

Community Living Committee Minutes

February 10, 2022

Members Present: Senator Sydney Batch, Rhonda Cox, Bryan Dooley, Dr. Joshua Gettinger, Dr. Gary Junker, Jamila Little, Charlrean Mapson, Ryan Rotundo (Chair), Dale Stephenson

Members Absent: NaKima Clark, Brendon Hildreth, Dr. Peggy Terhune, Sandra Terrell

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

Guests Present: Greta Byrd, David Le, Betsy MacMichael, Le'Carla McNair, Michelle Merritt, Debby Torres, Jen Waite

Introduction:

Charlrean Mapson welcomed the committee and did an icebreaker focused on an alliteration with each member's first name.

MOTION: Charlrean Mapson made a motion to approve the November Community Living Committee minutes, and Rhonda Cox seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval.

Fiscal Update:

Shar'ron Williams provided the fiscal update. Philip Woodward had not sent the fiscal report to the members, so he said he would do so after this meeting. Ryan Rotundo asked about the *Supported Living: A How-to Guidebook* initiative funds on Page 6, and Shar'ron explained that the \$75,000 for this initiative is considered match funding, not federal Council funding.

Initiative Updates:

Supported Living: A How-to Guidebook

Greta Byrd and Jen Waite from Liberty Corner Enterprises provided an update. In response to questions asked, Jen said the white paper and Guidebook will both be on-line in a readable and accessible format. The discussion mentioned adaptations, new technology, and finding the easiest and most cost-effective platform. Jen said she and Greta would be responsible for updating the Guidebook on-line, and it will have a statewide focus. The group discussed natural supports and how these are a foundation of the purpose for Supported Living. Ryan Rotundo said he would like to incorporate siblings into the support. Michelle Merritt from NC Medicaid mentioned parents and their "fear of the future," including how the dignity of risk ties into Supported Living and the concept of living in the community.

MOTION: Supported Living Guidebook: Ryan Rotundo made a motion to approve continuation funding for the *Supported Living: A How-to Guidebook* initiative in an amount up to \$75,000 per year of Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project/NC Medicaid/Division of Health Benefits state funds, with required minimum matching funds being waived, for Year 2 beginning July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Jamila Little seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

COVID-19 Registry of Unmet Needs Relief

Debby Torres, Betsy MacMichael, Le'Carla McNair, and David Le from First In Families of North Carolina (FIFNC) provided an update. Joshua Gettinger saw videos made primarily by self-advocates and asked about those individuals who cannot speak for themselves. Le'Carla said some other individuals or family members will come in and create video content for their loved ones. David said that a Quillo Connect user could be a parent-child team, and, in some videos, the viewer cannot tell who made it. He said this platform allows for art, creativity, and imagination. Ryan Rotundo mentioned the recent agreement for DHHS to end segregated employment and said this would be an opportunity to scope the narrative and highlight successes. Charlean Mapson asked if FIFNC has addressed the concept of safety, and Debby said they rely on the concept of a circle of support where a user can add someone as a friend, but it is intentional that the videos are not public. Debby said Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCOs) will fund 300 additional user licenses starting on July 1st, 2022. Someone asked about ads as a way to generate more income for the program, but someone else suggested that Quillo Connect remain an independent source of information that shares information in an organic way.

Making Alternatives to Guardianship a Reality in North Carolina

Linda Kendall Fields from UNC Cares provided an update. She said the major takeaways from this initiative fall into two buckets: (1) education and outreach and (2) statutory reform. Linda shared how there are ways for parents to monitor what their adult children do without taking away their decision-making rights. Ryan Rotundo asked about sharing this information through Quillo Connect, and Linda said she could discuss this with Janie Desmond and Suvya Carroll. Joshua Gettinger requested an update on the Statute Workgroup, and Philip Woodward provided an update. Joshua also mentioned the importance of sustainability and supporting an initiative for longer than three years, and he vouched for what he has seen through the Council's Rethinking Guardianship initiatives and the current one.

MOTION: Alternatives to Guardianship: Dr. Joshua Gettinger made a motion to approve continuation funding to the UNC School of Social Work for the *Making Alternatives to Guardianship a Reality in North Carolina* initiative in an amount up to \$100,000 per year with required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds

(\$33,333), for Year 3 (of 3) from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Senator Sydney Batch seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Creative Brainstorming

Ryan Rotundo invited everyone to share what investments they hope to NCCDD make in the future. He mentioned building the sibling voice. Joshua Gettinger said natural supports and transportation are two things that the Council has struggled to advance. Charlrean Mapson shared how she has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting for her son prior to each Council meeting and her concerns with the process. She asked what NCCDD can do to advocate for parents who need legal help and where parents can receive support. Joshua said it is critical to change the relationship between parents and the schools to create a feeling of mutual cooperation. Michelle Merritt mentioned support for self-direction in North Carolina and the ability to hire staff directly because NCCDD's federal partners continue to promote self-direction. She said out of 13,000 people on the Innovations waiver, only 300 are doing self-direction.

Future Investment Discussion

Economic Impact Analysis

Talley Wells said the Council cannot fund direct services but can fund pilot projects, and he reminded the members that the Council's work revolves around advocacy, education, systems change, and capacity building. He also said a study of this type is an investment in the local community.

MOTION: Economic Impact Study: Joshua Gettinger made a motion for the NCCDD to fund an Economic Impact Study initiative in an amount up to \$25,000, with a minimum 25% match from The Arc of North Carolina (i.e., \$8,333.33), beginning no sooner than March 1, 2022, and ending no later than December 31, 2022, with the Executive Committee approving the initiative's sole source scope of work and parties. Senator Sydney Batch seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Housing / Roommate Matching

Philip Woodward said he sent the committee a document with safety information and information about tax benefits for live-in caregivers.

MOTION: Roommate-Matching Service: Senator Sydney Batch made a motion for the staff to draft an RFA for a Roommate-Matching Service NCCDD initiative in an amount up to \$90,000 per year with required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds (\$30,000), for up to three years, with Year 1 beginning October 1, 2022 to September

30, 2023. Rhonda Cox seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Wrap Up

Ryan Rotundo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.