

## NACDD Board of Directors – In Person meeting – July 11, 2017

Welcome—Shannon Buller and call to order at 9:35am

Shannon as acting President has appointed Heidi Lawyer, VA as Interim Vice President until a special election can be held

Attendance:

*Board Members: Shannon Buller, Acting President; Steve Gieber, Board Secretary; Dan Shannon, Board Treasurer; Adonis Brown, North Carolina; Heidi Lawyer, Acting Vice-President; Vicky Davidson, MO; Joana Cordry, TX; Kristin Britton, MA; Charles Hughes, MS; Aaron Kaufman, MD (via phone)*

*Consultant: Dee Lewis, Texas Education Agency*

*Network: Val Bishop, SC; Arlene Poncelet, SD; Pat Maichle, DE; Debra Swingley, MT; Claire Mantonya, UT*

*NACDD: Cindy Smith, Robin Troutman, Donna Meltzer*

Change to agenda based on conversation last night between Shannon, Heidi, Donna and Dee Lewis Federal funding is in trouble and therefore must be addressed today in meeting. We must be united in decisions we make.

Review of minutes

- Motion to approve with corrections—Adonis
- Steve Gieber seconded
- Joana Cordry abstained
- Minutes approved with corrections at 9:47am

Shannon discussion—some concerns on both sides of table about how board and staff are working together. Need to start listening better and talking to each other more. Need to identify as a collective rather than individual. Times are tough right now and we need to make tough decisions and need to work together. What can we live with? What can we live while representing all 56 Councils and not just our own? Must look at bigger picture.

What are we trying to achieve today? Talk about the NACDD budget and how to work with the finance committee to create the budget for FY18. Also discuss federal budget

### **Discussion with ACL—Jennifer Johnson, Andrew Morris, Sara Newell-Perez**

Purpose is to begin dialogue around proposal that was in the President's FY18 budget. The initial skinny budget, while had no direct impact on ACL there was a huge cut to Meals on Wheels. Important role is that Councils continually educate the importance and role of programs. Because not as well-known as MoW, need to be more vocal to show role. ACL was directed to make cuts, along with HHS and OMB and a lot of back and forth.

Another directive was to reduce "duplication." Are there ways to agree or disagree with that

ACL asked to put together a stakeholder engagement plan in a very tight timeframe (about 2 months). Updates on process will be given to HHS and OMB per directive. How mend the authorities of the three programs (Councils, SILCs, TBI). DD Councils are the biggest, most sophisticated program; Councils should lead on how to design this potential program should the President's budget proposal go through. ACL not able to interact with Congress directly but will need Councils and NACDD to inform and educate. ACL will have some conversations with Congress and States to inform of process and talk about impacts.

Key engagement sessions with NDRN, NACDD, AUCD, CILs, and will also include other like The Arc. Email account is being set up to receive comments on process and what could the program look like. 10 key questions will be given out during sessions for discussions.

ACL is under the assumption that FY18 will be either a CR or omnibus therefore this "plan" will affect FY19.

Comment from the phone—reach out to Chair the CCD to be able to reach a number of stakeholders at one time. Also have MO and OK who have key Members of Congress.

Emphasis of President's budget is on services. Private sector can provide it better than the public sector. Councils are therefore in a pretty vulnerable position because of the lack of services provided. The more information where we can demonstrate where Councils are making concrete change and the breadth of progress, the more powerful the story will be. Shift how to talk about Councils—not necessarily lose the discussion on "systems change" but talk about progress and affect on people with I/DD.

ACL encourages Councils and NACDD to reach out to Members of Congress, Melissa Ortiz, and Mary Lazare, and Governors, to let them know about the stakeholder engagement process and the tight timeline.

#### Timing of Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

1. Associations week of July 17<sup>th</sup> (in-person) and July 24<sup>th</sup>
2. First week of August—webinars for grantees (Councils)

There will be 10 questions that will be discussed during listening sessions and NACDD will provide written responses.

If NACDD could be bring a person from the board or network is that possible? -- ACL says that possibly the second session. They want to be flexible and listen to the stakeholders.

When the email box is available, should multiple voices send emails discussing the difficulty of the 2-month timeline? ACL says that volume of voices can help but no guarantee it will make a difference

Comment from Adonis Brown—the work that Councils and ILs do different work. Councils have been the best voice to reduce the Country from institutions. If Councils are reduced, people with DD are going to lose. We need to change mindsets but if Councils are reduced or eliminated that will not happen.

Important to figure out what the NACDD and Council strategy will be. Given ACL is in the federal government, they have to follow the President's priorities—find efficiencies, reduce duplications

Comment from Heidi—While Councils as a whole are more sophisticated than the other programs, each individual Council is different from another. We all need to be close to the Governor's office and the DSA, and respond to ACL requests for information. Must be able to demonstrate impact and value and not just in training.

Comment from Joanna Cordry—Texas provides a number of grants to private organizations to build capacity. Does this show the impact? ACL says really need to emphasize building capacity of communities and providing services.

Comment from Shannon Buller—Wyoming is a minimum allotment state with a large geographic area, reduced the amount of grants because didn't see the return on investment. They brought the work in house to do more work such as Employment First. Should they go back to grant making? ACL says they are still making investments into the community even if not granting money to smaller groups.

Comment from Shannon—If Councils are the most sophisticated, and have mandatory seats on their Councils, why not add seats for SILCs and TBI? ACL says given the process and their directive, that would not have been an accepted solution.

Comment from Steve Gieber- Involved in extremely conservative environment his time in Council. If they could find agreements between the Council and his Administration, they have been able to work together better. There is much they disagree on, but find it easier to work together when they agree

Comment from Dan Shannon—One of things to talk about is how to make this work logistically? Also cant merge three and then cut the funding in half. Small amount of money with large amount of responsibility- there are going to be major cuts to both staff, services, and outcomes. ACL says that needs discussion on why the funding number is not realistic.

Heidi Lawyer—if the funding levels do changes, then some of the mandates will have to be taken off the table

Kristin Britton—it will in the long-run cost more money if the plan goes through. We need to make a better case of the cost savings and impact and what will happen if the plan goes through.

ACL—there is no intent to dismantle ACL but the overall message from the Administration is that they want to change the way the government is structured, by reducing duplication, saving money, making things more efficient. This Administration is taking a different tone than seen in the past but these are the broader discussions going on but throughout the entire federal government. Building relationships is key.

Charles Hughes—were we selected because we are the largest organization with a largest budget? And if so, then why not just reduce the amount. ACL says goes back to their directive but also because Councils are vulnerable.

Comment from Claire Mantonya- people have gotten their voices because they started on a Council. Many state legislators, school board members and other key valuable members of communities and states have started their careers by being on a DD Council. Delaware states that all legislators in the state have either been a Council member or Partners graduate. To take Councils out of the picture will

be a huge disservice to communities. ACL says that is what needs to be included in the message. Raise the visibility.

Comment from Val Bishop—SC has really worked to build relationships with their SILCs so how does that not shoot themselves in the foot when they want to combine the programs.

Next steps—any follow up thoughts to please contact Jennifer/Andrew via email.

Donna—as part of the TA Contract, we developed a 5-year investment toward impact report. Will use this to show why we are important and the impact Councils have made in the last 5 years.

Discussion on Budget with Donna Meltzer

*Comment from Aaron—we all do great work but there is a great deal of acrimony.*

How do we create a budget by looking at the strategic plan? We look at the plan and determine what is a priority for the organization to reach out goals and strategies. Board determines the priorities and goes back to the finance committee to find the place in the budget to make that priority happen.

Finance committee and accountant constantly keep track of spending and analyzing how affects budget and if things need to be moved or saved

Just because it is in our Strategic Plan do we still have to do it? Our goals and strategies should remain constant but tasks under those categories may change due to environment we find ourselves in.

Areas of concern regarding the budget:

1. Contractors—do we need to be spending money on people in these positions. What do they do and whom do they serve? Donna gave answers and explained the necessity and role of each of our contractors. She explained that they save money by bringing expertise to an issue without having to bring on another full time staff person.
  - a. Van Scoyoc—lobbying firm
  - b. Sandra Walter—development
  - c. Civic engagement—Cornell Woolridge, CivicSolve— Will this continue without us? Does the OneVoteNow website need to continue? Can we get analytics on the website.
2. Financing projects that may or may not be affecting all Councils
3. Payroll—why is there a 25K-30K overage in the payroll for this year
4. Office space
5. Accounting—why have we spent almost the entire budget through May? Does it make sense to hire someone part time in DC? Or just switch in general?
6. Policy hiring
7. How much time spent on communication of explaining these items

Motion to take a break until 6pm—Heidi Lawyer

Dan Seconded the motion

Approved by vote to break until 6pm back in Timpanogos at 1:22pm

Re-Convened at 6:10pm

Communications from staff to board—Is the Staff putting out adequate information to the Board in a timely manner prior to each call or meeting? The conclusion is that the board is receiving a lot of good

information but there are instances when the information has not been sent out in enough time prior to the call or meeting.

Payroll—why is there such a discrepancy between what was budgeted for salaries and what is currently being spent, plus how salaries are trending for FY17. Staff will discuss with accounting firm why the trend is so off from the budget

Policy position--- now that Cindy is leaving, how do we fill that position, at what level, and what salary? NACDD has received a number of applications for the position at a lower salary level than the current.

Staff will revisit the issue of moving to a local accountant or accounting firm. Will ask colleagues to see who they are using

Office space—NACDD is housed within UCP and they are going through major restructuring. We receive regular updates from the highest-ranking person in the office but at this time there is no update on their situation. Staff has been looking at potential other space and also a rental broker but aren't moving forward until we know more.

Looking forward—what happens if things don't stay the status quo? Are we shaping our future or are we maintaining?

What is our relevance?

Goal is to slow the process down. Anyone meeting with the Commissioner should be bringing this up to her and work with her to slow down the process. We aren't totally against the program, but use the time better.

Motion to adjourn by Dan Shannon  
Charles Hughes seconded  
Motion approved by vote at 7:45pm