



Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
Community Living Committee
Meeting Minutes

<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 seen as 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:

Embassy Suites - Dublin
5100 Upper Metro Place
Dublin, Ohio 43017

DATE:

July 11, 2019

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

Blaine O’Leary	
James Plasencia	X
Jill Radler, Chairperson	
Joanna Spargo	X
Marcella Straughter	X
Renee Wood, Special Advisor	X
Mindy Vance	X
Dara Walburn	X

Policy Analyst

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

Fiscal Staff

Robin Shipp	
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Executive Director

Carolyn Knight	X
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GUEST(s):

Billie McAleer with James
Christine Brown, Nisonger Center
Rhonda Rich, ODDC Member
Linda Kunick
Debbie Kunick (w/ Linda)
Michelle Bodan (w/Marcella)
Rachel Rice, ODDC Member
Mark Seifarth, Special Advisor
Cathy Henthron, Director of Finance
Natalie Lupi, Executive Director of MEORC
Heather Cameron, Investigative Agent

Call to order

- The meeting was called to Order at 3:50 p.m. by Vicki Jenkins, Vice Chair Chairperson of the Community Living Committee.
- The Chair asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of March 6, 2019 Minutes

Vicki asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

- **James Plasencia made a motion to approve the minutes as written.**
- **Michael Denlinger seconded the motion.**
- **Motion was carried.**
- **Mindy Vance abstained.**

2019 State Plan Amendment for the Strengthening the Voices of DSPs Project

- Vicki shared with the committee Director Davis is supporting the development of a single assessment and service plan document for anyone receiving DD services in Ohio. In order to develop these documents, a workgroup has been formed. They are focused on creating a diverse workgroup that represents the various roles impacted within their system.
- They are requesting funds to support the Ohio ISP workgroup. These funds will be used to support workgroup members who will be critical to the group in informing the development and implementation of the single assessment and service planning template in Ohio.
- \$6000 will cover needed stipends, administrative expenses, and other expenses necessary to support the group's work for 12 meetings.
- The Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals as agreed to collaborate and ensure that stipends are provided equally to all.

After some discussion Vicki asked for a motion to approve the 2019 State Plan Amendment for \$6,000.00 support the ISP workgroups:

- **.Michael Denlinger made a motion to approve the \$6,000.00 to support the ISP workgroup.**
- **Matt Harrison seconded the motion.**
- **The motion was approved.**

Presentation from MEORC regarding Data Research Project

Vick turned the meeting over to Cathy Henthron, Director of Finance, Natalie Lupi, Executive Director of MEORC and Heather Cameron, Investigative Agent. A hand-out was disseminated and below are highlights of their presentation:

- The Mid-East Ohio Regional Council (MEORC) provides innovative products and services to 19-member county boards, providers, and to people with developmental disabilities in Mid-East Ohio.

Background information:

- The title of their presentation was: Lowering the rates of abuse so that we can reduce the financial impact to the system and focus on improving lives.
- MEORC would like to conduct a research project that would change the system from a reactionary model to a model focused on learning, analysis and innovation for improvement.
- With Federal & State requirements for increased community integration & inclusion, the risk of people with developmental disabilities to be abused and exploited will increase.
- Increased integration means more opportunities and a heightened level of vulnerability and risk of abuse & exploitation.
- State and National Statistics on abuse highlight the upward trend of increased frequency of abuse.

- The workforce challenges facing providers in recruiting & retaining employees; raises the level of vulnerability-limited pool of qualified candidates.
- The on-going turnover rates-increases the amount of hours worked and the use of substitutes.
- The drug addiction epidemic in Ohio, places vulnerable people with developmental disabilities at increased risk of violence, financial exploitation and human trafficking from family, friends, and strangers.
- Data sources cited were from 2012, 1995, 1992 and 1994 studies.
- The rates of reported MUI Abuse (Physical, Sexual, Verbal) and other key MUI categories have remained consistent or have increased over time.
- Reported MUI's impact everyone in the system. • People Supported & Families, • Direct Support Professionals, • County Board Staff, • COG staff • Taxpayers.
- Currently, there is not a systematic process in place to support these groups of people with initiatives that focus on prevention
- . The existing MUI system is a reporting & investigative mechanism that addresses MUI's on an individual level not on a systems level.

What MEORC would like to do:

- MEORC has the ability to drill down into each MUI category to identify the root causes and contributing factors of key MUIs in the system.
- MEORC has the expertise to analyze the systems' level data and develop recommendations that can support County Boards in systematic improvement in key MUI categories such as physical, sexual and verbal abuse.

- They propose to develop a New Prevention Based System which uses data to drive decisions.
- New system will focus on key MUI data around abuse.
- Will identify the key cause and contributing factors and develop initiatives to support the reduction of abuse and other key MUI categories
- Use data to identify and measure changes in the system to determine the impact of the prevention measures.
- MEORC will identify financial impact to the system of key reported MUIs. • MEORC will develop recommendations for potential initiatives to reduce the financial impact to the system.
- Potentially drill down into the data to determine root cause of the highest impact.
- Analysis of key cause and contributing factor to physical abuse during a specific time period (say last 3 years).
- Additional analysis of trends by types of MUI.
- Develop prevention initiatives that focus on decreasing the financial and emotional impact on the system.

Old/New Business

Does the committee want to fund MEORC Project?

Reaction by Council Members to the presentation:

Vicki who is involved with DODD registry Unit stated they have lots of data and their data is statewide as MUIs are submitted to DODD in its Incident tracking system. Yes, the current system is reactive, as it is required to be reactive as they are required to make sure that incidents/allegations of abuse and neglect are investigated.

DODD's current incident tracking system is one of the best in the county. The current system was developed in response to negative results of a CMS review of the system that was in place at the time. Generally, people don't react until they have something to react to. Once the MUI Unit reviews MUI extreme effort is taken to provide alerts, webinars, webcasts and in person training.

The issue with the proposal is that it places attention on the cost of the investigation to the provider. The committee does not believe it to be appropriate to de-emphasize the harm of an incident of abuse or neglect to an individual with developmental disabilities and they are concerned that this proposal would do just that. A cost benefit analysis on the price of investigations is unnecessary and provides no new data. Everyone knows that the investigations are expensive, but such is the process. Investigations are required and mandated regardless of cost. Additionally, it is impossible to estimate the true cost which is to the victim themselves.

The prevention effort would have to be vast and include guardians, family members, SSAs, case managers, ICF staff, day provider staff, employers, etc.

Carolyn still plans to pull together a group which includes MEORC to determine the best use of Council dollars that could address the issue MEORC has raised.

Adjournment

Vicki asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- **Matt Harrison made a motion to adjourn.**
- **Dara Walburn seconded the motion.**
- **The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.**