



**Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
December 20, 2016**

**Proposed Meeting Goals:**

- To gather in a spirit of collegiality and cooperation;
- To receive information from the Humane Society of the US (ND Chapter);
- To conduct the necessary business of the Board of Directors;
- To receive updates and information from the members & committees; and
- To discuss public policy issues of importance and to plan for the 2017 legislative session.

~~~~~

**Board Members Present:** Josh Askvig & Mike Chaussee, AARP ND, Carlotta McCleary, ND Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health and Mental Health America of ND, Pam Mack, ND Protection & Advocacy Project, and Bruce Murry (ND Association of Community Providers). **Attending via phone:** Donene Feist, Family Voices of ND, Julie Horntvedt, ND State Council on Developmental Disabilities and Amy Armstrong, ND Center for Persons with Disabilities.

Chairperson Horntvedt announced that quorum is achieved and called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

**Others present:** Rose Stoller, Consensus Council, TJ Jerke, ND Executive Director, Humane Society of the United States

TJ gave a presentation about the Humane Society of the United States, the recently formed Bismarck Animal Advisory Board, the PAWS program that protects women and their pets in domestic violence situations, Pets in Poverty program and the Pets for Life program. Handouts were made available that include advocacy resources and toolkits. TJ was thanked for his presentation, and then left the meeting.

**Introductions and organizational updates** were given as follows:

McCleary reported that they are in the process of hiring a new Director for the Myrt Armstrong Recovery Center in Fargo. She also noted that the Mental Health Advocacy Network will be joining NDDAC and is hoping to participate in Disability Awareness Day in February. She asked for assistance in obtaining survey responses from people with mental illnesses, and the providers who serve them: <http://www.mhand.org/north-dakota-mental-health-survey.html>

Askvig introduced the new Associate State Director for Advocacy for AARP ND, Mike Chaussee. Mike will be the representative for future NDDAC meetings and activities. AARP ND is gearing

Draft for Review 12/23/16

up for the 2017 Legislative session and also in the process of scheduling member events for the New Year. He noted that AARP ND currently has an opening for a full time Senior Operations Associate. Mike shared information about the proposed CARE Act in ND and will provide the written material to Rose to share with all NDDAC members.

Mack reported that the Legislative Working Committees would begin meeting every Friday during the Legislative session. Teresa Larsen will again be tracking bills related to disability issues and sharing them in a grid format each week. Director, Maggie Anderson, has made information regarding the Department of Human Services (DHS) base budget and Optional Adjustment Requests (OAR's) available.

Stoller reported that the Community Innovation Grant Program for 2017 will open on January 4, 2017. There will again be 3 grant rounds in 2017 and more information is available at: <http://agree.org/communityinnovationgrants/>.

Murry shared information regarding provider requests planned for the Legislature including 3% increases each year of the biennium, implementation of the new DD Provider Payment System, new slots for guardianships, and increased capacity for meeting the needs of consumers who are difficult to serve, especially youth, those in out-of-state placement and those residing at the Life Skills & Transition Center in Grafton.

Hornvedt reported that the SCDD is in the process of preparing a final year report on their 5-year plan, as well as developing new activities for the next 5 years. Requests for Proposals (RFP's) for grants from the SCDD are now available: <http://www.ndcpd.org/scdd/grants.shtml>.

Feist reported that their organization has far surpassed the number of calls for assistance as were received in previous years. They have sponsored successful Santa Meet & Greet events for children around the state, continue to sponsor Extended Learning Calls and work with others regarding autism services, Medicaid Expansion continuation, and family support services. FVND has an appropriation in the DHS budget for \$75,000 to continue family support services.

Armstrong provided updates on the ASPIRE and A-STEP programs through the Center at Minot State University. A-STEP will have an open house 1/17/17 in the hopes of getting more people interested in the program.

**Review of Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2016:** Stoller drew the Boards attention to the Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2016.

CARLOTTA MCCLEARY MADE AND BRUCE MURRY SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORTS:** The profit and loss statement (P & L) and balance sheet, as of November 30, 2016, were reviewed. Members were reminded that NDDAC was successful in applying for and receiving a \$50,000 grant (over 2 years) from the Otto Bremer Trust.

CARLOTTA MCCLEARY MADE AND BRUCE MURRY SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE

FINANCIAL REPORTS. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**DISCUSSION OF 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:** Members were reminded to send their legislative priorities to Rose, if they have not already. Rose will combine these and draft a document that could be used at Disability Awareness Day, given to individual Legislators, or shared with other coalitions or networks. The current inventory of priorities is attached to these minutes.

There is interest in a texting tree that can be used during the Legislative session for quick messaging. Bruce agreed to send an initial message to assure accuracy. NDDAC Board members are asked to email Rose Stoller a mobile phone number at which they can receive a text. Rose will compile the list and give it to Bruce for implementation.

There was discussion relative to the imbalance of funding between long term care facilities and community-based services. There was also discussion regarding the proposed tax on (private pay) individuals in nursing homes. There was discussion about a Department of Justice investigation in South Dakota relating to long-term care facilities; there is some thinking that a similar investigation is happening in North Dakota.

Concern was expressed about accessibility at the State Capitol now that several public entrances have been closed off (in the stated interest of security). Rose agreed to contact Royce Schultze, Executive Director of Dakota Center for Independent Living, to see whether he and/or his colleagues share this concern and whether they would like to make a formal contact with Facilities Management. Bruce Murry offered his organization as a partner in this effort.

#### **NDDAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** The Nominating Committee has not met. However, at this meeting, Donene Feist volunteered to serve as Vice Chair and Bruce Murry volunteered to serve as Treasurer.

CARLOTTA MCCLEARY MADE AND JULIE HORNTVEDT SECONDED A MOTION FOR A UNANIMOUS BALLOT FOR DONENE FEIST AS NDDAC VICE CHAIR AND BRUCE MURRY AS TREASURER. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY (DAD) COMMITTEE:** In 2017, DAD will be held subsequent to a meeting of Advocates Leading Their Lives (ALL) Self-advocacy group. ALL will meet on 2/15/16 (Ramada Hotel) with a focus on legislative training by Judy DeWitz, ND Protection & Advocacy Project, followed by DAD on 2/16/17 (State Capitol). Travel and lodging arrangements for consumers/families are being made by the SCDD; contact Julie for more information. The evening of 2/15/17 will also feature a dinner and preview of the documentary film Bottom Dollars (<http://www.rootedinrights.org/videos/employment/bottom-dollars/>). These two events will be held in the National Energy Center of Excellence (NECE) at Bismarck State College. More information about all events, including registration forms, will be sent soon.

Feist suggested that the DAD Planning Committee consider having Legislators read books to children during the event. This was done successfully in the past and is a high visibility event, if

Draft for Review 12/23/16

done in the Memorial Hall. It might be particularly effective to ask Legislators who are not generally supportive of disability issues/funding, rather than those on who we can rely for support. Rose and Julie will bring the idea to the DAD Planning Committee when they meet January 5.

**CANDIDATE SURVEY COMMITTEE:** The committee has not met and it was agreed that this Committee should look toward meeting in the spring of 2018 to plan for a survey prior to the election.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting of the NDDAC is scheduled for Thursday, February 2, from noon – 1:30 pm at the Consensus Council office (lunch provided).

The meeting was adjourned by the Call of the Chair at 11:30 a.m.

*The North Dakota Disabilities Advocacy Consortium unites to ensure citizens with disabilities have an opportunity to lead independent and productive lives.*

**NDDAC**  
**2017 Legislative Concerns**  
**By Member Organization**  
December 20, 2016

**AARP**

- Family Caregiver Supports
- Medicaid Expansion retention
- Financial Security work- HIF, Property Taxes, etc.

**ND Consumer Family Network**

- Peer Support
- Recovery Center Funding
- Training & Education for Law Enforcement

**ND Center for Persons with Disabilities**

- Access to adequate services
- Adequate reimbursement for providers of services
- Lack of available Medicare and Medicaid providers due to lack of reimbursement
- Access to quality training for providers
- Lack of qualified service providers in rural and reservation
- Lack of services in reservation communities

**Family Voices of ND**

- Autism - getting back what was lost
- Medicaid Expansion
- Kids who are medically fragile from an old 1378 bill

**ND Protection & Advocacy Project (P&A)**

- Behavioral Health Services
- Retaining HIF and Medicaid Expansion
- ASD Services – regaining what was cut plus adding two more years for waiver eligibility as well as more slots

**P&A Protection & Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR)**

- Abuse, neglect & exploitation
- Employment
- Education
- Inclusion
- Health care

**The ARC of Bismarck**

- DHS budget – getting back what was lost, especially autism and assistive technology
- Minimum wage/employment issues
- Seclusion and restraint

### **Minot Housing Authority**

- Continuation of the Housing Incentive Fund.
- Access to or just a lack of antiquated training for providers. As an example, hoarding issues. Never realized how bad it is in ND. More times than not Housing Authorities end up putting folks in the street and every HA does not like doing that. Basically you can evict the tenant for breaking the lease under the terms of “your neighbors have the right to peaceful enjoyment.” We get complaints from neighbors of fruit flies, bugs and smell of cooking rotten food.
- Lack of affordable housing for the extremely poor, 30% and below the AMI.

### **ND State Council on Developmental Disabilities**

- Increased access to information, services and supports within communities.
- Employment rates.
- Improved health.

### **ND Association of Community Providers**

- Inflationary increases of 3% (2017-18) and 3% (2018-19)
- Full funding of provider rates in proposed payment system
- 20 new corporate DD guardianship slots and half-time worker achieved through daily rate increase of \$0.33
- Capacity building in Community Services with special emphasis on diverting youth from the LSTC and returning & avoiding out of state youth placement

### **Mental Health America of ND & ND Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health**

- Peer Support
- Increased funding for behavioral health support
- Autism services
- Statute regarding the use of seclusion and restraint
- Medicaid Expansion

### **ND APSE**

### **ND Association of the Blind**

### **National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Upper Midwest Chapter**

### **The Arc of Dickinson**

### **The Arc of ND**