

DakotaLink Advisory Council
Quarterly Zoom Meeting
Meeting Notes
December 7, 2022

Members Present: Steve Stewart, Deb Brinkman, Richard Moeller, Kendra Gottsleben, Eric Weiss, Gaye Mattke, Lyle Cook

Members Absent: Matt Cain, Mollie Keating, Mary Sjerven, Melissa Bothun, Sarah Rush, Ted Carrell

Staff Present: Page Hudson, Andrea Steele, Brett Burden

Guests Present: Jordan Trumbo, Jessica Sehnert, Kayla Kane

Meeting Start

Steve called the meeting to order at 9:33 am MT, 10:33 am CST. Kayla Kane was a guest. Kayla works at the Brookings Vocational Rehabilitation Center. Lyle Cook is a new member from Oun'iyekiyapi Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. He accidentally did not get the email invite for our September 21st meeting. Kendra Gottsleben is another new member. She is a marketing Communications Specialist for Center for Disabilities.

Agenda

There were no additions to the draft agenda. Richard motioned to approve the agenda. Gaye seconded.

Meeting Notes

There were no corrections to the September 21st meeting notes. Eric motioned to approve the September 21st meeting notes. Kendra seconded.

Agency Presentations

Page made a list of people we may want to present, including Parent Connection, Department of Education, Disability Rights, Veteran Affairs, Adjustment Training Centers, and Paralyzed Veterans of America. Page asked if a short presentation during each council meeting is what we were thinking. Everyone agreed. Eric thinks Paralyzed Veterans of America should present to the council. Eric thinks PVA should relate their discussion to be around the assistive technology topic. Page will set these presenters up. Steve mentioned that he thinks DakotaLink or the SD Medical Equipment Recycle and Reuse company should do a short presentation during the council meetings. He suggested once a year to present to the council.

DRS Rules Revisions

All the rules that were changed were based on feedback from stakeholders to either expand programs or improve services to people with disabilities. The new rules went into effect November 22. A big change for DakotaLink technicians is the application for Telecommunication Equipment Distribution and Telecommunications Adaptive Devices has changed. The poverty level for the TED and TAD program increased from 300% to 400% of

poverty level. The Telecommunications Relay Services funds come from 15 cents from everyone's phone bill each month. The dollars go into the TRS fund. In that TRS fund, 90% is for Deaf and hard of hearing and speech impaired people and the other 10 % goes to other people with other disabilities.

Outreach

The Department of Social Services has four different advertisements running at the moment on FaceBook and Twitter for the SD MERR program.

DakotaLink and the SD Medical Equipment Recycle and Reuse companies both have a commercial running on KELO.

DakotaLink will be at the Special Ed Conference in March 2023. There is a South Dakota Conference on Developmental Disabilities held in Sioux Falls at the Convention Center September 6 & 7, 2023 that they plan to attend. The Technology Innovation & Education (TIE) office still owes DakotaLink a video. In January, the TIE office plans to work on that. Brett has a consumer lined up for that video interview.

DakotaLink has extra funds to start sending some technicians to conferences out of state in 2023.

Annual Progress Report

Page has completed this and submitted it to Pierre. He submits it to the Federal government by the end of December.

DakotaLink Review

Page and Brett meet with Jordan Trumbo and Jessica Sehnert each year for this. It is a way for the state to make sure DakotaLink is meeting its grant expectations.

Prevailing Leadership

Page and Brett are taking leadership classes with the Black Hills Special Services as they have recently taken on new leadership roles.

2023 Leadership Symposium

Page attends this annually. It is a 3-day event that usually occurs in Washington DC, but it will be done virtually in 2023 on March 28, 29, & 30. This is where Page speaks to the representatives and the Senate to present them with information about DakotaLink. This will in turn lead to more opportunities for DakotaLink.

SD Medical Equipment Recycle & Reuse Update

Everything with the MERR program has been going smoothly. The Department of Social Services are still sharing promotional material about the MERR program on their FaceBook page. There have been quite a few donations lately. The program is at \$265,000 worth of inventory right now.

The AT4ALL website is how we keep track of all of our activities that are required by the AT Grant. The website is run out of Nebraska. We will be getting training on website updates soon. Brett mentioned that the web hosting that they have now is outdated and they cannot update the hosting software, so they are having some delays on that situation. Brett and Page hope that they fix the website to their liking soon.

DakotaLink Low-Interest Loan Program

No new applicants. Steve mentioned that we should advertise for this in transit locations. Kendra asked if someone could do a video testimonial about the loan program. Video testimonials may be more effective than supplying reading material. Brett thought there may be one person that may be a good candidate for a video testimonial, but that person is hard to reach. DakotaLink can be more flexible with this loan program than most banks.

Next Meeting

The next virtual meeting is set for Wednesday March 8, 9:30 am MT, 10:30 am CST.

Meeting End

Richard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Eric seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 am MT, 11:36 am CST.

Notes taken by Andrea Steele