



Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
 Community Living Committee
 Meeting Minutes
 11:00 a.m.

<p><u>Vision Statement</u> People with developmental disabilities can become independent, productive, people, fully integrated and included in their communities and in the fabric of our society.</p> <p>People with developmental disabilities have the programs, services and supports needed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be people first • Achieve their full potential 	<p><u>Mission Statement</u> To identify & promote strategies approaches and resources that support adults with developmental disabilities as they choose where and with whom they wish to live... and children with developmental disabilities in safe and nurturing family settings.</p>
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LOCATION:
 GoToMeeting

DATE:
 June 3, 2020

Members	Present
Michael Denlinger	X
Matt Harrison	
Emilia Jackson	X
Rochelle Hall Rollins	X
Ellie Jazi	X
Vicki Jenkins, DODD, Vice Chair	X
James Plasencia	X

Jill Radler, Chairperson	X
Joanna Spargo	X
Marcella Straughter	X
Dara Walburn	X

Policy Analyst

Fatica Diana Ayers	X
Ken Latham	X
Leslie Connelly	X
Paul Jarvis	X
Carla Cox	X

Fiscal Staff

Gary Groom	X
Robin Shipp	

Executive Director

Carolyn Knight	X
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GUEST(s):

Billie McAleer with James
Christine Brown, Nisonger Center
Mark Seifarth, Special Advisor

Call to order

- The meeting was called to Order at 11:05 a.m. by Jill Radler, Chair Chairperson of the Community Living Committee.
- The Chair conducted roll call to determine who was present at the meeting.

Approval of September 12, 2019 Minutes

Jill asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

- **Michael Denlinger made a motion to approve the minutes as written.**
- **Dara Walburn seconded the motion.**

- **Roll call was conducted.**
- **Motion was carried.**

Approval of 2021 Continuation Projects

Jill asked Leslie to display the Summary of the 2021 Projects and then asked for a motion to approve the funding of the projects.

The question was asked because of COVID will the projects keep their funding at the current level?

Answer from Fatica was Yes, because Projects know how to turn funds in that they don't spend. Allow them to keep at current level just in case they do some creative things the funds will be available.

Jo Spargo made a motion to approve the projects for 2021 and Ellie Jazzie seconded the motion. The Roll Call was unanimous with Michael Denlinger and Ellie Jazzie abstaining.

Approval of SOAR Project & SILC

Jill turned the meeting over to Fatica and she shared the following comments:

- The goal of the SOAR Ohio Project is to expand the work and reach of SSI and SSDI to individuals in need. The first step in completing this goal is to increase the number of providers certified in SOAR methodology. The SOAR Online Course trains providers to assist individuals living with disabilities with the Social Security disability application process. The course is an Adult Curriculum for assisting with Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) claims for adults ages 17 1/2 to 62.
- Having providers certified in SOAR increases the access points for individuals to receive SSI and SSDI and can result in more applicants receiving services. The SSA national approval rate is 30%-32% within a 9-12-month timeframe. The SOAR Ohio claims are averaging a 55%-60% approval rate on all submitted claims within 100 days to decision. The SOAR Ohio Project works

at adding SOAR methodology as another tool in the providers' toolbox. With the implementation of SOAR training in Ohio counties, there will be an increase in submitted claims and a reduction of benefit delays. By connecting individuals with disabilities to SSI/SSDI benefits, individuals will have an income source to cover costs of living and will not be as reliant on DODD funds and remain stable housed.

- Training will be available to SSAs, Case Managers, SILC staff and anyone interested in being certified to have that skill.
- The funds are available.

Michael Denlinger shared that he was in favor of funding the project and he gave his reasons. Rochelle wanted to know if family members could be a part of the training and Fatica said yes.

After the comments Jill asked for a motion to approve funding of the SOAR Project:

- **James Plasencia made a motion to approve funding of the project.**
- **Michael Denlinger seconded the motion.**
- **After the Roll Call the vote was unanimous.**
- **The motion was approved.**

What should we fund in the next 5 years? (Open Discussion)

Jill turned the meeting over to Fatica who highlighted information from Paul's report which revealed the top three issues:

1. Housing
2. Providers/Direct Support Professionals
3. Transportation

Before Fatica turned the meeting over to Vicki Jenkins, Vice Chair to facilitate the 5 Year Plan discussion, she called on Michael Denlinger to share good news from Cincinnati and its transportation efforts. Michael shared the following:

- Taylor Liggins, Transportation Coalition Coordinator presented at the September 2019 meeting about the work being done regarding transportation. One of the issues they were working on was Issue 22.
- Cincinnati voters approved what supporters believe is the first in a two-step process toward boosting Cincinnati Metro bus service. Although most transit-related ballot measures take the form of a tax increase of some sort, voter approval of Issue 22 could actually mean a tax rollback — sort of.
- By approving Issue 22, voters decided to eliminate that 0.3% for Metro in anticipation of what transit advocates hope will be a successful campaign in 2020 to replace and enhance that local funding through an increase to the Hamilton County sales tax.

The meeting was turned over to Vicki Jenkins and below are highlights of the discussion.

Housing

1. Home Ownership
2. People need support in trying to own a home.
3. More Waivers for people to get a home or other service. There are primarily exit waivers. So, people who want to move out of their families' house are unable to because lack of waivers.
 - More waivers are a Public Policy issue.
4. People need to be aware of the options available to them as it relates to housing, so they are prepared for what they are about to get involved in.
5. Look at housing in all different angles.

Transportation

6. Transportation Post COVID... what will it look like? Look at different ways to get people out into the community.
7. Transportation cuts across all disabilities and people need access for community integration to be realized.
8. Council may want to advocate for self- Directed Transportation, so people with disabilities can go other places other than to their job or day program. Director Davis is pushing for that and it is being discussed in the Waiver Workgroup as a future effort.
9. Social distancing is an issue when it comes to transportation. How are companies handling that?

Direct Support Professionals

10. DSP role is so very important.
11. DSP keep training high school students for that option.
12. May have lost some DSPs because of COVID.
13. Pay gap is a big issue.
14. Council should do something with this issue.
15. The Ohio Department of aging has been hearing from their staff at their Area agencies on Aging that caregivers in the aging network are refusing certain respite services that require someone from a home care agency to come into the home and provide services (like personal care and homemaker). They had to adapt and work to find different ways to serve their consumers. Similar to what some of the other colleagues were saying, with DSPs, it's been hard on providers serving older adults, and will have a long-term impact past the initial COVID19 spike.

Miscellaneous

16. Lack of education and awareness.
17. People are not getting information.

Old/New Business

Vicki provided the date on the next GoToMeeting which will be held on Thursday, July 9, 2020. She asked what a good time and the committee was agreed on at 11:00 a.m.

Vicki then turned the meeting over to Jill Radler for final remarks and adjournment.

Adjournment

Jill asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- **Marci Straughter made a motion to adjourn.**
- **Ellie Jazzi seconded the motion.**
- **The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.**