

DakotaLink Advisory Council
Quartely Zoom Meeting
Meeting Notes
September 8, 2021

Members Present: Steve Stewart, Matt Cain, Ted Carrell, Jeff Kisecker, Richard Moeller, Eric Weiss, Sarah Rush, Katrina Mulloy was present for Tim Neyhart

Members Absent: Gaye Mattke, Deb Brinkman, Mary Sjerven, Linda Turner

Staff Present: Patrick Czerny, Page Hudson, Andrea Steele, Brett Burden

Guests Present: Jessica Sehnert, Jordan Trumbo

1. Meeting Start

Ted called the meeting to order at 10.32 am CT. Eric motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Steve seconded.

2. COVID-19 Status:

Wearing a mask is optional. However, they are being cautious and asking health questions before visitations. They are watching closely as the spread of the Delta Variant increases.

Eric suggested having an executive meeting 4 weeks prior to each advisory council meeting. This would allow the executive committee to go over the agenda as a group prior to the meeting. Page said he and the officers will start to do that. Ted asked if there was a certain number of meetings needed and Page said no just one.

3. Performance Measures

Patrick announced that there are over 70 responses so far and the survey count will restart on October 1 when the new grant fiscal year begins. The responses are positive. Some people ask questions. Those questions have been addressed as they come in. Survey Monkey is now called Momentive.

4. Outreach Efforts:

With some extra funds, DakotaLink has purchased a 30 second ad and an 8 minute interview on Keloland Living. Brett and Patrick were interviewed and it aired on Sept 7 and it will air again on November 22.

Jeff asked if DakotaLink has reached out to do PSA announcements with the ad. He suggested DakotaLink should share these outreach efforts in other media outlets.

Brett announced DakotaLink purchased some modern roll up banners. Each office will get 2 banners.

5. By-Laws Subcommittee – Status Update

The by-laws committee consists of Page Hudson, Steve Stewart, Gaye Mattke, Jeff Kisecker. There have been some drafts shared between committee members, but nothing is ready for the full group yet. The committee is still working on updating the by-laws.

6. Annual Progress Report

Page is collecting data now and plans to process the report in October. Eric asked for the report sooner rather than later. Jeff asked if this report goes to the federal government, or the state. Page replied that it goes to both. Eric suggested putting the annual progress report on the website. Jeff suggested that the advisory board look the progress report over before it is turned in to the state. It may need to be shared electronically before the next advisory meeting to ensure Eric has it early enough to review and have the Secretary sign off on it before submission. Steve reminded us that there are 2 versions and the one with the charts and graphs is always easier to comprehend. That is the version that will be reviewed.

7. Letters to Congress AT Act

Page reminded everyone that part of his job is writing letters to Senator Rounds, Senator Thune, and Representative Johnson. There was quite a bit of discussion on the proposed amended AT Act and the Covid Relief Bill. The Covid Relief Bill is not being pursued at this time and there is little hope that the AT Act will be taken up with all the other funding initiatives at the Federal Level. The AT Act fund has gone up very little over the last 17 years. Patrick added that it increased 1 percent this year.

8. Transition Plan

Brett is present today because he is assuming Patrick's position on March 1 2022. More duties are being assigned to him everyday. Jared Brown has been hired to take over Brett's duties. The technician position in Sioux Falls is still open, however a very good candidate was interviewed recently.

Patrick had a meeting with the state VR Counselors to get all referrals sent to DLsupport. This should help DakotaLink receive referrals in a consistent manner going forward and especially during this transition phase.

The Aberdeen office is moving a few doors down. Patrick is traveling to help Mark Cook move this Friday. Ted asked if the new building was bigger. Patrick replied that it is definitely bigger and since moving was not DakotaLink's desire, DakotaLink got a larger space at a very reasonable price.

Steve asked if referrals are still cc'd. Patrick explained that they are going to Jessica Sehnert and Kellie Hauglid accordingly. The referrals were not coming to DakotaLink through Faces, so Jessica was ensuring all referrals were forwarded to us. BIT was working on the issue.

9. MERR Update

Patrick stated that Page will take over managing the MERR program when Patrick leaves. Beds are in high demand. If 10 power chairs were sold each year, that would keep the doors open. Page and Patrick are going to try to meet with the people responsible for recommending power chairs like the actual Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists. Previously they had visited with the DME Providers who are still not using the system as much as they could.

11. Meeting Adjournment

The next meeting is set for December 8, 2021 at 10:00 am CT, 9:00 am MT. At 11:36 am CT, Richard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Eric seconded.

Notes taken by Andrea Steele