

## **Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities**

### **Full Council Meeting Minutes 8/3/23**

**Council Members Present:** Pennie Hartley-PH (phone participation), Corissa Neufeldt-CN, Joe Carroll-JC, Em Braman-EB, Kristen Darmody-KD, Julie Farrell-JF, Maria Rangel-MaR, Sally Simich-SS, Rosa Belem Ochoa-RO, Daniel Alrick-DA, Lindsay Stephens-(Zoom), Jake Cornett-JCor, Sarah Noack-SN, Paulina Larenas-PL (Zoom), Chris Knowles-CK, Felicity Woods-FW, Nichola Spears-NS, Eddie Plourde-EP, Julie Farrell-JF, Kelly McCauley-KM, Alisha Overstreet-AO

**Staff Present:** Leslie Sutton-LS, Hannah Baker-HB

**Guests Present:** Audray Minnieweather-Crutch (Human Resources Director, ODHS)

**Interpreters Present:** Isabel, Joy, Madai

**Call to Order:** 9:22 – Daniel, with apologies about technical equipment difficulties.

#### **1. Presentation by Audray Minnieweather-Crutch**

- Clarified the roles of ODHS employees who also support and represent the council and her role in the recent investigation. Opened the floor for questions.
- JC- Question: Can we see the actual report of the investigation?
- AMK- Explained there were ODHS and Council complaints and concerns and she will check back with the Governor's office about how to report out and address those to the entire council. Concerns have been addressed by the Governor's office and she is present to ensure that support is appropriate at all times.
- EP – Would like an ad-hoc committee to ensure the executive director evaluation happens.
- AMK- There are roles and responsibilities in the bylaws, which is directed to the chair and vice chair.
- AO-The letter the council received cites that council members can ask questions to DOJ or DHS, but why did the council not receive more information about the investigation?
- AMK: Sent out closure letters that outlined allegations and responses to the investigation report.
- AO-Was this sent to the entire council? When can we receive a copy of the report, or do we have to file a public records request?
- AMK- Any requests for the actual report would go to the public records report, most likely.
- AO- Is the letter the council received a closure notice?
- AMK- The letter the council received is a notification from the governor's office that the investigation is closed. I have sent closure notices to the individuals who were outlined in the complaint, which is our process. I did not do that for the entire council.
- AO- Clarified that a public records request would need to be filed to get the results of the investigation.
- AMK- I am pausing on answering that at this moment to ensure I have the correct answer.
- SN- Wanted to clarify that AMK's role is to assist with identify someone to assist with facilitating these meetings as well as the performance evaluation.

- AMK- Yes, I will go back to find out what information can be made available and the process if you want to access it.
- JF- Do you know what the assistance will look like from the state going forward?
- AMK- I am working through that process right now. As I looked into the concerns and understood requests and needs, I will work with the HR team to be supportive in the role of the council.
- JC- Will the council have a role in choosing the mediation services?
- AMK- Will ensure that the council's voice is heard alongside the chair and vice chair.
- DA- Thanked the guest for the presentation. Will begin the work on the FY 2024 and Activities Objective 1.1 and then break into small groups.

## **2. FY2024 Activities Objective 1.1 – Work Groups**

- LS- Explained that the council will break into small groups and explained the cheat sheet that details the objectives clearly. The groups will look at the proposed activities within the document.
- LS- Explained the first proposed activity within 1.1 is to provide context to the Ed Wong paintings which were done in the 1970's as part of an artist in residence program and depict the people with disabilities who lived at the Eastern Oregon Training Center. They are currently housed in a storage facility but have been at University of Oregon and in the state capitol buildings. The project would have a contractor talk to families and people with DD then write context for each painting describing institutional life. This is a way to display the paintings while teaching about institutions. Could also talk about high expectations for people with disabilities and self-determination
- SN- What are the dates for the activities?
- LS- They run through FY 2025. We are currently in FY 2024.
- SN- How were the goals or objectives developed? Do they come from council, staff?
- LS- The objectives are what you approved at the beginning of the 5-year plan and also last year when we needed to add more objectives to the plan. They came through communication with community input.
- SN- What about how the activities were formed?
- LS- The last two have been in our work plan, in support of staff positions and that people have wanted around communications about services and systems and helping to communicate about the DD system more effectively. The first two are new and has come to us from speaking with different community members (some are part of the DD community, and some were leaders in the past) and also council, as well as the Percent for Arts program who approached us. It could also hopefully lead to changes within ODDS.
- EP- What type of public buildings do the paintings need to be in?
- LS- In an Oregon state building owned by the state, not by federal or county.
- SN- Are these ideas up for discussion? Can we add to them?
- LS- Yes, that is what you're going to be doing in your small group. You have five questions in your group. There are also some communication specific questions about how we develop that part of the plan. You can write directly on this worksheet. Today you will mull this over and tomorrow you will vote on the workplan activities and the budget.

**Each group shared out one point from their discussions.**

**12:00 -1:00pm Lunch break**

**Daniel welcomed the group back to the meeting.**

### **3. FY 2024 Activities Objective 1.2 – Growing Leadership**

- LS- Introduced Objective 1.2 – Growing Leadership – provided an overview of the activities and opened the floor for questions. Reminded that the Council chose the Spanish speaking community to focus on as targeted disparity during the initial development of the 5-year plan as well as engaging adults with significant support needs from 3 focus regions.
- EP- What about the LBGT I+ community?
- LS- By focusing on people with significant support need it is a good place to work 1-1 with people. The Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition has been working on LGBQ I+ as well. That is a good suggestion.
- LS- Federal ARPA dollars makes it possible to do two Partners in Policymaking trainings this year
- JF- How much do we have now?
- LS- About \$149,000.
- EP- Do we know how long it will be because the one I did was 9 months long.
- LS- It would be 6 months and one would be a Spanish speaking cohort.
- EP- There were Spanish speaking people in my class and having an interpreter was good, because I like people to interact so they can engage with each other. I would like everyone to be together and not split up.
- LS- The way the funding came through to us from ODDS is for two separate ones.
- JC -I think we work better in one group.
- LS – I can give feedback to ODDS, the funder, and we can look at that in year 4 and look at how to blend curriculums together.
- MR- There is value in both. Having separate means people can receive information in their first language and when parents and individuals want to engage well when it is presented in first language their confidence is greater to participate. Maybe we can work to see how it could be blended so everyone can contribute in an effective and beneficial way.
- LS- It has been set out to six sessions – it could be extended or compressed. PIP has homework so having sessions close to each other could be stressful because you wouldn't have time to complete your homework.
- RO-I think it is good to give people the option to be where they want to be. One of the things we've been advocating for is to not have the choice made for you so people can choose where they want to go.
- EP- Suggested having rosters to keep track of people and reach out to new people.
- LS- Summarized target of disparity work.
- AO – I would like to see this expanded to youth, particularly to middle and high school youth.
- JF-Youth can gain more interest earlier.

**There were some questions and discussion about how people are chosen for PIP around applications and the obligations of participants after they finish.**

## **Discussion of funding a Resource Guide to instruct on resources statewide for Spanish speaking families and individuals**

- JCor- Raised concern that we make sure that the resource guide to not exclude groups that don't have a specific bilingual staff person because that could leave out Protection and Advocacy organization (Disability Rights Oregon) that can serve the community.
- CN- is concerned that in the efforts to ensure language access, that we also think about cultural access. The framing of the activities puts the burden of responsibility on Spanish speaking families. We expect people to show up, educate our bureaucrats, but then what is being done with that information? Reframing the activity in a way that puts more responsibility on the state agency to go out and listen and learn and adjust what they are doing rather than placing the onus on the Spanish speaking community.

### **Self Advocacy Objective:**

- LS-Summarized the self-advocacy objective. Outlined the YouTube channel and outreach and partnerships with Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition that are seeking to tell more self-advocate's stories and the Discovery Tours as well as the upcoming Inclusive Leadership Summit.

### **Everyone broke up into small groups to discuss self-advocacy**

#### **The groups then shared out.**

- Group 1 – The individual should direct their own ISP
- Group 2 – Self advocates would like to share stories and avoid labelling and that anyone with IDD are respected equally especially when working in a community job.
- Group 3-Engagement with a broader audience and wanted to avoid underfunding soft advocacy work as well as ensuring self-advocates choose their own support. Important issues are affordable housing and the full suite of VR.
- Group 4- Reaching out to more groups and getting the word out, including to rural communities. Avoid people coming in who don't have the right intentions. Also ensuring that youth are included, as well as employment supports and supported decision making.

### **Integrated Supports and Services**

- EmB – Is Technology First and Employment First essentially the same thing?
- LS- They are about prioritizing support for employment and access to technology. Have had national experts have come in to talk about what it takes to make technology readily available to people. The ODDS policies and strategies need strengthening to roll out.
- LS- Gave an overview of Integrated Supports and Services page Section 1.3. It is heavily focused on educating agencies, primarily with ODE, OHA and ODHS and ODDS as groundwork for the legislative focus in 2025 with a long legislative session happens.
- LS- Overviewed the integrated services and supports projects section which includes a mental health contract and clarified within this is an OHA system which handles therapy and a DD system which handles behavior support. The project would gather community input then make recommendations for system change. The group discussed the importance of this work and ensuring that work is not duplicating efforts.

- LS- Gathering information and creating a report could go a long way toward moving systems change conversation forward.
- JF- I see this as tying into discussions around professionals who do not have the appropriate knowledge or education to support people with DD. We talked about we would have physician education on our 5 year plan.
- LS – Yes, we had talked about doing that at the height of the pandemic.

#### **4. Small Group Work – Mental Health Contracts**

##### **Groups shared out.**

- Group 1 – The vision is equity in services and more wraparound services, more communication and connection between agencies. Barriers include more training on intersection of mental health and disability and language barriers to access support in large cities. There are professionals that refuse to work with certain individuals and professionals understanding the intersection of culture and experiences and understanding the impact. We would like to see availability in travel times, wait times and removing community stigma around mental health treatment. We like to avoid superficial superfixes (like doing one training), avoid more stigma and bias.
- Group 2- People get what they need when they need. Barriers are that even when people have established relationship with providers, it is hard to get an appointment. A lack of quality expertise and wait times. More confidence in whoever is contracting to do this work. We want to plug into the broader mental health advocacy community to be a part of broader solutions and not take this on in isolation.
- Group 3- Vision is access to mental health providers that understand IDD. Barriers are that it is hard to access services when in crisis. A barrier is that OHP and CCO's focus is on acute disorders. What we want to avoid is overanalyzing and taking concrete steps. Access data that is out there and working with community partners so that we're not reinventing the wheel.
- Group 4- Vision is funding providers who are trained and available to people with IDD. Barriers include waitlists, lack of knowledge of specific disabilities. We would like to see accessible, logical language. What to avoid is to give our wrong solutions.

#### **5. FFY 2024 Budget**

- LS- Gave an overview of the projected budget. The federal fiscal year 2024 award is estimated at \$859,934 which is what was received in FY 2023.
- JC- Asked about the rollover.
- LS- Rollover is projected at \$723,000 which is primarily because of staff turnover.
- JC- Does the savings show that less work has been done?
- LS- Although not as much staff time was spent, the majority of our workplan goals are on target.
- EP – Requested to change 'personnel' to 'staff.'
- JC- What is the professional development with Alanna Hein?
- LS – Her services are focused on team building and cohesiveness.
- EmB – Clarified that everything on this budget is our federal dollars and is not our interagency funds.

- LS – On August 15, I have to provide a FY 2024 federal budget to federal funder.
- Zoom participant- Does the training the council is being asked to do by the governor’s office come out of the Council’s budget?
- AMK- Will check back with the governor’s office for an answer about what budget this training will come out of.
- LS- Staff coaching is sprinkled across objectives as it makes the work stronger with that piece, which is similar to how we do travel or interpretation.
- JC- Asked questions about how the budget is laid out and how accurate it can be when labor is divided up.
- LS- OCDD has coding for each objective. Council members in the past wanted to shift to an objective based budget so work can be more easily tracked. Leslie is completely open to talking about these templates, I know budgets are confusing and we need to figure out how much information needs to present so that it is accessible and understandable.
- EP- Could you put the staff coaching one time in the budget instead of for each objective?
- LS – There is a federal rule that says we can only use 30% of annual award amount to do administrative work (federal reports, managing budget), facilitating Council meetings, media and website, etc. The coaching will make the substance of our work stronger, so that is why it is spread across the whole budget as opposed to going into a general management fund which is limited.
- JF- Members requested a copy of the DD awareness poster.
- LS- It has been done and I will get a copy.
- EP- Gave an overview of the self-advocacy objectives. Ask for clarification about where the money for the inclusive leadership summit money for self-advocates fits in.
- LS- Yes, this money is to pay for self-advocates to go to the conference (50 hotel rooms) and it came out of our 2023 budget. For this FY 2024 budget, we will want to put in \$10,000 new dollars for next year.
- EmB- Is there flexibility to move money around while we are pondering things?
- LS- Yes, there is unallocated money at the bottom of the budget which will allow us to do that.
- EP- Has a recommendation of someone who could help with the self-advocacy videos.
- EP- Suggested we have a conversation about changing the term ‘targeted disparity’ to something different.
- LS- For sure. This is a federal government term and I also don’t like it.
- LS- Continued to review the budget line items. This is year is a short legislative session, so it is a good time to use money this year that point to legislative change for the next year.
- DA- Closed the meeting with each member giving one word to summarize the day.

**Meeting was adjourned at 4:53pm.**