



## **Board Meeting March 15, 2016**

**Members participating:** NaTasha Sawicki & Julie Hornvedt, SCDD; Carlotta McCleary, The Federation & MHAND; Nicole Peske, The Arc of Bismarck, The Arc of ND, and American People; Donene Feist, FVND (phone); Alan Pederson, ND Association for the Blind (phone); Amy Armstrong, NDCPD (phone); Teresa Larsen, P&A.

**[10 of 17 organizations represented]**

**Others participating:** Paul Griffin, Consensus Council

### **Introductions:**

The meeting was called together at 1:13 p.m. Participants introduced themselves.

### **Housing Incentive Fund (HIF):**

Jennifer Henderson was present as a guest speaker and addressed the future of the ND Housing Incentive Fund. Jennifer works for the ND Housing Finance Agency (HFA). She said HIF was initiated in 2011 and funded by tax contributions and some State dollars. While the Housing Alliance of ND intended for HIF to focus on individuals with disabilities and individuals/families with low income, the Legislature's priorities for housing were essential service workers and individuals/families with low to moderate income. Inclusion of essential service workers is probably why the bill passed. HIF will sunset the end of the current biennium (6/30/17) unless it is reauthorized. With the oil industry (at least temporarily) collapsing in ND, it is questionable whether more housing is needed for essential service workers. Housing is still an issue for special needs populations.

Jennifer said the last statewide housing needs assessment was completed in 2012; that a new one will be done this June. She said the HFA would like data from stakeholders beyond this, such as numbers of individuals/families in need, "what's affordable?", and eventually some good stories to illustrate the need.

Jennifer said she would like to see a representative from the NDDAC as part of the HFA stakeholder group. The first meeting will be next Monday. ***The NDDAC agreed to communicate who the designated representative will be back to Jennifer.***

Jennifer said ND will be getting \$3 million from the federal Housing Trust Fund. The HFA will be the receiver of the funds and will need to get public input & develop an allocation plan for the monies. She said the draft plan will be available 4/21/16 and a public hearing will be held 5/6/16.

Challenges with reauthorizing HIF include some existing property owners saying the HIF contributed to a "housing overbuild" in their communities. Jennifer said HIF can be used to buy down debt of existing properties in exchange for making some of the apartments in the property "affordable". She said HIF can also be used to rehabilitate aged properties.

*NOTE: Related news article in the Forum (1/2/16):*

<http://www.inforum.com/news/3915453-nds-housing-incentive-fund-likely-see-more-scrutiny>

### **General Business:**

McCleary agreed to facilitate the business meeting in the absence of a chair or vice-chair.

- **Approval of Minutes:**  
Sawicki made the *motion* to approve the minutes from February 17, 2016. Peterson seconded and the motion *passed unanimously*.
- **Officer Vacancies/Nominating Committee:**  
The committee includes Hettich, Askvig, and Larsen. Larsen reported that committee has not yet met.

### **Public Policy Issues & Legislative Outcomes:**

- **State General Funds Budget Cuts**  
Since the last meeting, information specific to budget cuts was sent to NDDAC members by Askvig and Larsen. McCleary talked about the "roundtable" meeting scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. at the Bismarck library. Its purpose is to have discussion regarding the State budget cuts, particularly those made within DHS and impacting (directly or indirectly) individuals with disabilities and their families. There is concern with the media portrayal of the cuts as being insignificant as "no state employees lost their jobs". All NDDAC members are invited.
- **Legislative Training Institute:**  
The planning committee for this event (Peterson, McCleary, Askvig, Sawicki, Larsen) has not yet met.
- **Disability Awareness Day:**  
The planning committee for this event (Peske, Hettich, Sawicki) has not yet met.
- **"Guess Request – The Arc, Upper Valley:**  
Peske and Larsen had to cancel the scheduled call with The Arc, Upper Valley. It will be rescheduled.

- **Medicaid Template:**

There was discussion about concerns with the possible discontinuation of Medicaid Expansion during the next Legislative Session. It was stated that Askvig e-mailed the template to NDDAC members last week to guide folks in collecting stories. Griffin agreed to resend the e-mail as some participants mentioned they had not received it.

- **Policy Issues – 2017 NDDAC Legislative Platform:**

- **Candidate Questionnaire** – There was discussion regarding surveying candidates (legislative & statewide office) regarding disability-related issues. This could be done via Survey Monkey and snail mail with results shared as well as posted on the NDDAC website. It was agreed that this should not happen before the statewide conventions. An e-mail will be sent out to NDDAC members for ideas for survey questions. Feist, McCleary, & Larsen agreed to serve on the committee to receive the ideas and develop a draft template. Griffin said the Consensus Council could provide support for this activity.
- **2017 Legislative Priorities** - It was decided to have each NDDAC member identify up to three issues that will be used for the basis of discussion in setting NDDAC's top priorities. Griffin agreed to send out an e-mail to NDDAC members asking for their priorities.
- **Meeting with DHS** – It was agreed that the NDDAC will invite DHS administration to a meeting late spring or early summer to give input on DHS' budget development for the 2017-2019 biennium.

The list of members, who have not yet paid their FY 2016 dues, was reviewed. Members were asked to send in their dues as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.

**The next meeting will be  
May 2, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**