

Community Living Committee Minutes

February 8, 2024 1:30 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Members Present: Jonathan D’Angelo, Carol Conway, Bryan Dooley, Debra Farrington, Dr. Joshua Gettinger, Brendon Hildreth, Dr. Gary Junker, Judith Kirkman, Dr. Charlrean Mapson (Chair), Ryan Rotundo, Bethany Smith, Dale Stephenson, Dr. Peggy Terhune

Members Absent: Senator Sydney Batch, Rhonda Cox

Staff Present: Pam Dempsey, Talley Wells, Philip Woodward

Guests Present: Jessica Aguilar, Deja Barber, Clair Colligan, Paula Coppola, Beth Field, Stacy Morgan, David Owen, Cheryl Powell, Kim Shoaf, Annette Smith, Steve Strom

Introduction:

Charlrean Mapson welcomed the committee and did an icebreaker asking each person to share their birthday month and day.

Charlrean Mapson made a motion to approve the draft November Community Living Committee minutes with one revision to say that the committee approved the August minutes instead of the February minutes. Jonathan D’Angelo seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval.

Fiscal Update:

Philip Woodward provided the fiscal update since Shar’ron Williams was unable to attend today’s committee meeting. He directed the members to look at the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 funds on Page 3 of the budget report document.

Initiative Updates:

Meet The Need NC

Beth Field of the Leadership Alliance for Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LAND) provided a PowerPoint presentation on the *Meet the Need NC* initiative. Beth invited Lived Experience Networks Speaks (LENS) members to this meeting, and she asked them to raise their hand so the committee could see who was present. Beth said the whole advisory council for the initiative decides its agenda. She said I/DD lived experience drives systems change, and the initiative has a core educational and advocacy component because of the large knowledge gap that exists with the Innovations Waiver. She pointed out that the initiative now participates in NCCDD Policy Education Committee meetings. Beth said the first three years are about building

a foundation, she mentioned starting to focus on the sustainability of the initiative during Year 3, and she shared four goals for Year 3.

Carol Conway mentioned the work that other grassroots groups are doing and asked if NCCDD is asking for a lot from LAND in a short amount of time. She also asked if the initiative will host another Think Tank event. Beth replied that the initiative talked with NCCDD staff and presented their top four or five things to focus on and received guidance from the staff. Talley Wells mentioned how the initiative participates in Policy Education Committee meetings. Cheryl Powell said she will make sure the members receive a list of who sits on the LENS group.

Supported Living: A How-to Guidebook

Philip Woodward provided an update on the *Supported Living: A How-to Guidebook* initiative. He said Jen Waite of Liberty Corner Enterprises did not submit a final draft of the Guidebook nor all of the videos that the videographer owes for this initiative, so he will contact the webmaster and the videographer to discuss next steps. He also pointed out that the draft Guidebook is 62 pages long, so he and other NCCDD staff are looking at ways to provide shorter snippets of information about Supported Living. Carol Conway commented that Supported Living will probably struggle to work well until the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) makes more housing options available. Brendon Hildreth asked if there is a guardianship handbook similar to this Guidebook, and Philip pointed out the Rethinking Guardianship website as a good model site.

Economic Impact Study

Philip Woodward provided an update on the *Economic Impact Study* initiative report. Philip pointed out that the 35-page report provided a dollar number needed to invest in 20,000 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) at 18 per hour and what economic impact this number would generate. Carol Conway commented that because she is on the board for The Arc of North Carolina, she has seen a draft, and she believes it needs more graphics. Jonathan D'Angelo said would be interesting if someone could do a reverse economic impact study of what happens if the North Carolina General Assembly does not make these investments. He said he believes it could be a domino effect. Carol mentioned parents losing Social Security income by caring for their children with I/DD instead of working. Philip said he and Talley Wells will continue to work with The Arc of North Carolina on how to share this report.

Community Living Mini-Grants

Philip Woodward provided a brief overview of the seven *Community Living Mini-Grants* initiatives.

After the Law: Guiding the I/DD Community to Supported Decision-Making

Philip Woodward provided a brief overview of this new initiative. Carol Conway asked who at UNC Cares is doing this work, and Philip answered that Ali Climo, Linda Kendall Fields, and Annamae Giles are his primary contacts for this initiative.

Future Investment Discussion:

Proactive Approaches to Justice for People with I/DD RFA

Philip Woodward provided an overview of the revisions to this Request for Applications (RFA) that he, Talley Wells, and David Ingram have worked on. Carol Conway suggested adding school resource officers to the list of people eligible to receive this training. She also expressed an interest in serving on the RFA Application Review Committee, as did Jonathan D'Angelo.

Wrap Up

Carol Conway made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlean Mapson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.