

## **Advocacy Development Committee**

### **MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 11, 2023**

**1:15pm - 4:15pm**

**Meeting link:**

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1615574590?pwd=V3JXUWVKZnVjQnhlZkh0Z045RXNoZz09>

**Virtual Meeting ID:** 161 557 4590

**Members Present:** Bryan Dooley, Carol Ann Conway, Myron Gavin, Aldea LaParr (Chair), Virginia Knowlton Marcus, William Miller, Marjorie Serralles-Russell, Anna Ward for Joe Piven

**Members Absent:** Keith Carney, Yvonne Copeland, Rep. Zack Hawkins, Kay McMillan, Tocarra Osborne, Karey Perez

**Staff in Attendance:** Chris Hendricks, David Ingram, LaQuadia Smith, Melissa Swartz, Talley Wells, Shar'ron Williams

**Guests:** Amy Easton/DSP Will Miller, Kelly Friedlander, Kenneth Kelty, DSP/Kay McMillan, Sarah Potter, Kelly Woodall

### **Welcome/Introductions**

The Advocacy Development Committee (ADC) started with welcome by Aldea LaParr, ADC chair.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Carol Conway made a motion to approve the February 2023 Advocacy Development Committee (ADC) minutes. Aldea LaParr seconded the motion. Will Miller and Anna Ward recused because of absence in November. The motion was approved.

### **Ability Leadership Project of North Carolina (ALP-NC)**

Kelly Woodall and Kelly Friedlander from Community Bridges Consulting Group on behalf of Disability Rights of North Carolina provided an initiative update.

### **Permission to Draft RFA Revision: ALP-NC Coordination and Management**

Melissa discussed revisions to the draft a request for applications (RFA) for the Coordination and Implementation of the ALP-NC Training and Advocacy Leaders Network. Along with starting on January 1, 2024 instead of October 2023, this draft RFA now excludes the Graduate Network feature to allow a separate NC Advocacy Leaders Network initiative. The vast scope of work to develop and maintain a graduate network as well as managing the Customer Relationship Management software become apparent during deliverable development (see next item RFA draft: NC Advocacy Leaders Network).

The ALP-NC Coordination and Management initiative RFA Draft will still include:

- Identifies a Statewide ALP-NC Training Organizer

- Establishes the ALP-NC training as a shared investment initiative
- Identifies/Hires a Program Manager that provides oversight, direction, and navigation support to all aspects of major activities of this initiative.

**Anna Ward made a motion** to Authorize NCCDD's staff to draft a Request for Applications (RFA) for a three-year ALP-NC Coordination and Management initiative for review at an upcoming Council meeting, in the amount of \$110,000 per year with required 25% non-federal matching funds (\$43,333) - with Year 1 (of 3) with an anticipated start-date as early as January 1, 2024 and anticipated end-date of December 31, 2024. Aldea LaParr seconded. Will Miller entered a no-vote. The motion was approved.

### **DISCUSSION: RFA Draft: NC Advocacy Leaders Network**

Melissa discussed the draft request for applications (RFA) for the NC Advocacy Leaders Network. As referenced previously, this Draft RFA was separated from the ALP-NC Coordination and Management RFA as the scope of work emerged as a vast endeavor.

This RFA aims to establish and maintain an organized network of developmental disabilities advocacy leaders made up of North Carolinians that are graduates from state and nationally recognized advocacy and leadership development programs (e.g., Partners in Policymaking, Advancing Strong Leaders, and STIR). This initiative will identify, track, further train, and keep informed the graduates from NC I/DD advocacy training programs, so that as members of the NC Advocacy Leaders Network they can be informed and organized to educate others about I/DD issues important to them and/or all North Carolinians.

**Will Miller made a motion** to Direct NCCDD staff to release the RFA for NC Advocacy Leaders Network, in the amount of up to \$90,000 per Year for up to 3-Years, with no less than the required 25% non-federal matching funds (\$30,000) - with Year 1 (of 3) starting no sooner than October 1, 2023 and ending no later than September 30, 2024. In addition, Council staff will have authority to extend the due-date for applications and related start-date, if necessary. Carol Conway seconded. The motion was approved.

### **Sole Source Request: NC IDD Peer Mentor Training**

Melissa provided detail about the IDD Peer Mentor Training Proposal. In continued partnership with Optum and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, and new partnerships with NC organizations prepared to employ people with I/DD in the care extender capacity, Community Bridges Consulting Group (CBCG) will advance the *Peer Mentor Training for People w/ I/DD Third Cohort*.

The Peer Mentor training for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities program will train up to fifteen individuals. As did cohorts 1 and 2, cohort 3 will serve as a focus group to continue re-evaluating and refining the training curriculum for which 6 additional (and final) lessons will be added. CBCG will assess the employment outcomes resulting from the training.

The class would begin in November 2023, with classes held weekly for three months. All sessions will be held via Zoom. Individuals will receive a stipend of \$360 to participate and complete pre-training and post training evaluations. Individuals will receive a course completion certificate upon completing the course and achieving an 85% proficiency score.

Recruitment will target NC organizations and entities (a.k.a., sponsors) with capacity to hire Care Extenders. These organizations and entities will be recruited as sponsors that recommend potential training participants pre-positioned for hire to fulfill the service definition of Care Extenders (i.e., Provide Peer Support Services for people with I/DD in North Carolina) after completing the training.

**Carol Conway made a motion** For the NCCDD to provide sole-source funding to Community Bridges Consulting Group to engage in and implement the *NC IDD Peer Mentor Training* initiative for a period of up to 6-months in the amount of \$55,000 with required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds (\$18,333), starting no sooner than October 1, 2023 and ending no sooner than June 30, 2024. Virginia Knowlton Marcus seconded. The motion was approved.

#### **Hispanic and Latinx Liaison Staff Position Update**

David Ingram, Director of Operations provided an update for the Hispanic/Latinx job position. We received 30 applications for the job posting and held interviews with the full staff in April. An offer has been extended and we are waiting on response.

Adjourn (4:15p.m.).