

Financial Asset Development Committee (FADC)

FINAL Minutes

August 10, 2023

11:30 am – 3:30pm

Hybrid meeting: Zoomgov Meeting and Bradford B Meeting Room

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1613545487>

Committee Members Present: Bryan Dooley, Amy Eaton, Tony Hall (Chair), Dreama McCoy, Rebecca Putnam, Nessie Siler, Donna Spears, Kathie Trotter, Anna Ward

Committee Members Absent: Dawn Allen, Katherine Boeck, Rep. Terry Brown, Kristy Locklear, Cheryl Powell, Sandra Terrell, Sherry Thomas, Carla West

Staff in Attendance: David Ingram, La'Quadia Smith, Talley Wells, Tamira White, Shar'ron Williams, Letha Young

Guests: Nancy Baker, Beverly Colwell, Jason Hines, Malissa Pompei, Pablo Puente

Introduction:

Tony Hall called the committee into session, conducted introductions, reviewed the agenda, and reviewed the May 2023 meeting minutes. Donna Spears made a motion to approve the May minutes, and Kathie Trotter seconded. Tony moved to the fiscal report.

Financial Update:

Shar'ron Williams provided the financial report and update to the committee. Shar'ron, David Ingram, and La'Quadia Smith answered questions regarding the budget for the committee.

Initiative Updates:

NC Benefits Counseling Expansion Services Project: Pablo Puente from Service Source provided updates on the third quarter of the third year of the benefits counseling initiative. To date, Service Source has reached out to 290+ organizations that serve individuals with I/DD across the state and formalized 21 partnerships through MOUs. They have established a Benefits Counseling Expansion advisory committee that has 11 members. They have trained 129 Benefits Liaisons across the state. 232 individuals with I/DD received benefits counseling from a trained Benefits Liaison and 198 family members have been trained in benefits. They have provided benefits counseling services to 28 individuals with I/DD and their families. Service Source has provided family and parents training in Spanish. They have tailored training to cover specific benefits issues affecting the Hispanic/Latino population. They have trained 25 Hispanic/Latino family members in benefits. Additionally, 50 Hispanic/Latino family members received benefits information and resources.

Donna Spears asked if NC was considered an Employment First state and Pablo Puento answered yes. Kathie Trotter asked if people have been interested in accepting jobs with higher salaries after receiving benefits counseling. Pablo answered that education around how benefits are impacted by higher wages and that the social security threshold allows for people to make more money now because the threshold is higher. Tony Hall asked if the threshold changes every year. Pablo responded that the cost-of-living adjustment guides the adjustments in the threshold for social security benefits.

RFA Development Updates:

I/DD Services Champion RFA update: Tamira White provided the update on the I/DD Services Champion Award process. The I/DD Services Champion Initiative continues to be on hold since no grant was awarded after the competitive bid. Council staff have begun drafting the questions needed for the request for information (RFI) that will go out to the community. Those questions include ones that will help the Council appropriately cost model for the initiative when it is re-released. The date of the re-release is still to be determined. It is to be re-released after the federal budget has been approved and the Council's fiscal allocation has been determined and the RFI process has been completed. FADC engaged in discussion about the re-release of the I/DD Services Champion RFA. Kathie Trotter suggested the Council consider cost modeling the RFA based on the number of deliverables. She also suggested the deliverables be broken down into "bitesize" pieces. Nessie Siler suggested implementing timelines for each deliverable to guide expectations about how long each portion of the RFA should take. Dreama McCoy added that the Council needs to establish benchmarks for the deliverables in the RFA. Nancy Baker noted that the low response rate to the I/DD Services Champion RFA could be due to providers being under resourced. Providers may not be able to work effectively on a new initiative when they are trying to maintain their current obligations without the support they need. Dreama McCoy recommended the Council staff explore areas where there is a lack of resources and providers and how the RFA can help bridge that gap. Nessie Siler suggested the Council staff break up the scope of work and allow more than one provider to address the needs to employ people with lived experiences in specific geographic areas.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Startup RFA Draft: Tamira White provided an overview of the HBCU IPSE Startup award process. There were two completed applications in response to the HBCU IPSE Startup RFA. Neither application fully met the intent of the RFA. Anna Ward shared the recommendations from the HBCU IPSE Startup RFA Application Review Committee. The Application Review Committee recommended that the Council not fund either of the applications that were submitted. The Council staff proposed that education and awareness be provided to the 11 HBCUs about what IPSE is and how one can be started on their campuses. The RFA would then be re-released on or before October 1, 2024, after the education initiative is completed. Dreama McCoy made the motion to approve the recommendation of the RFA Review Committee to re-release the

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Planning RFA in advance of October 1, 2024, in the amount of up to \$80,000 for Year 1 (of 3), with 25% in non-federal matching. In addition, NCCDD will work to bring to the Executive Committee a proposal to provide sole-source funding to Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance and North Carolina Postsecondary Education Alliance, with the requirement that they partner with one or more leaders in the NC HBCU community in an amount totaling up to \$80,000 with 25% in non-federal matching funds to 1) support NCCDD in revising its HBCU IPSE RFA in preparation and intention to re-release it before October 1, 2024 as well as to 2) engage in and implement across North Carolina's 11 HBCUs, IPSE-specific education and awareness on topics including, but not limited to, What is an IPSE, Starting an IPSE, IPSE Funding, IPSE and Collaborations Available. The intent will be for this sole-source funding proposal to initiate on or before October 1, 2023, and conclude on or before September 30, 2024. Nessie Siler seconded the motion. It passed unanimously in committee and will go before the full Council for a vote at the Friday business meeting.

Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Conference: The contract for the CIE Conference was executed to sole source to i2i Center for Integrated Health to host the conference on December 6, 2023, as part of their Winter Conference. The CIE Conference will be held at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem, NC. The contract with i2i will allow them to complete more interviews with key stakeholders impacted by NC's transition to provide more options for CIE to self-advocates.

Discussion on Investment Ideas:

Tony Hall and Tamira White led a very brief discussion on potential investment areas for Financial Asset Development. The committee suggested future funding ideas could include ways to support providers better. They also agreed that more efforts should focus on collecting resources that explain benefits counseling, employment, and information that empowers self-advocates.

Wrap Up:

Tony Hall provided reminders to the FADC. Tony reminded the members of the next quarterly meeting on November 7-9, 2023, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Cary, NC. Donna Spears made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Dreama McCoy. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.