

APPROVED MINUTES – COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

Monday, February 26, 2024

625 SILVER AVENUE SW, SUITE 100 (DDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM)

TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Members Present

Advocates

Amelia-Ann Dickey
Crystal Garcia
Lystra John

Family Members

Joel Davis, Chair
Katie Stone, Vice Chair
Jennifer Sanchez, Secretary
Deanna Cole
Joseph Melvyn Jaramillo
Tarra Main

Agencies Present

John Arango (CLSC)
Margaret Cage (PED)
Teresa Casados (CYFD)
Scott Doan, proxy (DOH, DDSD)
Elizabeth Groginsky (ECECD)
Jennifer Jones, proxy (ALTSD)
Gary Housepian (DRNM)
Tim Gardner, proxy (DRNM)
Pat Osbourn (UNM, CDD)
Casey Stone-Romero (DVR)

Staff Present

Alice Liu McCoy (Executive Director)
Joe Turk (OOG Legal Director)
Maria Bourassa (OOG Program Manager)
Donna Vigil (Chief Operating Officer)
Daniel Ekman (CSA Program Manager)
Lindsay Sloan (CSA Outreach Coordinator)
Michelle Tregembo (Special Education State Ombud)
Lucero Estrada (Office Administrator)

Advocates Absent

Laurel Deans
Richard Segura
Elisheva Levin

Family Members Absent

Valentin Anaya, Treasurer
Selma Ramos Nevarez

Agencies Absent

Melanie Buenviaje (HCA)
Lanthia Miles (Non-Government Agency)

Public Guests

None

Call to Order/ Housekeeping

Chair Joel Davis called the meeting to order, completed the roll call, and housekeeping was conducted. The meeting convened at 11:08 AM.

Public Comment (Morning)

None.

Approval of February 26, 2024 Agenda – Action Item

John Arango moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Katie Stone. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of November 27, 2023 Quarterly Meeting Minutes – Action Item

John Arango moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Pat Osbourn. Motion passed unanimously. Joel proposes to amend the minutes to reflect that David Gonzales, Donna Vigil, and Michelle Varela are incorrectly listed as present. Tarra Main moves to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by John Arango. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Chair & Executive Director Report – Joel Davis & Alice Liu McCoy

Alice Liu McCoy reported on two advocacy events held during the Legislative session, Autism Awareness Day and Disability Rights Awareness Day. Alice reported on DDC's FY25 appropriation results and the effects on DDC programs. Alice announced intention to request a grant from State Board of Finance to complete FY24 and prevent another deficiency. Alice introduced new DDC staff and gave HR update.

2024 Post-Session Legislative Report – Jim Jackson

Jim Jackson from Disability Coalition gave an overview of the 2024 Legislative Session with an emphasis on revenues, funding, and disability-related legislative action. Alice asked what priorities should DDC be advocating for during the interim. Jim responded that the following priorities need DDC attention: (1) challenges for families on the waiver getting appropriate level of service due to a lack of capacity; (2) rate increases for waiver services; (3) pay for direct services workers, including appropriate level of pay and professionalizing the workforce; (4) special education initiatives; (5) restraint and seclusion. Alice asked whether LESC working groups for special education would continue. Jim and Dr. Margaret Cage responded that they believed the working groups would continue for at least five years. John Arango observed that the year-to-year budget cycles make long-term commitments harder and emphasized the need to adequately fund state government infrastructure.

NMDDC Program & Council Committee Updates

Self-Advocacy:

Daniel Ekman presented update on the Center for Self-Advocacy's current activities. Vashad discussed his involvement with the LEND program. Scott Doan expressed interest in working with Amelia-Ann Dickey on training for customized employment. Lindsay discussed the Advocates in Action program, distributing information to New Mexicans whose first language is not English, and creating a self-advocate podcast. Amelia invited Council members to use the committee's Google document to share ideas.

Health:

Scott Doan, Alice Liu McCoy, and Tim Gardner discussed acquiring data from Health Care Authority about whether and how many individuals on the DD waiver waitlist were receiving Medicaid community benefits through the 1115 waiver. Daniel discussed the upcoming CMS visit to New Mexico to examine compliance with the Final Rule. Alice discussed how to prepare the community to give CMS useful feedback so that New Mexico receives the best technical assistance CMS can provide.

Community-Based Services:

Joe Turk gives an Office of Guardianship (OOG) update, including the new data system and its positive program effects, more efficient legal services, growing OOG application rates and waitlist, protected person demographics, and funding challenges. Maria Bourassa presented on alternatives to guardianship projects. Alice discussed the necessity of passing a Supported Decision Making Act in New Mexico. Tim Gardner discussed the need to educate judges about self-determination and the need for alternatives to guardianship. Jennifer Sanchez and Alice discussed how to address pipelines into guardianship.

Employment:

Alice discussed the need to fill a spot for another Marilyn Martinez State Jobs participant, the need for additional funding, resources, and personnel to drive the program forward, and the need for additional customized employment in the state.

Education:

Michelle Tregembo discussed current staff, the need for improved communications work, highlights of 2023 annual report, data on services provided by the Office of the Special Education Ombud (OSEO), the overwhelmingly large amounts of time spent on behavioral issues, OSEO outreach presentations, district volunteer ombud training, and family knowledge nights. Gary Housepian suggested guardianship and alternatives to guardianship as a family knowledge night topic. John Arango asked how OSEO sees the general education system doing as a whole. Michelle responded that the annual report captures OSEO's concerns and recommendations, including behavior issues and lack of effective staff training and meaningful professional development. Michelle discussed statewide IEP template. John proposed laying out a five year plan for central issues that

need to be addressed and tracking progress on those issues by measuring outcomes on the student level. Katie Stone stated that following through with laws is the primary issue. For example, the eleven considerations for students with autism are not utilized and laws meant to alleviate behavior issues are not being followed. Amelia Ann-Dickey, Jennifer Sanchez, Katie, Michelle, and Alice discuss the importance of student voice at IEP meetings and ensuring the student learns how to advocate. Michelle discussed forming an OSEO youth council. Katie discussed student advocacy at higher education institutions.

Member Announcements

Pat Osbourn announced a new cohort for advanced diagnostics and starting a primary care program in two weeks. Crystal Garcia asked for more information, training, and classes. Amelia-Ann Dickey offered to help Crystal get connected with advocacy opportunities. Jennifer Sanchez mentioned Alice's presentation on guardianship at the Weaving Colors program for Native American families affected by autism.

Adjourn

The next meeting will be held in May 2024. Motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Sanchez and seconded by Katie Stone. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:42 PM.