

## **Disability Action Center**

These are minutes for the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, taking place September 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. virtually through Zoom.

### **ATTENDEES:**

Mark Leeper  
Tom Newhof  
Karl Johanson  
Tom Trail  
Sharlisa Davis  
Jean Coil  
Stanley Dau,

Staff:  
Vicki Leeper  
Steve Corr

### **UNEXCUSED ABSENT:**

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Katherine Haggard, Mike Smith

**PUBLIC:** Barbara Merchant, board applicant

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Jean Coil.

- Roll Call
- Announcements

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Agenda was introduced.

- Tom Newhof made the motion to approve agenda as amended.
- Sharlisa seconded the motion
- Motion passed by unanimous vote

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6/24/21:**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2022 Budget:** Mark pointed out the grants for October through September 30<sup>th</sup>. This doesn't show the Washington Group Health funding or COVID or Cares Act Funding. DAC receives the largest amount compared to the other Idaho CIL's. We use some of the funds to cover the statewide newsletter. Mark budgeted increases of 5% for staff for cost of living. We may want to do better here. (This excludes the board positions of Mark and Vicki.) Medical costs will be up this year because we have more staff on it. Travel costs expected to stay low due to pandemic. EVV will increase costs of PAS program. The Cares Act Funding listed is to cover admin costs.

- Karl made the motion to approve the 2022 budget as presented.
- Tom Newhof seconded the motion
- Motion passed by unanimous vote

**Employee Bonus for Vaccines:** We did bonuses for 25% of our in-home assistants at \$1000 each for proof of vaccination. The rest didn't want the vaccine even with the bonus. Possible Medicare/Medicaid recipients would be federally mandated to get the vaccine. Our RN checks up on consumers Plan of Care. Karl wondered if we can use the funds to increase all the in-home services temporary. It creates a cliff if we increase their hourly pay. But we could use an incentive bonus program. Mark encourages the board to come forward with any ideas.

**Future of BluePath:** There are still things to update from a Genesis theme which is outdated. State of Oregon is looking of doing healthcare reviews and BluePath could work for them. There are currently some glitches in sign in and google maps. It will need some investment from our reserve funding to get it up to date and then progress to connection to the app. Mental Health disabilities could be an accommodation and environments. Possible funding sources could include Christopher Reeve Foundation and Group Health. We estimate a cost of \$10,000 to get it repaired.

- Stan made the motion to approve spending funds for BluePath updating.
- Karl seconded the motion
- Motion passed by unanimous vote

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Group Health Grant:** \$50,000 first installment of \$150,000 total for supporting the development of the Spokane center. Unencumbered funds that you report on each August.

**Benefits Planning Contract:** This is for us to receive funds for each consumer to go through the VR benefits planning services with our trained staff. These are all services that we are do anyway.

- Tom Newhof moved to accept the Benefits Planning Contract.
- Karl seconded the motion.
- Motion passed by unanimous vote

**2022-23 ADA Center Contract:**

**Idaho Transportation Grant:** (October)

- Karl moved to accept all funding that has been identified by Mark.
- Sharlisa seconded the motion.
- Motion passed by unanimous vote

## OLD BUSINESS

**Replace Board Member:** Discussed at the last meeting holding the position open for a possible Spokane representative. We have one open slot still. We were visited by Barbara Merchant who is interested in becoming a board member. Or we could increase the size of the board from 9 to 10. We could accept Barbara onto the board and consider adding a new position of a Spokane. We could have changed the bylaws to list a quorum to be a percentage of seated board members, not including open positions.

- Jean moved to accept Barbara Merchant's board application.
- Karl seconded the motion.
- Motion passed by unanimous vote

Increasing the board to 10 positions to include a Spokane representative if we receive the contract at the end of the month. We would bring any applications to the next meeting. DAC reimburses travel over a certain distance or utilize conference phone. We will have a Meeting Owl for use in the future. We may remain with a hybrid model for board meetings.

**Spokane SCIL update:** Quick turnaround for the proposal. Mels did part of the application and Mark went over it before submitting. It would be a separate center managed by DAC's board of directors. There is 3 years to decide how the management in the future will be done. We will hear at the end of the month. \$286,000 funding for the center. We have continued to pay for the storage of the previous SCIL inventory. Current funding ends the end of this month. We don't have a need for the conference table, Windows computers, cameras and tv's that is in storage so we could sell it or donate it.

**Post Falls/Lewiston Update:** Repairs completed in Lewiston from the summer rainstorm flood and insurance covered it. Shrubbery has been pruned back at Post Falls. We still have the sign to install this fall.

## ADMINISTRATION

**Financial Report:** As submitted. Karl explained how the investing is going. There may be a sustainable investing presentation to the board in the future. We aren't expected to have huge losses or gains due to the market. We are under our grant amounts due to lack of travel, less supplies, conferences, and staff because of the pandemic.

**Administration Report:** Looking for a new phone system (will be over \$5000). Feds did approve the Braille reader. We have 4 bids so far ranging from \$35,000 to \$65,000. SPIL is coming up for both states. Forums will be coming up, either in person or virtual. This determines the distribution of the Part B funds. Reeve grant is just getting wrapped up. Underspent because of Covid, so we just used funds to purchase ramp parts. Post Falls office staff have been doing a

lot of rural outreach when the pandemic was calmer. Lewiston staff have been busy in Covid support and outreach with the tribe. Statewide we are working on accessible recreation.

**Marketing Update:** As attached. WSU students are building a PAS site as a Capstone project. This connection brought the 508 accessibility requirements to the attention of the professor. Our hope is WSU will eventually change their curriculum to include accessibility in future website design. Mental Health videos will be out next month for Disability Awareness Month. We are looking at organizing a launch party depending on the pandemic.

**Board Reports:** As submitted. We will be receiving a roll-on scale for medical appointments to use.

**PAS Report:** Lost several assistants and customers. Due to the pandemic of not wanting people in their homes, and then we lose the assistant as well. What's left is family. We have been working throughout the state to address these issues. Facilities are having issues too. Electronic Visit Verification (federal mandate) kicked in September 1<sup>st</sup>. Some push back from it. It is not a HIPPA violation, and every provider has to do it. We are working to separate self-directed services and have them recognized in the review process. We encouraged assistants and consumers to reach out to their representatives about increasing the Medicaid budget. We can supplement PAS staff with other funds for at least a year.

**Constructive Thoughts and Public Comments:** Jean reminded us to be kind when advocating with people that may not have the same beliefs. STAY POSITIVE! WRAP peer support group of Sharlisa's has doubled in attendance. Looking for activities for her group. Sent her links to Mental Health Mondays and Game Night. Colleague from ADA trainings, Marilyn Golden, has just passed away.

## **MEETING AJOURNED**

Jean adjourned the meeting at 12:43 pm.

**Next meeting and Holiday Party will be December 16, 2021 not 5-7**