

Community Living Committee Minutes

August 11, 2022 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Adjourned @ 5:01 p.m.)

Members Present: Jonathan D'Angelo, Dr. Joshua Gettinger, Brendon Hildreth, Charlrean Mapson (Chair), Dale Stephenson, Peggy Terhune

Members Absent: Rhonda Cox, Senator Sydney Batch, Dr. Gary Junker, Jamila Little, Dave Richard, Ryan Rotundo

Staff Present: David Ingram, La'Quadia Smith, Talley Wells, Shar'ron Williams, Philip Woodward

Guests Present: Konan Beke, Caryn Cook (ASL Interpreter), Sharif Brown, Beth Field, Linda Kendall Fields, Darcy Hildreth, Stacy Justiss, Vicki Smith, Jen Waite, Kim Wilson (ASL Interpreter)

Introduction:

Charlrean Mapson welcomed the committee and did an icebreaker designed to help the members learn something new about each other.

Charlrean Mapson made a motion to approve the draft May Community Living Committee minutes, and Joshua Gettinger seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval.

Fiscal Update:

Shar'ron Williams provided the fiscal update. She clarified that the funding for the Summer Mini-Grants initiatives will come out of Fiscal Year 2021 funds instead of Fiscal Year 2022 funds.

Initiative Updates:

Making Alternatives to Guardianship a Reality in North Carolina

Linda Kendall Fields from UNC Cares provided an update and pointed out how 2,200 people had been trained in Supported Decision-Making and supported guardianship as of the end of Year 2, exceeding the goal of 500 people trained. She said the work of this initiative falls into two buckets:

1. Outreach and education about Supported Decision-Making and other alternatives to guardianship.
2. The march toward statutory reform for N.C. General Statute 35A so that alternatives are considered before adjudication related to guardianship.

She added that there will be more distribution of materials during Year 3. She also described how a Statute-Writing workgroup has spent two and-a-half years carefully drafting proposed changes to educate the North Carolina General Assembly on reforms needed to General Statute 35A. She said this statute-writing work will need another year for all parts of the statute to pass based on the advice of the North Carolina Bar Association, but the Bar Association has placed it on its legislative agenda. Several members asked questions about options available to people with I/DD when they turn 18 and about Special Needs Trusts.

Justice: Release, Reentry and Reintegration

Sharif Brown from the Alliance of Disability Advocates (Alliance) provided an update. He mentioned the initiative's success rate that includes a low 14-percent recidivism rate. He said the main challenge for this initiative now is finding sustainable funding beyond Year 3. Charlean Mapson commented that she appreciates the opportunity to discuss proactive approaches to helping people with I/DD avoid incarceration. Vicki Smith added that they are looking at the North Carolina Department of Public Safety and talking to private donors to fund the program sustainability after Year 3.

The committee received a question card asking for how long the Alliance stays in touch with reentry participants. Sharif said everything the Alliance does is consumer-controlled, so it depends on how long consumers want to maintain contact with the Alliance. Sharif added that the Alliance checks in with reentry participants' parole officers and does Opus checks to see if they are still living in the community or have reoffended and returned to prison.

Joshua Gettinger made a motion to approve continuation funding to the Alliance of Disability Advocates for the NCCDD initiative entitled Justice: Release, Reentry, and Reintegration in an amount up to \$195,000 per year with required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds (minimum of \$65,000), for Year 3 (of 3) beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023. Brendon Hildreth seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The Unmet Needs Initiative: A Coordinated Campaign to Impact the Registry of Unmet Needs

Beth Field from the Mental Health Transformation Alliance's (MHTA) Leadership Alliance for Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LAND) program provided an update. She mentioned the survey for state legislators, an event coming up for the Hispanic/Latino community, and the two events that this initiative will host in September in the western and eastern parts of the state. She said there are many different ideas for how this initiative, but this initiative will call itself "Meet the Need NC," and she added that the

tagline is that this initiative wants systemic change to occur. She recognized the need for the initiative to move quickly because there are a lot of anxious people waiting to receive services. She pointed out how this initiative will build the foundation over four years while true systems change can take seven to ten years. Beth shared how lived experience is a key, and she proclaimed, "We will make a difference if we focus on authentic relationships." A committee member asked how will we know in one year that more people not just know about this initiative but are committed to it? Beth replied that we are more likely to know this answer within four years rather than within in year. Linda Kendall Fields, who serves as the Collective Impact facilitator, pointed out that there will be results in one year and described how Collective Impact harnesses expertise and then organizes around priority.

Charlrean Mapson made a motion to approve continuation funding to the Mental Health Transformation Alliance (MHTA) for the NCCDD initiative entitled The Unmet Needs Initiative: A Coordinated Campaign to Impact the Registry of Unmet Needs in an amount up to \$150,000 per year with required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds (minimum of \$50,000), for Year 2 (of up to 4) beginning October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2023. Brendon Hildreth seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Future Investment Discussion

Strategic Housing Plan

Stephanie Williams, DHHS Supportive Housing Policy Director, provided an update on the North Carolina DHHS Strategic Housing Plan. She said the plan addresses people who are homeless, at risk of entering a congregate setting, or both. She added that it is a plan to eliminate barriers for housing and to increase affordable, accessible, inclusive housing. She said the plan has 20 major housing themes, pointing out them ones most relevant to people with I/DD. She shared the challenge of how there is not one service definition to encompass all disability groups, but the plan must make sure services or Medicaid or state funds will support them in their housing. She also brought up the need to provide other services such as transportation. She said it is important to make sure more people get involved in the plan's workgroups.

Charlrean said committee received a comment card suggesting that the Council reach out to public and private transportation providers to address accessible transportation in rural areas; the need for statewide public transportation; and evening, weekend, and non-medical transportation needs. The card's suggestion said to develop an Accessible Transportation Collaborative.

Roommate-Matching Service for Individuals with Intellectual and Other Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)

Philip Woodward provided a brief update on the Roommate-Matching Service Request for Applications (RFA) draft and pointed out how one application has arrived so far and applications are due by August 31st, 2022. He said he will form an RFA Application Review Committee.

Wrap Up

Charlrean made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.