



**Board Meeting
August 27, 2015**

Members participating: Barb Murry, NDACP; Cheryl Hess, APSE; NaTasha Sawicki, SCDD; Josh Askvig, AARP; Marcia Hettich, CFN; Carlotta McCleary, The Federation and MHAND; Nicole Peske, The Arc of Bismarck and The Arc of ND; Amy Armstrong, NDCPD (via phone); Donene Feist, FVND (via phone); Pam Kolling and Karen Thompson, The Arc of Dickinson and The Arc of North Dakota; Alan Pederson, ND Association for the Blind.

[13 of 17 organizations represented]

Others participating: Rose Stoller and Scott Fry, Consensus Council;

Chair Hess called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Agenda Review:

As per Askvig's request, Stoller asked to add oral health issues under the public policy section.

Member check-in:

- **AARP** – Doing work on expanding dental access. There will be a volunteer conference at end of September. Working on care giving and care giving supports. October doing listening lunches in Fargo, Bismarck and Minot on care giving and having people tell their stories to capture as testimonies. Another area of focus should be respite care: iheartcaregiving.org - share stories and challenges.
- **FVND** – Fiest stated they had the leadership institute since last meeting. Working on extended learning topical calls. If anyone is interested in being a

guest speaker or has topic suggestions, let Feist know. Seeing a lot of grandparents raising grandchildren with special healthcare needs.

- **Consensus Council** – - Introduce Scott Fry who joined staff in June as Senior Program Director for the Consensus Council.
- **MHAND and Federation**–McCleary stated they had a very successful youth leadership conference in July. Participants enjoyed Klein Theater and socializing. Youth MOVE program will do a photo project in the Bismarck area. Last year it was showcased at disability awareness day and at the Fargo Public Library. Working on a youth survey to discuss transition. Continuing insurance enrollment navigation. Behavioral Health Conference, September 1-3. Still have scholarships available for consumers. Doing training this fall with consumer family network. Finished mental health first aid training. Moving forward with peer support.
- **CFN** –Hettich stated they are working on organizational development (e.g., by-laws) Completed bylaws. Allows them to add other groups to their council. Devils Lake, Grand Forks and Fargo have openings. Five are going to Alternatives conference.
- **NDACP** –Murry stated they continue to work on the DD payment system with DHS which is very frustrating. Shooting for a July 2016 implementation. Conference in May, largest ever. Good topics and speakers. Had a meeting hosted by DHS looking at deinstitutionalization in the state. Too complicated to become a provider. Held an employment 1st conference with Deb Leuking.
- **SCDD** –NDSCDD, P&A and Minot State are collaborating on a Self-advocacy state meeting Sept 21 & 22 at the Baymont in Mandan. Working on a statewide self-advocacy network in ND. Building a network, not a new organization. Stipends are available for attendees.
- **The Arc of Bismarck** – Peske said the current Partners in Policymaking class will graduate in July with the next class most likely beginning next January
- **APSE and SCDD** – Hess stated the Council is working on its 5-year state plan. Getting input from the public. Looking at mission statement, goals and areas/people that are underserved. 180 responses from an on online survey. Doing a parent conference call focus group. **APSE** - conference this summer. 81 attended lunch. Looking at continuing again next year.
- **NDCPD**-Armstrong stated NDCPD is celebrating their 25th anniversary. They're doing special events in October throughout the state. ASTEP - waiting for a federal grant to come through that would give them five more years. They have five students participating. ASPIRE - 30 enrolled out of 50. Contact their office if you know of someone. Actively recruiting in the Fargo area.
- **Arc of ND and Arc of Dickinson**- Broke ground on a new store. Fourth Thursday is challenging because they have their board meetings those days.
- **ND Assoc of the Blind** – Peterson stated they just had summer camp at Camp Grassick, 45 people in attendance, age 18 and over. They will have a

convention this summer in Jamestown; moves around the state yearly. There are 180 members throughout the state.

Murry mentioned purchasing a conference call system that included mics to help people on conference call. Rose will look into prices. Other organizations may be able to bring theirs as a loaner, to alleviate cost of buying one.

General Business:

Approval of Minutes:

Askvig made the **motion** to approve the minutes from May 28, 2015. McCleary seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Financial Reports:

Stoller showed a template for the NDDAC approved budget, year-to-date expenses and percentage of the line item. She recommended putting a budget committee meeting together to build a budget for the coming year and start fresh with the new template. Askvig recommended the executive committee construct the budget. Stoller will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule a meeting.

Grant Report Submission:

Stoller commented on the Otto Bremer grant. The interim grant report was due in July, both narrative and budget. Bremer has released the second year funding of \$20,000. Need to discuss what to do with the money and revisit what we said we were going to do. First year had a lot of events. The group's second year revolved around navigating the Affordable Care Act.

Askvig stated the importance of the group remaining attentive with ACA and the importance of Medicaid expansion. ND was one of the top states to see uninsured rates drop. The group discussed how to collect information, data and the challenges of privacy. Stoller mentioned the Forum is collecting stories on people getting insurance. She will email out information. Potentially a committee could be formed.

Guest Request Policy:

Hess/Armstrong will meet before next meeting to discuss the guest request policy.

Letter of Support Request and Conflict of Interest Discussion:

Stoller reported that a decision was not made at the last meeting. She reviewed the original discussion brought forward by Family Voices to have the NDDAC write a letter of support. Askvig moved to make it our policy to look at the letters of support requests on a case-by-case basis. In the case of a grant where there are multiple NDDAC members competing, no letter of support would be given. If there

are no other NDDAC members applying, a letter could be requested. Murry seconded. Hess abstained for conflict of interest. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Policy Issues & Legislative Outcomes Simplified Enrollment for Medicaid Expansion:

Askvig asked if people are still given the runaround when it comes to Medicaid expansion. McCleary reported that they give them the options of how to apply if it looks like they may qualify for the expansion. Using the toll-free number is the best route. Counties could be using toll-free number to help people, but they give them a card and have them call elsewhere. There remains a huge delay in acceptance time.

Askvig cited CA example and the success of their enrollment due to the simplified enrollment process.

Feist commented that the families doing the DD waiver have to provide a huge amount of unnecessary paperwork regarding financial eligibility and then denying them because of minor issues.

McCleary mentioned DHS is contracting for the toll-free number so we should make sure it continues. Takes pressure off of case manager to be the expert. Feist reports an increase in calls wanting to be enrolled.

Askvig stated the state took over funding for certain services (not staff) on some elderly, people with disabilities and adoption services. There is a working group looking at the funding.

Stoller mentioned connecting with the ND Association of Counties and ND Association of County Social Workers/Social Service Directors. McCleary said they have not received training on the expansion even though the counties are directing people to them.

Feist stated that more work needs to be done to get tribal members enrolled.

Other Business:

Oral Health Scope-of-Practice Issues:

Askvig reported that during the last legislative session there was a bill to introduce an interim step between a dental hygienist and dentist. There is a large number of North Dakotans who don't receive dental care; most common unmet health need in children. Medicare does not cover dental services unless it's medically necessary. Access to dentists is an issue. 1/3 of dentists in ND will retire in the

next 10 years. The licensing would go through the dental board. Individuals with disabilities get lumped into this as most of them have Medicaid.

AARP is looking for additional partners to address oral health access. Alaska and MN have implemented the plan. Main supporters: AARP, Public Health Associations, Dental Hygienists Association, Nurse Practitioners Assoc.

Askvig is willing to share more information on the North Dakotans for Dental Access Coalition.

Timing of the meeting: Peske inquired as to whether we move the meeting to finish it in one chunk and eat lunch at the end so the conference call participants wouldn't have a break. Kolling would appreciate going straight through to the end of the meeting. Stoller mentioned that after the agenda is set, members can comment back on the timing.

Review & Planning for Year 2 of the grant: - Stoller suggested putting together a small group to talk about the next activities of the grant. She would be on the committee. McCleary and Feist volunteered. Stoller will look externally for people to be a part of the discussion.

Peterson asked about the legislative training institute and NDDAC intent to continue that. The group agreed, but recognized that it would be a different grant cycle.

Feist reported that Trisha from Autism Services sent out an email to legislators that the autism waiver has been put on hold because they have to come into compliance with CMS rules to add behavioral health to the state plans. She will send a copy of the email to Stoller for distribution to the group. Current individuals on the waiver will not lose services. There is a state plan work group that is addressing it. They last met at the beginning of August 2015.

McCleary said that the children's mental health waiver was also put on hold. She mentioned that P&A has wanted to do more with EPSDT cases.

Feist would like NDDAC to sign a letter reiterating the speediness and also asking about the kids that are aging out of the waiver.

Stoller said there is another work group meeting and then Stoller, McCleary and Feist are going to highlight some bullet points to address in a letter and send it out to the group for consideration.

Armstrong mentioned that little was done with the Schulte report and she's wondering if we need to make comment on the behavioral health piece.

Hettich made the motion to draft a letter. Feist seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Hess left for another meeting and Askvig continued. The group proposed the week of October 5 or the week of October 26 for the next meeting and Stoller would send out a poll.

Meeting Adjourned