

Financial Asset Development Committee (FADC)

Final Minutes

May 02, 2024

1:30 pm – 3:35 pm

Hybrid meeting: Zoomgov Meeting and Doubletree Salon C Meeting Room

Virtual Meeting Link:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1609136826?pwd=L2loUCtvS1lOd0pOZDBVeEh3SFllZz09>

Committee Members Present: Katherine Boeck, Amy Eaton, Kenny Gibbs, Tony Hall (Chair), R. V. Kuser, Dreama McCoy, Dr. Rebecca Putnam, Nessie Siler, Dr. Madhav Swaminathan, , Ginger Yarbrough.

Committee Members Absent: Dawn Allen, Rep. Terry Brown, Sandra Terrell, Sherry Thomas, Anna Ward, Carla West.

Staff in Attendance: David Ingram, Sherif Elgindi (intern), Juanita Hooker, Talley Wells, Shar'ron Williams.

Guests: Beverly Colwell, Marlene Kuser, Susanna E. Miller-Raines, Dr. Baiyina Muhammad, Pablo Puente.

Introduction:

Tony Hall (Chair) called the committee into session and welcomed the FADC members both in-person and virtual. He started the meeting with a short ice breaker.

MOTION: He reviewed the February 2024 meeting minutes and called for a motion to approve those minutes. R.V. Kuser made a motion to approve the February 2024 minutes, and Dreama McCoy seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Tony moved to the initiative updates.

Initiative Updates:

NC Benefits Counseling Expansion Demonstration Project

Pablo Puente from ServiceSource provided a final summary report of the outcome for the Benefits Counseling Expansion Service Project. The goal of the project was

to make Benefits Counseling available for the Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (IDD) community and their families. Building relationships with agencies and support groups, and training Benefits Liaisons to provide information to individuals with developmental disabilities, and their family members. The project also hosted seminars for the Hispanic/Latino community in Spanish and over 100 family members in the Hispanic and Latino community have been provided benefits information.

The project reached out to over 300 community agencies and built new partnerships with 21 family and parent groups. An 11-member Benefits Counseling Advisory committee was developed. 141 Benefits Liaisons were trained across the state. 145 individuals with I/DD received benefits counseling from a trained staff and 470 family members have been trained in benefits information.

There is still limited access across the state and more resources are still needed. With the changes from the Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) movement, more benefits counseling resources will be needed. A newsletter was developed to keep the Benefits Liaisons updated on any changes with benefits counseling and related fields, such as Medicaid. Pablo Puente received and responded to questions from the group.

HBCU IPSE Pre-Planning Initiative

Dr. Baiyina Muhammad provided the FADC with an update on the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (HBCU IPSE) Initiative. The mission of this initiative was to increase and grow awareness around Inclusive Postsecondary Education in NC. No program exists in any North Carolina historically black college and university (HBCU). Efforts were launched to provide training on how to establish a program on these campuses. The project reached out to the 11 NC HBCUs, 8 responded, and 6 scheduled and received the training (Shaw University, Elizabeth City State University, Winston Salem State University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina A&T, and North Carolina Central University). There was significant interest expressed from Elizabeth City State University to start an Inclusive Post-Secondary Education program and the project received an invitation to return for additional training this summer to some of the programs as they plan to move forward.

The training included some information about the three existing Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs (CTP) in NC, discussed Think College as a resource, as well as what defines an IPSE program and the definition of ID, and discussed teaching cultural competencies. Dr. Muhammad provided a video clip of interviews conducted with parents of students attending the IPSE programs in NC and a second video of self-advocate students who have participated in programs.

A discussion was held and Dr. Muhammad entertained questions from the committee. NCCDD Executive Director, Talley Wells posed the question, "Should we put funding to support an initiative for planning - seed money to start a pilot program OR with the new IPSE programs at NC State (NCSU) and North Carolina Central University (NCCU), fund a network to learn from each other, to nourish each other to grow? What is your feedback?"

The conversation, with input from Dr. Muhammad and Susan Miller-Raines (Think College) agreed the \$80,000 planning grant is not enough to create a program, but Tennessee's DD Council also received \$200,000 support from the state to fund their IPSE program.

Dr. Muhammad expressed that while NCCU received funding to start their program, she did not believe one program in the state is enough. Especially in places of low population for black students with IDD attending higher education, such as in eastern NC.

Council member/EIPD Assistant Director, Kenny Gibbs also voiced that with shifting the focus of funding, this was about the seed money and there is a lot of conversation. It is worth it to get the funding and get the word out – knowing they would need to look at additional sources of funding. The focus is for the HBCU - and they will find a way through grant writing, other programs, and it is worth the initiative to get one in each corner of the state, especially in the rural areas, such as ECSU. There is value to keep putting the word out.

Talley Wells said that since the \$80,000 cannot fully fund, can we look at getting someone to put together the plan of how to spend the dollars? Where to match the funding. Do we help develop the programs with who got the money?

Dr. Muhammad reported Tennessee State University partnered with their Vocational Rehabilitation program.

Kenny Gibbs reported EIPD (VR) already does that now. The struggle is the employment side. There needs to be a stronger employment preparation side. The curriculum with the best employment applications are the programs eligible for the Pell grant. Career/vocationally oriented.

Council member Amy Eaton asked if the money did not fully support, what is the timeframe for a decision-making to allocate the funds.

Talley Wells stated 10/01/2024 for the \$80,000 already in the works but the other process – is there a match? Can we pull down more money? Possibly up to \$100,000. We are not sure how a change in presidential funding will change, possibly a 25% cut. Depends on the council's decision.

Financial Update:

Shar'ron Williams provided the financial report and update. She reviewed the Federal Fiscal Year as of February 2024. (A presentation to the Full Council was made on the morning of May 02, 2024. Updates were provided on the Financial Asset Development initiative funding for each year for 2022, 2023, and 2024. Per David Ingram, Director of Operations) August 2024 quarterly meeting may introduce new IPSE considerations. \$80,000 is a 'placeholder' and will be discussed further.

HBCU Initiative revisited:

Council member R.V. Kuser asked, regarding the HBCU IPSE initiative, sometimes we do not know what they want – what happens to create it, and why do they come and where do they want to go from here? Are there surveys of where they go?

Susanna Miller-Raines reported there is only one HBCU IPSE program in the country – Tennessee State University. There are other predominantly black campuses (designated only because they are not old enough to be HBCUs).

Council member, Dreama McCoy stated that this information requested by R. V. Kuser was shared with council about 2 sessions ago. David Ingram agreed we will pull the information and share it with R.V. Kuser.

State and National Initiatives

The committee then received updates/feedback from the following State and National Initiatives:

- NC DHHS (CIE) initiatives
Ginger Yarbrough, Director - IDD, TBI & Olmstead

Ginger Yarbrough expanded on the progress with Inclusion Works and invited feedback on how to make the application more effective.

- IPSE updates and Georgia Coalition
Susan E. Miller-Raines, Regional Alliance Manager, Think College

Susanna Miller-Raines of Think College provided some education on the application of IPSE resources and spoke on the usefulness of coalitions to organize funding and discussed how the Georgia Coalition secured funding over time by asking the legislators over several years to increase the funding. She added that Think College can help states to think in terms of a coalition to assist in organizing more thoughtful and realistic funding.

Discussion on Investment Ideas:

Tony Hall invited discussion on Financial Asset Development targets for NCCDD, and there was great discussion on a number of targets:

1. How to coordinate funding and pathways to postsecondary education programs for individuals with IDD.
2. Program collaboration with Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities (EIPD)/VR to track advancement into secondary and postsecondary programs for transition populations.
3. Connecting employers to hire potential employees with developmental disabilities. Creating Training opportunities.

Wrap Up:

Tony Hall reminded the members that the next quarterly NCCDD Council Meeting will be an all-virtual meeting and will be held on August 8 -9, 2024 in Cary. Tony

thanked everyone for their input and participation.

Madhav Swaminathan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nessie Siler seconded. The vote was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm.