

Disability Action Center

These are minutes for the meeting of the Board of Directors, taking place December 17, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. virtually through Zoom.

ATTENDEES:

Mark Leeper
Tom Newhof
Karl Johanson
Sharlisa Davis
Jean Coil
Katherine Haggard

Staff:

Vicki Leeper

ABSENT: Tom Trail

Mike Smith
Ashley Centers
Stanley Dau

PUBLIC:

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 11:04 a.m. by Jean Coil.

- Roll Call
- Announcements

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Agenda was introduced.

- Katherine made the motion to approve agenda
- Karl seconded the motion
- Motion passed by unanimous vote

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 9/24/20:

- Tom Newhof made the motion to approve minutes
- Karl seconded the motion
- Motion passed by unanimous vote

NEW BUSINESS

COVID Committee: DAC received Cares Act Money, and instructions for disbursement are unclear, it expires end of September 2021. Situations come up that are more of a grey area: COVID related vs not COVID related. Mark has to make the call on each one. Mark was thinking of forming a committee made of up both staff and a board member to review these requests. He gave an example of a younger person who is blind and needs a Braille read out machine. DAC has been looking at whether the school's Cares Act Funding should provide it but at the same time would like to support the Center for the Blind and build a relationship there. Mark would like more than just himself deciding on these things. Molly and another staff member would serve on the committee. **Tom Newhof and Jean Coil would be interested in participating to support decision making on the occasional difficult one.**

Examples of what we have done: provide PPE, purchase devices and hot spots so people can access services, transitioning expenses to get out of nursing homes, lost job due to COVID and at risk of becoming homeless, Fire tablets for people in assisted living so they can visit with family members during the lock down, food insecurity if it is directly to a person with a disability, transitioning from jail to provide transportation. We still have around \$300,000 left. Mark has visited with the other center directors, most of what they have done is centered around transition – from nursing home to hotels and fast track to housing. LIFE bought 50 iPads but didn't have the follow up of how to control disbursement. We still follow the Independent Living philosophy with each case. Reporting responsibilities include a separate performance report similar to what we usually do. Tom feels we should spend the money sooner or later and should purchase the Braille device. Karl thinks we should go ahead and get it if the school doesn't have access to funding. So did Jean. The board feels we have spent due diligence investigating this particular situation.

Replacing Board Member: Ashley Centers has a withdrawal note, but wishes to remain as an Honorary Board Member, so she can participate when she's able. We have someone from Pullman interested. We will also look up north for representation from there, or a tribal member.

- Karl made the motion to accept her resignation and make her an Honorary Member.
- Katherine seconded the motion
- Motion passed by unanimous vote

Revisit iPad Policy: Ashley received her device a year ago but would like to retain it for accessing meetings and health appointments. Our policy says 3 years, but Mark pointed out technology changes far quicker. Suggesting after 1 year of having it before it becomes their property. In the meantime, Ashley keeps hers as an Honorary Board Member.

ACTION ITEMS

Gender Pronoun Policy and Process: Our staff is coming across some issues dealing with intersectionality, one staff member identifies as non-binary and other staff members feel strongly about support of this. Mark read the suggested policy. Sometimes staff can be forceful in wanting this support. Mark wants to remove the stress and feeling they are publicly shamed

over it. Mark stresses that fair treatment is more important than language but wants to address it. We want to actively support it, and acknowledge that we are doing our best but may slip up occasionally but still deserves respect. "Don't get mad, get understanding"

- Katherine moved to accept the Intersectionality Policy
- Tom Newhof seconded it
- Motion passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Spokane SCIL Update: Mark met with SCIL and clarified that we will do the best we can to help with a minimal amount of support. They do have a bit more time to keep their funding. They will not receive state project money at this point so our Spokane Youth Project continues.

Post Falls Update: We have a beautiful new sign that will be installed on the side street. But the sign maker is not able to install.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Report: As attached. Our investment is continuing to grow. We had a rough few months with a glitch with insurance denials. Mark handled it by transferring funds to cover payroll and then go back and rebill for those 3 months. We have replaced the funds back to savings. Karl was aware of the situation as it happened.

Administration Report: Mark has been busy with two different reports. He is finishing the Cares Act Report first. Still waiting for the electronic system for the Federal report. Mark has purchased phones for some staff that is working from home as the easiest solution. Mark has mobile hot spots available for people to gain access to the internet in Sprints rural coverage.

Marketing Update: As attached

Board Reports: As attached

PAS Report: Numbers are in the financial report. They are not sending Medicaid nurses into the home since the shut down, but we do phone checks with each customer. We recently found that a care provider was submitting time sheets that were forged. We have filed a police report on this matter. The customer failed to let us know he wasn't receiving services when we called him. This is our first time facing this situation and will have to pay back Medicaid. Mark is checking to see if it is covered under our insurance.

Constructive Thoughts and Public Comments: Officers still need more Crisis Intervention training dealing with people with mental illness. Sponsors have claimed the work as their own when it was Charlisa. She has spoken to NAMI and PAMI and they wrote a letter to support her advocacy on this and submit to the Daily News. She would like DAC to write a letter of support. Mark would be happy to write a letter of support.

MEETING AJOURNED

Jean adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm.

Next Annual meeting will be March 25, 2021