



**Board Meeting
August 28, 2014**

Members present: Marcia Hettich, CFN; Pam Kolling, The Arc of Dickinson; Karen Thompson, The Arc of ND; Josh Askvig, AARP; Teresa Larsen, P&A; Barb Murry, NDACP; NaTasha Sawicki, SCDD; Tom Alexander, Minot Housing Authority; Callie Musland, The Arc of Bismarck; Amy Armstrong, NDCPD; Cheryl Hess, APSE

Participating by phone: Donene Feist, FVND; Allan Peterson, NDAB

[13 of 17 member organizations participating]

Others present: Rose Stoller & Paul Griffin (Consensus Council)

Hess called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Participants introduced themselves.

Tobacco Free North Dakota

There was a presentation by Erin Hill-Oban from Tobacco Free ND on proposed legislation. She spoke on TFND's three goals: 1) smoking cessation; 2) strong policies; 3) high tobacco taxes. She said the first two have been accomplished. They are currently working on the third. In ND, State tax is 44¢/pack of cigarettes (last raised in 1993) and federal tax is \$1.01/pack. TFND's reasons for wanting to raise the tax are not to raise money for ND but for: 1) youth prevention; 2) adult reduction; 3) reducing health care costs; 4) overall benefit to public health. TFND wants ND to increase its tobacco tax by \$1.56 to a total of \$2.00/pack. Questions and discussion followed.

General Business of the Board:

- Minutes of the May 6, 2014 board meeting – Askvig made a motion for approval seconded by Murry. The motion passed unanimously.

- Financial report – Stoller said she just got the financials and hasn't had a chance to review them yet with the Treasurer. Askvig told members NDDAC was awarded the 2-year \$40,000 Bremer grant and \$10,000 from the Bush Foundation/Consensus Council Community Innovation Grant.
- Update on membership and dues: 2 new members – Minot Housing Authority and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Stoller provided a list of NDDAC member representatives. There was discussion about needed edits.

Tobacco Free North Dakota

Alexander moved to write a letter of support on TFND proposed legislation as long as the increased tax money doesn't go to the State General Fund. Murry seconded. Askvig expressed concern that TFND won't be able to change its position on that (i.e., the condition of where the monies would go). Murry said the NDDAC might be spreading themselves too thin by addressing this issue anyway. The motion failed with one vote in favor and the remainder in opposition.

Legislative Training Institute (LTI) Update

Askvig walked through the draft LTI handbook. There will be training for the team leaders from 8–noon on Monday morning. He shared his incredibly artful drawing of the nametag template and how participants will be randomly assigned roles for the LTI (e.g., Senator, Representative, and Governor). He explained the team function and went through the LTI schedule of events and activities. He spoke about NDDAC member sponsorships in which the planning team is asking that each member contribute \$100 for which they can register 2 participants. Participation is capped at 100 individuals. NDDAC will be sending out pleas for other organizations to be sponsors. Larsen said there would be a luncheon on Wed. from noon–2 for NDDAC members and LTI volunteers. Askvig spoke about the need for volunteers and explained the role of team leaders. Hess said that the SCDD has some funds that may be able to be used for people with developmental disabilities for LTI expenses.

[LUNCH BREAK]

Disability Awareness Day (scheduled for Feb. 12, 2015)

Planning committee: Josh, Tom, Rose, Karla, NaTasha/Cheryl

A-STEP

Armstrong spoke about the A-STEP program at Minot State University. The federal grant ends Sept. 2015. Armstrong is hoping to get monies from DHS to sustain the program that provides for students with developmental disabilities to participate in college at MSU. Each student has a paid mentor. NDCPD may need some help with supporting potential legislation for this program during the next Session. This year there are three students. Two are private pay with the third getting some financial support from their home school for room & board, tuition, books, etc. Brochures were passed out. More information is on the NDCPD website.

My Rights: My Healthcare

Stoller spoke about town hall meetings as a possible activity. She would like to reconvene the committee to do some planning and will be getting a hold of the members. Larsen will also serve on the committee as will Feist. There will be discussion about more focus on mental health treatment and services.

It was requested that at its next NDDAC board meeting, members speak about their legislative priorities.

Public Policy Issues

- ACA & Medicaid Expansion – Stoller said a number of groups are working on keeping this on folks' radar. Feist said that BCBS has dissolved its Caring Program and this has left some families in the lurch. Feist will send a sanitized letter from BCBS to Stoller who will do some follow-up on this (response from BCBS).
- Mental Health Services/Sen. Heitkamp letter – Larsen, McCleary and Stoller decided to meet with her instead. An appointment was set up but one of the individuals became ill and the meeting has not yet been rescheduled.
- Ratification of "Disability Treaty" – Larsen updated that Sen. Hoeven continues to not commit but she believes he will not support it. He professes that he's getting too many calls from home school families. NDDAC sent a letter in December 2012 to Sen. Hoeven. P&A has sent letters since dispelling the home school families' argument. Larsen will get one of these to Stoller to send out to NDDAC members. This will be on the agenda for the next NDDAC meeting.
- Updates on Members' Grants – Armstrong will provide information to NDDAC at its next meeting on the PROMISE grant. Feist said NDCPD should hear next week about its application for another Navigator grant.

- HB1378 Study Group – Feist said it’s been a fruitful group and hopes several bills will come out of it.

Stoller suggested the NDDAC should start working on its legislative platform.

Askvig moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. Hettich seconded. Motion carried.

**The next meeting will be
October 14, 2014 from 10:30am.**