

## **Community Living Committee Minutes**

**February 2, 2023 1:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. (Adjourned @ 4:20 p.m.)**

**Members Present:** Jonathan D'Angelo, Rhonda Cox, Kelly Crosbie, Bryan Dooley, Dr. Joshua Gettinger, Brendon Hildreth, Jamila Little, Charlrean Mapson (Chair), Ryan Rotundo, Dale Stephenson, Peggy Terhune

**Members Absent:** Senator Sydney Batch, Dr. Gary Junker, Dave Richard

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

**Guests Present:** Sharif Brown, Jen Waite, Caryn Cook (ASL Interpreter), Mary-Beth Brown (ASL Interpreter), Beth Field, Stacy Morgan, Linda Kendall Fields, Stacy Morgan, Sarah Potter, Ann Rodriguez

### **Introduction:**

Charlrean Mapson welcomed the committee and did a Super Bowl matching game icebreaker.

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

### **Fiscal Update:**

Shar'ron Williams provided the fiscal update. David Ingram asked her to explain the difference between pending funds and available funds.

### **Initiative Updates:**

#### **Making Alternatives to Guardianship a Reality in North Carolina**

Linda Kendall Fields from UNC Cares provided an update with a PowerPoint. She showed the Rethinking Guardianship website and the two new videos, asking NCCDD to share these with their stakeholders. She mentioned the progress toward a guardianship rights legislative bill and shared a North Carolina General Statute 35A reform PowerPoint. Joshua Gettinger asked about education for county clerks and judges, and Linda mentioned that when the American Bar Association making changes to a policy, they need to work to ensure that these changes go into practice. She said if the policy changes in North Carolina, there will be a group that includes the Conference of Clerks and Meredith Smith at the UNC School of Government to perform onboarding regarding the changes. Darcy Hildreth asked what this initiative is doing in schools, and Linda replied that members of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) are doing educational sessions with the Office of Exceptional Children to distribute educational materials. Jon D'Angelo pointed out that the burden of proof has shifted a

little bit and asked who is permitted to initiate the guardianship process. Linda replied that the county Clerk of Court has executive jurisdiction, but if this law passes, the clerk will need to ensure that the individual meets the criteria for guardianship.

### **Justice: Release, Reentry and Reintegration**

Sharif Brown from the Alliance of Disability Advocates (Alliance) provided an update. He said the initiative has received 167 total referrals and completed 160 Individualized Reentry Plans (IRPs) and said the initiative currently has an 84-percent success rate. He said the success rate dipped from 87 percent because the holidays are a time where re-offenses happen. Sharif said family members of individuals participating in this program and employers have provided phenomenal feedback. He mentioned the opportunity to present at the Independent Living Rehabilitation Utilization conference, and they are interested in his organization creating a teaching module about the program to expand this field in other states. He said that he is having conversations with justice officials in Maryland, and he said this initiative was selected to present at the Bringing It Home 2023 North Carolina Housing Coalition Conference in May. Sharif also shared a statistic from a recent article that found that North Carolina spends approximately \$50,000 to house an individual in prison for one year, so helping six individuals transition successfully saves the state \$300,000 per year. Jamila Little said it will be important to discuss this initiative with NCCDD's legislative members. Bethany Smith asked if this initiative involves individuals who are incarcerated for issues specifically related to their I/DD, but Sharif responded no, their actions or behaviors that occur as a result may have landed them in prison. Someone stated that prisons are now the largest mental health institution in the country. Kelly Crosbie pointed out that the North Carolina Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Use Services (DMH/DD/SUS) is actively trying to figure out how to fund this program. Sharif said that the program structure is not targeted toward I/DD only but that anyone with a disability qualifies at the federal compound in Butner where he used to do this work.

### **Supported Living: A How-to Guidebook**

Jen Waite, the interim Executive Director of Liberty Corner Enterprises, shared a PowerPoint updating the members on the progress of this initiative. She said former Executive Director Greta Byrd let lots of good information for this initiative and that they are very close to a first draft of the white paper and hope to publish it at the end of February. She said there are videos that will show not just the person's life and Supported Living but also how people with I/DD who receive Supported Living services integrate into the community. She said the initiative is also preparing scripts for the podcast series that it will host. Jen said a conference will occur in Asheville on April 20<sup>th</sup>, and she is working to get a registration link ready to go live. Joshua Gettinger asked who will receive the products of this initiative, and Jen replied that the initiative works closely with the Supported Living Level 2 & 3 Stakeholders group. Philip said that NCCDD staff will have the opportunity to see a draft of the Guidebook. Beth Field

asked how Supported Living links to NCCDD's Rethinking Guardianship work, and Jen said sometimes it is a matter of the guardian and what they will and will not allow an individual with I/DD to do.

### **The Unmet Needs Initiative: A Coordinated Campaign to Impact the Registry of Unmet Needs (now Meet the Need NC)**

Beth Field from the Mental Health Transformation Alliance's (MHTA) Leadership Alliance for Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LAND) program provided an update that included a PowerPoint for the Meet the Need NC initiative. Beth said the initiative has spent time collecting information through the General Assembly survey efforts and is starting its policy advocacy efforts in February. She shared how the initiative has four policy areas:

1. Innovations Waiver / Registry of Unmet Needs
2. Direct Support Professional (DSP) crisis
3. Medicaid Transformation / Tailored Care Management
4. 1915(i) plan

Beth said the initiative has developed a newsletter and started a monthly Learn & Learn session this year. Beth and Stacy Morgan (Executive Director for the MHTA) both stated that in-person events have a lot of value and bring a lot of benefit, and the initiative plans to seek sponsorships to help it host community engagement events. Beth said during Year 2, they hope to reach the whole state through Zoom, and there is an opportunity to look at the dashboard for Medicaid Managed Care. Ann Rodriguez from the i2i Center for Integrative Health joined the meeting briefly and said the purpose of the Collective Impact process is to collect perspectives, and she mentioned looking at what it will take to have a more comprehensive service definition.

### **Future Investment Discussion**

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

Joshua Gettinger stated that the Community Living Committee has three options:

1. Re-release this RFA.
2. Revise this RFA.
3. Hold it for now.

The committee discussed the response to the six contingencies that Partners4Housing submitted. Talley Wells asked the committee if they want to consider re-releasing this RFA or doing another initiative. Jon D'Angelo expressed support for extending the

Justice: Release, Reentry, and Reintegration initiative. Joshua said if NCCDD supports an extension, then it should come with a cost-benefit analysis. Jamila Little suggested that the North Carolina Department of Adult Corrections can conduct some cost-benefit analysis, and the group discussed finding a researcher, including a group at Duke University or NC State University. Jon asked if NCCDD supports funding the Justice initiative at \$120,000 (less than its current level of funding), would this be for a shorter timeframe. Talley said the staff can discuss it with David Ingram.

**Joshua Gettinger made a motion to:**

deny the Partners4Housing application for the ***Roommate-Matching Service*** Request for Applications (RFA).

**Ryan Rotundo seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.**

**Bethany Smith made a motion to:**

NCCDD's staff and Executive Committee will consider whether to re-release the ***Roommate-Matching Service*** RFA in the amount of up to \$120,000 with a required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds (up to \$40,000) per year and also to make the recommendation to consider extending NCCDD's ***Justice: Release, Reentry, and Reintegration*** initiative or explore other options. If the Executive Committee chooses to re-release the ***Roommate-Matching Service*** RFA, the Executive Committee and the staff will have the authority to revise the RFA and determine the RFA re-release dates and the new initiative start and end dates.

**Jamila Little seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Kelly Crosbie abstained from voting because she is not an official NCCDD member yet.**

Charlrean Mapson discussed Jamir Jumoke and his work doing proactive approaches to justice. Ryan Rotundo asked if this work could include juvenile justice.

**Charlrean Mapson made a motion to:**

Authorize NCCDD's staff to research an initiative focused on proactively preventing individuals with I/DD from being incarcerated and/or entering the justice system.

**Jamila Little seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Kelly Crosbie abstained from voting because she is not an official NCCDD member yet.**

## **Wrap Up**

Bethany Smith said she will graduate in May, so she plans to attend the May meeting virtually. Charlrean Mapson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.