

Disability Action Center

These are minutes for the Annual meeting of the Board of Directors, September 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. virtually through Zoom and in person.

ATTENDEES:

Mark Leeper
Tom Newhof
Karl Johanson
Sharlisa Davis
Jean Coil
Byron Waters

Staff:

Vicki Leeper
Steve Corr

UNEXCUSED ABSENT: Mike Smith

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Stanley Dau, Katherine Haggard, Barbara Merchant

PUBLIC: Erin Ferrier

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 10:12 a.m. by Jean Coil.

- Roll Call.
- Announcements –

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Add Permission for Pre-Ets funding, Autoshop renting lot, and Idaho Dept of Education funding.

Agenda was introduced with additions.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6/22/23:

- Karl made the motion to approve minutes.
- Byron seconded the motion
- Motion passed by unanimous vote

ACTION ITEMS

Inatai Grant: \$50,000 for Spokane

Received the final \$50,000 grant from Inatai. Disability Pride event and Police training video came out of these funds.

WA/ID Part B Grants: WA B - \$70,668.60 and ID B - \$17,403 (\$1934 Match)

Funding that goes to the states, then to us

WA/ID Part C Grants: WA C - \$297,534 and ID C - \$467,818

Funding that comes directly to us.

ITD Grant: \$94,080

Volunteer driver program with accessible vans

- Karl made the motion to approve and accept the above grants.
- Byron seconded the motion.
- Motion passed by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Apply for ERC – Employee Retention Credit:

LINC and Life have applied for the funds. Life used a third party, LINC did it through their accounting. Mark has found centers are eligible for it. Potential \$500,000 unrestricted funds. We have until April to apply for it.

- Byron made the motion to apply for ERC
- Tom seconded the motion.
- Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Apply for Pre-Ets Funding Idaho Department of Education: 9 million to students in Idaho

Approving a partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation. Department of Education we can education what your rights are, how to request an accommodation in the workplace, job shadowing. Looking at the \$50,000 range to pay for a new position.

- Byron made the motion to apply for Pre-Ets and Department of Education
- Karl seconded the motion.
- Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Future of INDEX:

We will have two open positions at the end of this month. There are feelings that we are not a safe place to work. Erin is our current program manager has been great filling in. Another employee wants to do what they want (housing and education) and that is not what DAC can do within our grant. There has been a lack of data for years, other than what Aerius and Erin puts in. Another employee had conflicts over the use of the word “special” on social media and now are not feeling safe working here. We have found out they have been talking about DAC not accommodating with other organizations and in front of other staff members. Mark has instructed Erin to take the high road in responses. Mark will talk with risk management to get

some background. Mark is working with Erin about re-analyze what is needed and build positions on that. That may mean eliminating the social media position at INDEX. We defend the rights of everyone, but we want to be inclusive of all. Mark proposes dropping INDEX and have it as DAC NW in Spokane, just like Moscow, Post Falls, and Lewiston. Originally, we thought we would spin it off after 3 years. But the contract is not written that way. Tom pointed out they are creating a hostile environment that they think they are subject to. Mark will do his best to contact members of the advisory board and explain what is happening. Mark would change the social media/outreach position to IL advocate related. He is also looking at moving to a north Spokane location. Tom suggested as long as public transportation is available. Erin joined the meeting to meet the board and introduced herself. Tom mentioned interest in connecting about the blind. Karl mentioned wanting to connect over transportation.

- Karl made a motion to drop INDEX and re-brand as DAC NW in Spokane.
- Sharlisa seconded the motion.
- Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Autoshop possibly “renting” lot:

The autoshop next door is short of parking. They would pay for graveling the upper part of the lot so they can park cars there. And they could do our servicing of company cars. Byron suggested looking into if it needs to be paved in order to park cars there. Karl suggested checking with Clear Risk about potential liability. Mark will pursue it and bring an agreement back to the board.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Stipend: (form attached, for voting and honorary board members)

Board members will opt in if they want to receive the funding. Sharlisa would like to donate half back as inkind. Karl mentioned it's good to track the hours for future grant applications.

Roof for Lewiston Office:

The roof keeps leaking and requires repair every time. Received a quote for \$29,000 M and D Roofing for a membrane roof. Steve can find some more quotes. Tom will check with who did their roof. Storm drain boils up and Steve recommends getting a backflow valve. Mark said they couldn't find a break in the line from the street. Mark would like to talk with a realtor about what the building would be worth with or without the new roof. HVAC is on its last legs, so two units need to be combined into one. Mark would like a committee to help him with that.

Karl suggested doing enough to protect the investment, to look at full improvements later. We could plan to sell and look at renting or buying in Clarkston instead.

An architect may have to be involved to raise the pitch.

Short term: needs drains fixed.

Long term: new roof, HVAC system.

- Karl made a motion to get the roof fixed including investigating changing the pitch.
- Byron seconded the motion.
- Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Administrative Updates

- Financial Report – As attached. Investment is at \$990,000. Checking is down because our Veteran Directed Care program has been costing \$170,000 a month. However, they are several months out so it can hinder our cash flow. Still trying to collect all of Medicaid services but the process is very slow. \$70-80 thousand is outstanding there. And the same for BlueCross as well. Mark has managed the cash flow. We can do our own financial management for a cost of \$19,000 at the beginning. University of Washington funding and transportation funding is also outstanding.
- Administration Report – Erin has been working on the workplan for the Spokane area, we are meeting as a group (retreat) next week to work on our workplan, review job descriptions, and team building. End of Fiscal year, Mark is working on reports for both Idaho and Washington. Renewing contracts for the next fiscal year. Once the amounts come in, we will build a budget including salary scale. Both Idaho and Washington are building their State Plan for Independent Living. Mark will invite Erin to take part on the Washington side. Washington has areas that are not served, so we can't spend federal funds in those areas. We are bringing BluePath to APRIL conference in California.
- Outreach Report – As attached. Mentioned the trip to Oregon for the Focus Group on BluePath. Finished second step of filming the First Responder training video. Should finish up filming in October. Sharlisa is working with Miriam on nutrition classes with U of I. They will combined the last 3 classes and make a big one. Hollyanna will help with it.
- Staff Report – We have had some great consumer success stories coming out of Lewiston and Post Falls. Hollyanna has been going to local and rural senior centers and connecting about DAC services and access to medical care. James and Miriam have been busy with VR Benefits Planning. It pays \$850 per consumer, and we have made a small profit with the program.
- PAS/VDC Report – We are paying salary to caregivers. We receive a payment per veteran (averages \$843) Bringing in over \$30,000 a month. October 1st is the renewal process, we will have 43 veterans in the program. There are approx. 10 more veterans coming on. We have lost 16 veterans because they don't want to follow the program and to death. Steve thinks VDC is a better program than the Medicaid program where we have 86 consumers.

Constructive thoughts: Tom asked after Mike Smith.

MEETING AJOURNED

Jean adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm.