Committee Members Present: Dawn Allen, Katherine Boeck, Bryan Dooley, Amy Eaton, Tony Hall (Chair), Dreama McCoy, Cheryl Powell, Rebecca Putnam, Ryan Rotundo, Nessie Siler, Donna Spears, Kathie Trotter, Anna Ward

Committee Members Absent: Rep. Terry Brown, Kristy Locklear, Sandra Terrell, Sherry Thomas, Carla West

Staff/Contractors/Guests Present: Jill Hinton, David Ingram, Karen Luken, Sarah Potter, Pablo Puente, Jesse Smathers, LaQuadia Smith, Talley Wells, Tamira White, Shar’ron Williams

Introduction:

Tony Hall called the committee into session, conducted introductions, reviewed the agenda, and reviewed the August 2022 meeting minutes. Donna Spears made a motion to approve the August minutes, and Katherine Boeck seconded. Tony moved to initiative updates.

Initiative Updates:

Care Extender White Paper: Karen Luken from Community Bridges Consulting Group led the follow-up conversation to the presentation she gave to the full Council about the Care Extender White Paper titled Mission Possible. Karen shared recommendations for next steps for the Mission Possible. Next steps included strategic planning for continued distribution of the finding around hiring self-advocates and family members with lived experiences in the I/DD service system. Cheryl Powell explained the need to connect the findings from the Care Extender White Paper to initiatives like Meet the Need to ensure systems change around hiring self-advocates and family members with lived experiences.

NC Benefits Counseling Expansion Services Project: Pablo Puente from Service Source provided updates on the first quarter of the third year of the benefits counseling initiative. There has been an increase in families who have received benefits counseling. Pablo stated that training families will increase the number of self-advocates willing to explore competitive integrated employment. To date, Service Source has over 200 community partners they work with to provide benefits counseling.

Discussion on Investment Ideas:

The committee engaged in productive discussion around the I/DD Services Champion RFA. The committee decided that it would be important to include tracking of the number of self advocates hired in leadership roles as well as family members with lived experiences. The committee wanted to ensure that the majority of people employed through the I/DD Services Champion initiative be self-advocates with I/DD. Cheryl Powell made the motion for approval to release the I/DD Services Champion RFA with the necessary edits and the motion was seconded by Nessie Siler.
The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Inclusive Postsecondary Education Proposal was discussed in detail. Kathie Trotter provided detail and insight on why pre-employment transition services (PreETS) may not be the appropriate funding mechanism used to help support an HBCU Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) program. Cheryl Powell made the motion to allow staff from the Council to develop an HBCU IPSE RFA to present to the Council for a vote in May 2023. The motion was seconded by Donna Spears.

Tamira White presented updates to the committee on the Competitive Integrated Employment Conference Proposal. The committee discussed why i2i Center for Integrated Health was unique positioned, as a neutral convener of stakeholders, to be the contractor for the CIE Summit. Kathie Trotter expressed the need to bring all viewpoints around CIE to the table to be heard while planning for the conference. Engagement for the CIE Conference should include engagement, data collection, tours of shelter workshops and/or providers who hold 14(c) certificates and still pay individuals with I/DD subminimum wage. Staff from the Council will work with i2i to develop a plan and budget for a Competitive Integrated Employment Conference to be held by the end of 2023. Donna Spears made the motion to approve the sole source contract with i2i for them to host the CIE Conference. Amy Eaton seconded the motion.

Financial Update:

Shar’ron Williams provided the financial report and update to the committee. Shar’ron, David Ingram, and Talley Wells answered questions regarding the budget for the committee.

Wrap Up:

Tony Hall provided reminders to the FADC. Tony reminded the members of the next quarterly meeting on May 11-13, 2023. Nessie Siler made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm.