

Community Living Committee Minutes Draft

November 8, 2023 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jonathan D’Angelo, Bryan Dooley, Debra Farrington, Dr. Joshua Gettinger, Brendon Hildreth, Dr. Gary Junker, Dr. Charlrean Mapson (Chair), Bethany Smith, Dale Stephenson, Dr. Peggy Terhune, Ginger Yarbrough

Members Absent: Senator Sydney Batch, Rhonda Cox, Kelly Crosbie, Ryan Rotundo

Staff Present: Talley Wells, Shar’ron Williams, Philip Woodward

Guests Present: Sharif Brown, Caryn Cook (ASL Interpreter), DSP for Bryan Dooley, Beth Field, Jill Hinton, Stacy Morgan, Sabrina Turner, Kim Wison (ASL Interpreter)

Introduction:

Charlrean Mapson welcomed the committee and did an icebreaker focused on something each person here is thankful for.

Joshua Gettinger made a motion to approve the draft August Community Living Committee minutes, and Bethany Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval.

Fiscal Update:

Shar’ron Williams provided the fiscal update. Beth Field asked about funding for Year 3 of the *Meet the Need NC* initiative, and Shar’ron responded that NCCDD is funding this initiative for Year 3, but Year 4 is currently uncertain.

Future Investment Discussion:

Proactive Approaches to Justice for People with I/DD RFA

Gary Junker, who works for the North Carolina Department of Adult Correction (DAC), said his agency is not planning to bid on this Request for Applications (RFA), but he wants to listen to the discussion. He commented that DAC is separate from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS), where he used to work. Talley commented that DPS has expressed an interest in this RFA. Peggy Terhune recused herself from this discussion.

Philip Woodward reviewed the cost model that he developed, saying that a certain amount of money can pay for a certain number of days of training. He shared a Comment Card from Marjorie Serralles-Russell asking, “Where would training take place (covering what area)?” Philip said the RFA does not specify where the training would occur, but NCCDD would see what applicants would propose, and NCCDD could

discuss this with the successful applicant and discuss areas of need with DPS. Joshua Gettinger asked what a “day of training” means, and Philip Woodward replied that it means one training session. Joshua also asked about mental health and substance use implications.

Talley Wells mentioned the possibility of this initiative filling in the gaps instead of duplicating other efforts occurring in North Carolina. Jill Hinton mentioned that START is a program for people with I/DD and mental health issues with three teams in the east, central, and west parts of the state. Ginger Yarbrough mentioned her connection to Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and asked if this could be added to the RFA. Jonathan D’Angelo asked how this initiative can connect to local police departments so that they can become involved and receive this training. Joshua Gettinger asked about follow-up opportunities to help participants reinforce what they learned so that they do not forget what the original training taught them. Debra Farrington raised the possibility of asking trainers to modify the trainings to tailor them to help the audience better understand people with I/DD. Jill pointed out that North Carolina has 504 law enforcement agencies and suggested that there is a need to do an inventory of what is available around North Carolina.

Gary Junker said that NCCDD needs tight control of its outcomes for this initiative because measuring the impact can be very difficult to do. He pointed out that there is a wide continuum of crisis response in the state from domestic disputes to incidents involving weapons to a person on the street being disoriented and confused. He asked for measurable outcomes besides the number of people trained such as the number of diversions that are happening (where people who are arrested are diverted to another outcome besides going to prison). He suggested not just surveys but also competence tests / post-training assessments. Ginger Yarbrough pointed out that diversion from the justice system does not mean diversion to the emergency department. Jill Hinton asked if the contractor will do an inventory of what is currently available or if staff will perform this inventory and provide it to the contractor. Joshua Gettinger suggested starting small with the trainings and then spreading out across North Carolina.

Bethany Smith made a motion to:

Authorize NCCDD to release a Request for Applications (RFA) for a three-year *Proactive Approaches to Justice for People with I/DD* initiative. NCCDD’s staff, with final approval from the Executive Committee, will have the authority to determine the following information to add to the draft RFA that the Community Living Committee received on November 3rd:

- The release date and due date;
- The funding amount with a required 25% minimum non-federal match required;
- Add measurable outcomes beyond numbers trained and any language relevant to this;

- Information regarding the RFA process, itself, such as clarification within the RFA as to what constitutes a completed application in order to ensure that applicants will submit complete, rather than incomplete, applications.

Jonathan D'Angelo seconded the motion. The motion was **approved by unanimous** vote. Peggy Terhune recused herself.

Public Health Funds and Guardianship

Bryan Dooley asked about the connection to COVID-19 funds, and Philip Woodward responded that NCCDD received funds to help people with disabilities access the COVID-19 vaccine in 2021 and 2022.

Charlrean Mapson made a motion to:

Authorize NCCDD to fund a sole-source initiative with UNC Cares (also known as the Center for AGing Research and Educational Services) for up to \$25,000 using funding from the (SCPH) Expanding the Public Health Workplace within the Disability Network: DD Councils program award (P.L. 117-2 and P.L. 116-131 - Federal Fund # 2201NCSCPH-00) made available by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in 2022 to be spent by September of 2024, and as needed, from NCCDD's Federal Fiscal Year 2023 and/or Federal Fiscal Year 2024 funds from the ACL between now and September 30th, 2024 focused on educating individuals, agencies, and organizations across North Carolina about the new Guardianship Rights law (Senate Bill 615 signed into law by Governor Roy Cooper on September 28th, 2023) and healthcare decision-making rights.

Bethany Smith seconded the motion. The motion was **approved by unanimous** vote.

One-Year Community Living Mini-Grants

Philip Woodward provided an overview of the Community Living Mini-Grants initiatives that NCCDD's Executive Committee awarded funding to. Bryan Dooley pointed out that Winston-Salem already has a Next Chapter Book Club. Beth Field of the Mental Health Transformation Alliance expressed an interest in connecting with these organizations. Joshua Gettinger asked if ZABS Place will facilitate natural supports as a supplement to the main work that they proposed doing.

Initiative Updates:

Justice: Release, Reentry and Reintegration

Sharif Brown from the Alliance of Disability Advocates (Alliance) provided an update. He said the initiative achieved an 88.7% success rate, and he pointed out the progress

with reentry for people with I/DD, saying that, before this initiative, there were people who did not understand what reentry looks like. He mentioned the new initiative that started on October 1st, 2023 with funding from the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services that also includes people with traumatic brain injuries (TBI). Sharif thanked NCCDD and said this program would not be here today without NCCDD's support. Gary Junker pointed out that Jamila Little left the DAC to go to Monarch as a Vice President, and Mary Grillo is now working as the Interim Director of Social Work. Joshua Gettinger said this initiative is one of two shining examples of what NCCDD can accomplish. Philip Woodward mentioned the upcoming opportunity to present at the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD) Conference.

Meet The Need NC

Beth Field from the Mental Health Transformation Alliance's (MHTA) Leadership Alliance for Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LAND) program provided an update that included a PowerPoint. She said this is a state grassroots effort, and the initiative has done nine Lunch & Learn webinars with an upcoming one where Jill Hinton and Jennifer Mahan from the Autism Society of North Carolina will talk about mental health and I/DD. She pointed out how the initiative recognizes that I/DD is not individualized and that everyone has different needs. She mentioned the Lived Experience Networks Speaks (LENS) and the initiative's goal to educate more broadly about different choices and how to serve needs across the lifespan. She pointed out how 47 organizations and agencies participated in the recent hybrid Think Tank event that occurred in early November.

Beth mentioned Stacy Morgan, is working on sustainability for this initiative, including a donation form as a way for people to sponsor or donate to programs within the MHTA. Beth said they have been thinking about sustainability since the end of Year 1 and want NCCDD's investment to live on beyond this initiative.

Philip Woodward asked how this initiative plans to respond to the North Carolina General Assembly funding only 350 new Innovations Waiver slots in the budget, and Beth Field responded that the initiative examines these 350 slots against the \$60 million in pay raises for Direct Support Professionals and how the initiative wants to inspire systems change to start earlier. She said that while the initiative started out focusing on the Registry of Unmet Needs, but it now must focus on other issues, too. Jonathan D'Angelo commented that enormous change has occurred in North Carolina during the past year, and he thinks the need has shifted to other issues, including issues at the federal level. Bryan Dooley asked if there is a way to connect Meet the Need NC to the Ability Leadership Program (ALP) or other programs. Pam Dempsey pointed out how Community Bridges Consulting Group (CBCG) is working to develop people with I/DD as leaders, and Beth added that LENS has two co-chairs, including former NCCDD member Cheryl Powell, who helps LAND reach out to many groups.

Supported Living: A How-to Guidebook

Jen Waite, the Executive Director of Liberty Corner Enterprises, was unable to present because of staffing and support needs that day. Someone asked about measures and how many people have downloaded the Guidebook in order to give NCCDD a sense of its impact. Beth Field asked if LAND can share the Guidebook in their newsletter, and Philip Woodward replied yes.

Wrap Up

Gary Junker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlrean Mapson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.