

Community Living Committee Minutes

May 11, 2023 1:50 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. (Adjourned @ 4:56 p.m.)

Members Present: Jonathan D'Angelo, Rhonda Cox, Kelly Crosbie, Bryan Dooley, Dr. Joshua Gettinger, Brendon Hildreth, Jamila Little, Dr. Charlrean Mapson (Chair), Ryan Rotundo, Dale Stephenson, Dr. Peggy Terhune

Members Absent: Senator Sydney Batch, Dr. Gary Junker, Dave Richard

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

Guests Present: Sharif Brown, Ann Bridgers (ASL Interpreter), Caryn Cook (ASL Interpreter), Beth Field, Gloria Garton, Justin Magin, Michelle Merritt, Stacy Morgan, Sarah Potter

Introduction:

Charlrean Mapson welcomed the committee and did an icebreaker focused on each participant's favorite color.

Joshua Gettinger made a motion to approve the draft February Community Living Committee minutes, and Ryan Rotundo seconded the motion. The motion carried with unanimous approval.

Fiscal Update:

Shar'ron Williams provided the fiscal update. She mentioned \$120,000 that was previously set aside to do a Roommate-Matching Service initiative. She mentioned \$150,000 that is reserved for Year 3 of the Meet The Need NC initiative. Ryan Rotundo asked about the remaining amounts for Fiscal Year 2022, and Shar'ron confirmed that UNC Cares did not spend all of their funds in Year 2 of the *Making Alternatives to Guardianship a Reality in North Carolina* initiative. Shar'ron added that Philip Woodward recently sent two contractors 60 days notice letters to remind them about the end date for spending their funds.

Initiative Updates:

Justice: Release, Reentry and Reintegration

Sharif Brown from the Alliance of Disability Advocates (Alliance) provided an update. He said the initiative has received 176 total referrals and completed 174 Individualized Reentry Plans (IRPs). One of these IRPs was for a woman who was in prison for 50 years. He said that students at North Carolina State University did a 47-page study comparing North Carolina to Ohio. He also cited a statistic that he shared at the February meeting where he said it costs North Carolina \$51,000 to house an individual in prison for one year and to multiply this by 174 individuals assisted to obtain an

estimate of the amount of money that this initiative has saved North Carolina. Ryan Rotundo asked what the timeline is for tracking individuals assisted on the recidivism rate, and Sharif said he and his staff track them on a month-to-month basis. Ryan encouraged them to continue to monitor the recidivism rate because the rest of the country is interested in this initiative. Sharif mentioned a \$50,000 donation that a donor has committed to the Alliance, and he mentioned the possibility of funding from the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services (DMH/DD/SUS) for the next two years. Sharif said he presented at a conference focused on homelessness that 200 attended. Gloria Garton, Executive Director of the North Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), pointed out that his presentation to the SILC got the attention of the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

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 the initiative is finally generating some momentum after gathering various groups of people to move in the direction that this initiative wants to go by finding overlap among various I/DD issues. Beth pointed out that informed choice is very important, especially owing to the individualized nature of many I/DD issues. She said this initiative has two advisory groups: the Policy Task Force and the Community Engagement Network Advisory Group. She also pointed out how important it is to meet not just medical needs but also the social determinants of health such as housing, employment, and transportation. The initiative has provided technical assistance to Jessica Aguilar to build a network for Hispanic and Latino populations that will function in 12 counties. Beth mentioned the State Consumer and Family Advisory Committees and the need to learn about all I/DD communities. She mentioned tools such as the podcast "The Waiting Room," she provided an overview of all of the Lunch and Learn session topics, and she showed the Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO) dashboard. She mentioned the social determinants of health and examining what a full life looks like. She also pointed out that NCCD Public Policy Committee Chair Marjorie Serralles-Russell will attend the initiative's next Policy Task Force meeting.

Making Alternatives to Guardianship a Reality in North Carolina

Philip Woodward said that Linda Kendall Fields from UNC Cares was unable to attend today, so he provided an update on this initiative, including the status of Senate Bill 308, which attempts to reform the language of North Carolina General Statute 35A and which passed 47-0 in the Senate on April 20th. He said it is now in the North Carolina House of Representatives. Ryan Rotundo asked what is in the bill, and Philip said the main component is that county Clerks of Court must consider all of the alternatives to full guardianship before accepting a guardianship petition. Philip said he can share a copy of the bill by e-mail. Philip also mentioned the Guardianship Rights Legislative Day event in Raleigh on April 25th that Talley Wells and Chris Hendricks participated in.

Jonathan D'Angelo mentioned other rights that people with disabilities can lose such as the right to a trustee and healthcare decision-making. Gloria Garton suggested reaching young adults through social media to highlight rights. Joshua Gettinger pointed out the importance of sharing this information and finding ways for it to reach young people. Ryan Rotundo responded by mentioning Beverly Colwell's work at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to distribute this information to all 100 county school districts in the state. Pam Dempsey also suggested Vocal Video as a tool for sharing this information.

Supported Living: A How-to Guidebook

Philip Woodward pointed out that Jen Waite, the interim Executive Director of Liberty Corner Enterprises, is not here, so he shared an update on the initiative. He said Liberty Corner Enterprises hosted a conference in Asheville in April that at least 47 people participated in. He also said a draft Guidebook is available at www.slnc4.me. Philip scrolled through the website, pointing out sections such as the new videos available under "Success Stories." Philip pointed out that he has a PDF draft that is more extensive than the website draft, and he will share it with anyone who is interested in reading it. He also said the initiative needs to host focus groups to provide feedback on the draft Guidebook from individuals with I/DD, family members, and providers.

Future Investment Discussion

One-Year Community Living Mini-Grants

The Community Living Committee received one Comment Card, which Philip Woodward read:

Address:

1. Consolidating data that supports clarifying the Registry of Unmet Needs and waiver slots.
2. If you address the housing topic, can you focus on community supported housing?

Jonathan D'Angelo asked what is the cost of community living vs. institutional living, and he also asked what is the cost of the status quo with the current system of services. Rhonda Cox pointed out that "institutions" can mean large-scale institutions or community-based intermediate care facilities (ICFs), adding that community-based ICFs are almost cost-neutral. Peggy Terhune mentioned that Monarch uses their own data because they are rural. Rhonda mentioned the cost vs. the quality of life, recognizing that it does not always cost less to have someone live in the community, but that is not always the most important factor. Jonathan D'Angelo asked what does the average

cost of a waiver actually mean; he also shared the belief that services for everyone on the waiver will cost approximately \$80,000 per year, and Michelle Merritt confirmed this.

Peggy Terhune made a motion to:

Authorize NCCDD's staff to draft a Request for Applications (RFA) for open-ended one-year Mini-Grants initiatives of no less than \$5,000 that advance NCCDD's Community Living goal in its Five-Year State Plan to start as early as October 1, 2023 and end by September 30, 2024. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to approve the funding amount of the RFA to be released as well as determine the number of awards based on the Application Review Committee's recommendations.

Ryan Rotundo seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Justice Initiative Extension Funding

The committee discussed the possible need to extend funding for the *Justice: Release, Reentry, and Reintegration* initiative. At the current rate, NCCDD is funding this initiative at \$16,250 on average per month.

Peggy Terhune made a motion to:

Provide continuation/extension funding if necessary for up to six months in the amount of up to \$100,000 with a required minimum of 25% non-federal matching funds (\$33,333) for NCCDD's ***Justice: Release, Reentry, and Reintegration*** initiative to continue on October 1, 2023 and ending no later than September 30, 2024. This continuation funding will serve as bridge funding until a contract to continue the work of this initiative through the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services begins. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to decide the actual amount and length of time for this funding as needed.

Joshua Gettinger seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Proactive Approaches to Justice

Peggy Terhune asked for clarification on what this is because "proactive approaches" is open-ended. Charlean Mapson said the purpose is to keep people with I/DD out of jail or prison, and she mentioned someone in Wilmington who works in a diversion program for neurotypical people to keep them out of jail or prison or wherever they are slated to go, so she asked why there can't be a similar program in place for people with I/DD. Ryan Rotundo mentioned the opportunity to educate the community in general while providing training for law enforcement. Charlean mentioned how for certain types of

calls, someone else besides the police should respond. Peggy mentioned a documentary film that she saw where Emergency Medical Services and the fire department or a trained social worker would respond because they have a different mindset to de-escalate than the police have, which is a mindset to protect and defend. Charlrean then mentioned the 988 hotline and how their line tells people if someone will not commit suicide, then the caller should call 911 instead of 988. The committee discussed the value of crisis intervention training (CIT). Peggy also mentioned mobile crisis services funded through the mental health system and asked if there can be an I/DD-focused training with the same resources that the mental health community has. She also said she wants to have an extra committee meeting where Talley Wells and Philip Woodward bring in people with relevant expertise or present what they have learned from the Governor's Task Force for Racial Equity. This could include presenters such as the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 988, Representative Terry Brown, the Autism Society of North Carolina, and Jamir Jumoke at Coastal Horizons to hear what they are doing in their communities. David Ingram said NCCDD must provide at least two weeks notice for any official meeting.

Wrap Up

Charlrean Mapson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ryan Rotundo seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.