Legislative Priorities

Adrienne reported that she asked the Public Policy Committee to pick their top three priorities for the upcoming legislative session. These won't be the only priorities the Committee will work on, though, that will give direction to where the Council should focus its priorities on.

The issues that came out of the survey for the Council to work on are:

- Preserve all programs for people with developmental disabilities and their families;
- Disallowing providers from kicking people off of their programs; and
- Eliminating the subminimum wage tied with having the legislature create a five-year phase-out plan to close all institutions

She also reminded the Council of the recommendations that came from the group to create a new nursing facility. Now is a good time to revisit that recommendation because of the current environment we are living in. a new task force is being created to relook at that issue and the Council can be a leading voice.

## Public Policy Ambassador Program and 2020 Public Policy Outline

Adrienne brought the Public Policy job description to the Committee to create approval. She stated that once it is stated that you serve on the Council that anything said at that point is interpreted as representing the Council's position. This would define the work being done and empower other Council members. Hopefully this would enable members to train people in their communities once their Council service is over.



She stated five bullet point for the Ambassador position:

Become familiar with advocacy training;  
Provide advocacy primer training in your local community or advocacy groups; and  
Prepare and be responsible for leading a lesson on an advocacy topic at a Council meeting

Adrienne shared that she has a goal for each Council member. She would like them to feel informed, engaged and know how to advocate in their community by the end of their service on the Council.

The next step at the October meeting members will choose one public policy ambassador lead for each priority. The ambassador will be responsive to requests for help. They will also help people to meet with their legislators, role-play etc.

**Motion: To adjourn the July 2020 Council meeting. Donna moved and Danny seconded. The motion carried.**