NACDD Board of Directors Call—April 14, 2021

Attendees: Steve Gieber (KS); Eric Stoker (UT); Vicky Davidson (MO); Val Bishop (SC); Jeremy Norden Paul (WA); Beth Swedeen (WI); Aaron Carruthers (CA); Kim Mercer Schleider (IL); Dan Shannon (MA); Julie Horntvedt

NACDD: Donna Meltzer, Robin Troutman, Erin Prangley, Sheryl Matney, Angela Castillo-Epps, Ada Chung, Rafa Rolon-Muniz

Guests: Kristin Britton (MA)

Absent: JM Lawrence (TN)

Call to order at 1:06pm

Approval of Minutes from January meeting: Vicky Davidson

Motion to approve- Dan Shannon and Eric Stoker seconded. Minutes from January approved at 1:07pm.

President’s Update—Steve Gieber

National Office and Board have shown great leadership as we are past the one-year mark of the quarantine. There is light at the end of the tunnel as more vaccines become available. We continue to look at how to reach those most impacted and less reached.

DD Councils and other groups are finally getting some money to address barriers to vaccine. This is a big step forward and shows the commitment of the new Administration and that they are well aware of the leadership that our Councils are providing.

DDAM was also a great success and I am so pleased that despite the pandemic we were still able to conduct a very robust effort. I know Rafa has some great metrics on this year’s campaign and we look forward to hearing more about that today.

As we turn our attention forward, we are planning for DPS, July’s TAI, and our Annual Conference in August – ambitious to be sure, but all of these events are needed and part of the reason for why we remain so connected and so strong.

As we move forward and hopefully soon away from everything being about the pandemic, we are focusing on how we help people with I/DD, their families, and their caregivers, move successfully back into the community. As a group, we will be spending time later this month examining some common themes and messages our whole network can use as individual Councils will begin working on what life beyond the pandemic looks like for people with I/DD. Is this the end of congregate settings? Will people fear or embrace the community? Will people with I/DD get back to jobs and have opportunities to re-hire their DSPs who helped them navigate the community? What will school look like for kids and adults with I/DD in higher education settings? So much to figure out. On April 27 we will have a storyboarding session with N&R Publications to think some of these things through and to figure out where we might be as a national network led by a national organization that can present common themes and messages to policymakers and can drive change that impacts lives locally.

**CEO Update—Donna Meltzer**

Kim—Can you provide additional information on the ITACC Contract contractor? We are working with Angela Ostrom, who is currently working with us on our vaccine education campaign. She is currently doing consulting work and will have time to work with us to put together the proposal given the time commitment of putting it together and the amount of work already on the plate of the ITACC Staff and NACDD staff.

Steve agrees that given the TA contract is half our budget, we need to put forth a solid proposal and if NACDD believes that hiring a consultant is needed, then he agrees.

MOTION (Dan Shannon)- While there is consulting language in our financial policies manual, Dan makes a motion to waive the current language in the manual to allow staff to move forward and hiring the consultant we believe will help us get the contract. Julie Horntvedt seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously by vote at 1:49pm.

Committee reports

**SAC—Eric Stoker**

The NACDD SAC met on March 11, 2021. NACDD updates included information about the Disability Policy Seminar and DD Awareness Month. The OK, UT, SC, WI and NV Councils all reported on how they are supporting self-advocacy during the pandemic. Programs are being pivoted to online and support is being provided in multiple ways to decrease the digital divide. Other topics to support advocates and advocacy include, transitioning from high school to employment, self-determination YouTube channel, youth advocacy through leadership forums and more. The SAC will meet again on June 24, 2021.

NACDD’s SA Discussion Series meetings were conducted on February 18th and March 18th . The February topic was,  *A new Year, a new Administration: How will you advocate in 2021?*The discussion starters/leaders were Erin Prangley of NACDD and Nicole Leblanc. Erin gave an overview of the new administration and Nicole shared information about her many advocacy efforts at the state and federal level.  Information was shared on opportunities for people to participate in advocacy and awareness activities throughout 2021.  A poll was also conducted to assess the participant’s experiences with the COVID-19 vaccine.

The March topic was, *Building Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Communities*. The discussion starters/leaders were Eric Stoker who discussed leadership training opportunities and Eric McVay who outlined the issue of waiting lists for people with developmental disabilities. Opportunities for other advocacy activities as well as barriers to inclusion were shared and captured. The series will not meet in April as we are using that time to engage in an “Advocacy in Action” month. The series will resume on May 20, 2021 at 4:00 pm Eastern. Part of the discussion will highlight activities and outcomes from April.

**Nominating Committee—Shannon Buller**

Big thanks to committee – Charles Hughes, Wanda Willis, Nancy Cronin, Kristin Britton, Daintry Bartoldus

Committee has received some nominees, but the committee is discussing the need for diverse candidates, and not just between ED vs. staff vs. Members; but also lived experience, race, etc. If we are going to talk about DEI, we need to demonstrate that in our board.

Vicky Davidson reminded us that Darryle Powell, ED of Alabama was interested last year and may be interested this year.

Steve Gieber brought up a concern that a current board member has not participated in most meetings since their tenure started in October 1, 2020. So, we will need to look at our bylaws to see what they say and how to move forward. Vicky Davidson will look at the bylaws and get with staff and Steve.

**Finance Committee—Julie Horntvedt**

Committee is looking at finance policies manual and employee handbook to incorporate some thoughts from the auditors. One of the policies is the Emergency Closure policy that was added to the Employee Handbook (and supplied by Dan).

**Motion** to approve the language in Employee Handbook and also copy language into financial policy manual—Dan Shannon. Seconded by Vicky Davidson. Motion approved by unanimous vote at 2:02pm

**Policy Committee—Kristin Britton**

The Public Policy Committee (PPC) held meetings in January, February and March to review federal legislative priorities, including COVID-19 related legislation, and FY2022 appropriations and hear from committee task forces and guest speakers.

**PPC MEETINGS**

The January meeting focused on the massive Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (H.R. 133). The $2.3 trillion appropriations bill included $900 billion in stimulus relief for the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States with a $1.4 trillion omnibus spending bill for the 2021 federal fiscal year (combining 12 separate annual appropriations bills) and prevents a government shutdown. Highlights:

* Once again, DD Councils were funded at a record setting level receiving $79 million, $1 million over FY20 funding. We also got report language protecting not less than $700,000 for technical assistance and training.
* Adult dependents with disabilities received their first COVID relief economic stimulus payment. This was a culmination of a seven-month coalition campaign.

The February meeting focused primarily on FY22 Appropriations strategy. Staff reported out the meetings occurring with Labor/HHS subcommittee members. This year’s meetings were enhanced by virtual participation from several executive directors who joined the  meetings with congressional staff. Staff also discussed the process for reintroduction of the Transformation to Competitive and Integrated Employment Act and other legislation expected to be reintroduced this Congress.

The March meeting included a guest speaker. Rebeccah Wolfkiel, MPP, National Association of State Head Injury Administrators (NASHIA) discussed their policy priorities and strategies for advocacy. There was a good discussion about collaboration in the states between NASHIA members and DD Council members. Staff also discussed the outline for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) that included several disability priorities including a 10% FMAP “bump” for HCBS services. Staff also gave an update on priority legislation that was reintroduced including: Raise the Wage Act, ABLE Age Adjustment Act, Student Mental Health Rights Act, and others. Finally, staff shared information about the Disability Policy Seminar where several DD Councils are taking the lead in organizing their state delegations.

**PPC TASK FORCES**

The PPC task forces were very active during this time, holding several meetings. Highlights of task force activities included:   
   
State Policy Task Force: The State Budget Emergency Task Force decided to expand their scope to include more state-based policy discussions and peer-to-peer opportunities. They met several times to discuss issues including obstacles to advocating in statehouses during COVID and employment issues in the states. Please contact Jeremy Norden-Paul for more information about this task force.

Emergency Medicaid Waiver Task Force: The task force continues to press for CMS guidance on how to convert K waivers to more permanent waivers. We have a request for a speaker from CMS to come to a task force meeting. The task force invited lawyers from the National Health Law Project to speak at our next meeting to come up with a concrete plan to move forward in organizing our membership around making waivers part of state plans. We continue advocacy on closing the digital divide and have engaged Sen. Warren’s office to help with strategic planning.

Medicaid in the Territories Task Force: The task force held its first meeting. They will be meeting on an “ad hoc” basis to continue strategic discussions on passing legislation that benefits the territories.

**Member Services—Robin Troutman for Kirsten Murphy**

The Member Services Committee met on March 16th to discuss the 2021 NACDD Annual Conference.  Staff indicated that the in-person conference was cancelled, and that we were able to get out of our venue contract with no penalty.  We will resume in person in 2022.  As a result, we would like to plan a more formal 2021 virtual conference.

Dates—the committee discussed potential dates that wouldn’t conflict with the Virtual TAI and also State Plan submissions.  Two weeks were suggested—July 26th-29th and August 2nd-5th.  The committee asked Robin to go to the Board for their approval (board agreed that August 2-5 was better although not ideal).  The theme would be Moving Toward Change which was the DD Awareness Month theme.

* Format
* Each day (Monday-Thursday) start at 2pm ET and end at 530pm
* Wednesday of the week would be the Champion of Equal Opportunity Award Ceremony (nomination forms to go out mid-April)
* General Assembly meeting will be held in September (September 9th)
* Topics:
* Conversation with the Administration
* ACL- Alison Barkoff, Reyma McCoy McDeid (at this time she was still Commissioner); Jennifer Johnson/David Jones
* White House—Kim Knackstedt
* New innovations
* Technology and access to broadband (not being able to use EBT early in pandemic)
* Meetings
* Assistive technology
* Needs of Advocates (SA Discussion Series)
* Next phase for Advocacy in Action
* Voting
* Sexual exploitation and sexual education for people with I/DD
* Bring in Elevatus and follow up discussions from TAI
* Vera Institute for Justice on trauma informed care
* Lessons learned from COVID (town hall style)
* Advocating during emergencies
* Self-Advocacy
* Family Advocacy
* Systems Advocacy
* Relationship building and maintaining

**Conversation on DEI—Donna Meltzer**

There is not much of an update due to conflicting priorities but we are finding ways to pick this back up. We want to be thoughtful about how NACDD approaches this work and not just be reactive to what is currently going on in the country.

Jeremy Norden-Paul—working in Washington on how to create a statement on being more equitable. It is a good idea on an working definition of some of these terms to start from. What does equity mean to the WA DD Council? Shared power and shared decision making and are they acting in a way that promotes and implements the shared power and shared decision making.

Next meeting will be on July 7th at 1pm ET

**Any Other Business**

Donna would like to share some calendar items

Tonight (April 14, 2021) is the AUCD Virtual Gala. You can register for free online

AAPD Gala is April 28th and is also free to register or donate. President Biden is expected to participate

NACDD and NADSP Webinar on Vaccines is April 15th

NACDD showing of 6000 waiting is on April 28th at 4pm ET and the registration link will go out on the 15th.

Motion to adjourn—Dan Shannon and Eric Stoker seconded. Motion adjourned at 2:26pm