



## DRAFT Full Council Meeting Minutes

<b>Date: September 14, 2023</b> <b>10:00 AM – 3:00 PM</b>	<b>Prepared By: Pam Stiles</b>
<b>Purpose: Full Council Retreat</b>	<b>Location: Zoom</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/558672684">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/558672684</a>

**Members Attending: In-Person:** Suzanne Austin, Jean Crouch, Carrie Duran, Tim Houle, Tammy Mills, Stephane Patrick, Michele Petersen, Jim Piet, Jenn Pineo, Sarah Sadowski, Pat Vincent-Piet **Remote:** Alyssa Antman, Josh Madison, Nicole Mello, Deb Opramolla, Danielle Pelletier, Alexis Wayland

**Absent Members:** Abigail Conger, Sara Gray, Denis Greenwood, Martha Hickey, Frank Vinciguerra

**Staff Attending:** In-Person: Isadora Rodriguez- Legendre, Vanessa Blais, Pam Stiles, Chase Eagleson, Elizabeth Page

**Guest:** Kelly Ehrhart

### Meeting Materials:

- Agenda
- Ground Rules
- Council Member List
- Committee List
- Full Council Draft Minutes, June, 2023
- One Pagers
- Grant Awards Update
- Virginia Bowden Award Criteria
- Smile Award
- Leadership: Education
- Draft 2023-2024 Budget
- Policy Committee Minutes
- Member Relations Minutes

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. Meeting was called to order at 10:02 by Jean
- b. All members introduced themselves, listed their role(s) on the Council, and shared something they were proud of regarding the work of the Council.
- c. Jean read the Ground Rules and Rules of Etiquette

## **2. June Minutes**

- a. Jim made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Tim seconded.
- b. A roll call vote was taken: 14 yes; 2 abstain; 0 no. Motion passed.

## **3. S.E.R.V.I.C.E. Presentation**

- a. Pam gave a presentation on 'E' – Education

## **4. One-Page Mission/Vision Statements**

- a. Isadora reviewed, read the one pager. Highlighted the sections: dignity, justice, authenticity, inclusion, cultural competency, self-determination.
- b. Carrie congratulated the Member Relations committee for the excellent work. The page is very understandable and explains the language well. She can't wait to use it.
- c. Thank you to Chase's girlfriend, Lily for the graphics.
- d. Jean reviewed/read "Our Mission" one pager. This will be used as an ad in Stepping Stones.

## **5. Awards and Membership Updates**

- a. Jean announced that Tim will be the Chair beginning October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 and Jean will assume the Vice Chair position for that time period.
- b. The Smile Award is going to the Adaptive Sports Partners of the North Country
- c. Terri Lyons was awarded the Home Provider Award; William O'Brien, the DSP winner.
- d. Exiting members were recognized and thanked:
  - i. Deb Opramolla
  - ii. Sara Gray
  - iii. Mike Phillips
  - iv. Josh Madison
- e. Voting at the meeting took place for the new members and Virginia Bowden Award due to the lack of votes that were mailed in.
  - i. As the voting was taking place, the DSP video from Wednesday, September 13 was played

- ii. It was announced that Nicole Mello and Arielle Van De Water were voted in as new members
- iii. The Virginia Bowden winner was Katie Kelly.
- f. Jean thanked everyone for working together so beautifully. She has enjoyed her time as Chair – this is her last meeting in that role. She thanked Isadora and the staff for their leadership and work
- g. Isadora announced the contribution of a tree in memory of Alexander Genthner by the Council. A basket was put on the back table for any Council member who would like to contribute.

## **6. Draft Budget 2023-2024**

- a. Isadora explained the budget preparation process.
- b. Jim talked about the initial budget proposal with both a 3% and 10% accounting for salaries and benefits due to a pending decision from the State at that time.
- c. Jim is stepping down as Chair of Finance.
- d. He encouraged members to attend Finance meetings. It's important for Council members to know what is being funded.
- e. Certain lines are “fixed” – cleaning services, rent, salaries, etc. (non-discretionary)
- f. Isadora will present an update on the 5 year plan at the January meeting.
- g. Jim reminded the group that if increased changes are recommended, there needs to be a decrease in another line.
- h. Isadora displayed the graphs: proposed budget by goal, by percent, by dollar amounts, grant funding by dollar, grant funding by percent.
- i. The draft budget was reviewed in the excel sheet. Each line was reviewed at the August Finance Committee meeting.
- j. Isadora reviewed several of the specific budget lines.
- k. There was a motion made by Deb to accept the FY 24 budget as presented; Pat seconded. Moved to discussion.
  - i. Question about revenue – funded annually by Congress
  - ii. Funding is not in hand. Until the allocation is approved, the grant award amount is not known.
  - iii. Been informed by NACDD, can potentially expect same funding as this year or up to 7% decrease.
  - iv. If CR (continuing resolution) – same level as last year
  - v. Carry forward – 2 year project period, usually carrying forward approximately \$200K.
  - vi. There was a cash flow question and question regarding how projects and activities tie to the budget.

- vii. The Council works on a reimbursement from the state – no problem with cash flow.
  - viii. The Budget format shows the specific payments for projects and activities.
  - ix. Question about NH Challenge and the ELA Awards.
  - x. Classes broken out into expenses. P&P used to get some of the annual sponsorship requests, but it was determined to put them in the operating budget. Discussion about sponsorships in the budget but not recently requested. Should they go back to P&P if they are requested after a break in funding?
  - xi. The Council is revisiting the funding of Employment Leadership Awards as they are currently done. Exploring new approaches. Advocate NH was also brought up.
1. Vote was taken on the motion: 13 yes; 0 no; 2 abstained. Motion passed.

## **7. Vice Chair Corner**

- a. Tim thanked everyone for being nominated for Chair.
- b. He talked about his struggles with employment. Feels that young adults with disabilities are struggling to find work. Even doing all the right things, difficult to find work. Everyone has the right to work. Everyone should get the support they need to be successful and happy. This makes for a lot of stress.
- c. What do people need to get a job? More supports and companies should hire people with disabilities.
- d. ADA: someone with the capacity to work can use the ADA. Some employees won't disclose a disability because of the stigma. The ADA is the minimum standard. Some employers don't know what to do. The work environment should be inclusive – what does everyone get for support? Are everyone's hours being cut? Etc.
- e. Need to know more about ADA.
- f. DSP Appreciation- Michele mentioned her appreciation for Tim's support. An attendee at Manchester's event reached out to start an event on the seacoast.

## **8. Update on Events and Announcements**

- a. DSP at Kimball Jenkins 9/15/23
- b. Legislative Service Requests (LSRs) are currently at 232. Will flag anything that could affect the disability community. Policy Committee will work on that.
- c. Council staff working on evaluating effectiveness of activities. Welcomes feedback/input

- d. ELA awards October 12, 2023. Back Room (Puritan), morning breakfast. Must register.
- e. Caregivers Conference, November 8, 2023. Person Centered Planning is the focus. It is for all caregivers, paid and unpaid.
- f. Winter Awards, Grappone Center, December 14, 2024, in-person
- g. Stepping Stones coming out soon. Moving to a more digital platform.
- h. Disability RAPP coming out this fall. Focus – Person Centered Planning
- i. If any council member is involved with a group, event, activity – share with Council for Weekly Update.
- j. 3 DD Act Partners working on ‘Stop “Special” Campaign’. More details to come at Transition Conference, November 16, 2023.
- k. NH Rainbow group (driven by ABLE), 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. LGBTQ+ discussions, play games, meet, etc. Planning an in-person meet up at the disability justice parade.
- l. Check out the podcast. Topics related to authentic inclusion. Looking for people to tell their story.

## **9. Public Comment**

- a. Kelly is interested in being part of a podcast.

## **10. Other**

- a. Carrie is stepping away from the Council for a year but will assume her role October, 2024 for one year.
- b. Question about Information Access for All and how it fits in with the calendar of events. Council is a member of the Center for Plain Language (International). Working on standardizing plain language protocols.
- c. NACDD Self-Advocacy Leadership Circle. Isadora will share nomination form when it comes out.

## **11. Motion to Adjourn**

- a. Jim made a motion, Sarah seconded. Voice vote -All in favor
- b. 2:43