



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"> <li>• Be people first</li> <li>• Achieve their full potential</li> </ul>	<p><u>Mission Statement</u>          To identify &amp; 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:  
 July 9, 2020

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

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

Policy Analyst

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

Fiscal Staff

Gary Groom	X
Robin Shipp	

Executive Director

Carolyn Knight	X
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GUEST(s):

Christine Brown, Nisonger Center  
Eric Raftburn

**Call to order**

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

**Approval of June 3, 2020 Minutes**

Vicki asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

- **Michael Denlinger made a motion to approve the minutes as written.**
- **Rochelle Hall - Rollins seconded the motion.**
- **Motion was carried without objections.**

### **Approval of 2021 State Plan Amendment for the Transportation Coalition**

Vicki asked Leslie to display the 2021 State Plan Amendment for the continuation of the Transportation Coalition activities and Fatica went over it.

Vicki asked for a motion to approve the 2021 State Plan Amendment:

**Rochelle Hall- Rollins made a motion to approve the 2021 State Plan Amendment and Michael Denlinger seconded the motion. The Roll Call was unanimous . The motion was approved.**

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

Vicki turned the meeting over to Fatica. Fatica went over the Planning timelines and shared the following:

1. All language should be completed by November 16, 2020.
2. All new projects from all committees will be shared at the December 2020 full Council meeting
3. January 2021 Council's new 5 Year Plan will be disseminated in order to obtain public comment.

Vicki began the open discussion by going over the following:

- Council priorities based on the Strategic Plan.
- Goals created at the December Strategic Plan meeting.
- Issues that surfaced for the Community Committee to fund based on the results of the survey that was conducted.
- She stated in the last meeting the emerging topics were housing, DSPs/Caregiving, Transportation.

## **Vicki started the discussion by focusing in on Transportation.**

She shared the following “Wish List” from the current grantee:

- More full-time staff. We were able to hire two additional full-time AODT staff with our merger with Athens Public Transit at the start of 2020. Currently, AODT operates with 1 full-time manager, 1 full-time dispatcher, 1 full-time driver, and 8 part-time drivers. More full-time staff would potentially allow us to provide more service. In addition it would provide a more stable, meaningful jobs for our region.
- Additional accessible vans. Additional vehicles would allow us to provide more service.
- Better outreach so the DD community knows what’s was available to them. I would ideally like this to include information beyond our transportation services.
- Continued expansion of hour especially on the weekends and the evenings. Starting in 2020 we have been able to add (or rather bring back) Saturday service and increase our evening hours until 7:30pm. We would like to provide service on Sunday and longer hours in the evening.
- Out of county trips. Currently, AODT operates only within Athens County. We would like to be able to provide trips outside of the county.
- The ability to coordinate with other agencies to plan and provide transportation to the DD community to events.
- Additional vehicles with the ability to transport more than one mobility devices at a time.

**Vicki Jenkins and Leslie Paull shared a suggestion from the Employment Committee and it centered around transportation as it relates to employment.**

- **The idea was to research transportation models to determine what is the best model.**
- **Consider** Transportation Post COVID... what will it look like? Look at different ways to get people out into the community.
- Social distancing is an issue when it comes to transportation. How are companies handling that?

- 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.

Vicki shared that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is already doing a report involving multi agencies to coordinate access to transportation. It should demonstrate the various models available across the state.

**After much deliberation the committee decided on the following:**

- *Fatica will contact ODOT and find out what they are working on and report back.*
- *Fatica will draft language for a non-funded initiative to direct Council to advocate for the Self – Directed Transportation Waiver.*
- *Fatica will draft language that will direct HAPCAP to work on more out of county trips. And provide outside of the county. They should continue to coordinate with other agencies to plan and provide transportation to the DD community to events.*

### **Direct Support Professionals**

**Vicki opened this next discussion by sharing the “Wish List” that the current DSP grantee provided which is the following:**

1. Prior to pandemic the grantee was working on a “White Paper” to outline data and recommend a statewide tiered system for DSPs that established step increases for the various levels and also built in a path to transition from a DSP to other roles within our field.
- The grantee put the final edits on hold during the pandemic knowing we would no doubt learn a great deal more about the resilience of DSPs and what their needs are post-pandemic.
  - The project has collected data from surveys and studies conducted amid the crisis, and plan to edit the paper with this new information. It won't change the overall recommendation, however they believe it will solidify the stance that

DSPs are *professionals* and deserve to be *recognized* as such with the ability to earn a living wage and increases commensurate with their experience and training.

- The overall tone of the paper will give credit to Ohio for being the ONLY state in the country that has a competency based add-on, but will outline the challenges of the current structure and recommend a "retooling" of the concept that encompasses all DSPs.
2. Project would like to potentially secure money for a 2 year project to work with the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals to give all DSPs access to their new E-badge academy as a means to establish levels and promote the growth of DSPs.
    - The NADSP e-badge academy allows DSPs to utilize training such as theirs and then they apply their knowledge through submitting examples of their work.
    - In the early conversations, it was suggested that perhaps the National DDC would be interested in directing extra money to Ohio for us to be the first state to adopt the NADSP e-badge academy.
  3. They would like to ask for support to develop marketing materials and strategy for growing the high school program. There is huge potential for this program to bring a lot of new DSPs into the field.

Vicki opened the floor for discussion and the following comments were made:

- E- Badge is good but need other types of free on-line training for DSPs.
- DSPs will need to learn remotely.
- Need to change mentality of DSPs to treat the person they support as family.
- Council can promote the add on for Competency Based training.
- Council should have DSPs tell us about what they need. (**Answer: Fatica stated we can ask Paul to provide information from the survey that shares exactly what DSPs said they needed.**)

**Paul Jarvis reminded the committee that** The Data and Policy Research Grant is conducting research on Employer Resource Networks and their ability to recruit and retain DSPs. Given the last 3 budgets included pay increases, Council wanted to examine other ways that DSPs could be supported. Council also provided funding and support for the creation of the Ohio DSP campaign and website.

Fatica reminded the committee another topic that emerged was the issue of Caregiving period. She stated she asked Emilia Jackson from the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) what aspect of the “Aging Caregiving Project” would the Ohio Department of Aging like to continue and she said the “Cross walking” activity.

**After deliberations the committee agreed on the following as it relates to the issues of DSPs/Caregiving:**

- **Review results of the survey pertaining to comments that DSPs made.**

### **Housing**

Vicki opened the meeting to discuss the issue of Housing. Fatica commented by stating the current housing grantee stated we should continue pushing collaborating between DODD, OHFA and the other stakeholders. Council should also push for the Ohio Association of County Board Association create a housing position.

All in all Council has already done a lot with housing.

After minimal discussion on housing the committee decided to wait and see what happens during the next five years and possibly fund something as the need is brought to our attention.

### **RECAP OF THE MEETING:**

The next meeting that will be held Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. the agenda will cover the following:

## Transportation:

- *Fatica will contact ODOT and find out what they are working on and report back.*
- *Fatica will draft language for a non-funded initiative to direct Council to advocate for the Self – Directed Transportation Waiver.*
- *Fatica will draft language that will direct HAPCAP*
  1. *To provide trips outside of the county.*
  2. *They should continue to coordinate with other agencies to plan and provide transportation to the DD community to events.*
  3. *Provide technical assistance and training to counties that maybe able to replicate what has been done in Athens.*

## DSPs/Caregiving:

- **Review results of the survey pertaining to comments that DSPs made.**

## Old/New Business

Vicki assisted the committee on determining when the next meeting will take place. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 3:00 p.m

## Adjournment

Vicki asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- **Michael Denlinger made a motion to adjourn.**
- **Rochelle Hall Rollins seconded the motion.**
- **The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.**