

DakotaLink Advisory Council
Quarterly Zoom Meeting
Meeting Notes
June 9, 2022

Members Present: Steve Stewart, Matt Cain, Ted Carrell, Jeff Kisecker, Richard Moeller, Gaye Mattke, Melissa Bothun, Sara Rush

Members Absent: Eric Weiss, Deb Brinkman, Molly Keating, Mary Sjerven

Staff Present: Page Hudson, Andrea Steele, Brett Burden

Guests Present: Jessica Sehnert, Jordan Trumbo

Meeting Start

Ted called the meeting to order at 9:30 am MT and 10:30 am CST. There were no additions to the draft agenda. Steve motioned to approve the agenda. Jeff seconded.

Additions to Agenda

As written in the previous meeting notes, "Jeff motioned to approve the December 8th meeting notes. No one offered a second on this motion so we will have to revisit this at the next meeting." Today Ted seconded the approval of the December 8 meeting notes.

Approval of the Agenda

Steve motioned to approve today's agenda. Jeff seconded.

Additions/Corrections to the March 10th, 2022, meeting notes

There were no corrections to the March 10 meeting notes.

Approval of March 10th, 2022, meeting notes

Jeff motioned to approve both the December 8 and March 10 meeting notes. Gaye seconded.

Council Officer Terms

Page would like to change the terms of the officers from 1 year to 2 years, requiring a change to the By-laws. Steve mentioned that our terms are 3 years. Page said a member would not have to term out if they were an officer. Jeff also recalled that if you were an officer that you can continue your term. Richard motioned to extend the officer term from 1 to 2 years. Jeff seconded. Page will update the by-laws to reflect that change.

Nominations for New Council Officers

Page motioned to nominate Eric Weiss for the Member at Large. Ted seconded. Jeff motioned to nominate Richard Moeller for the Vice Chair. Ted seconded. Page motioned to nominate Steve Stewart for the Chair. Ted seconded.

New Member Drive

Page reminded the council that we need new members with disabilities. Page has sent a letter to various agencies (adjustment training centers, paralyzed veterans, VR Counselors, Native Americans.) There was some discussion on new members. Council members will contact some people that they know and report back at the next meeting.

Outreach

Page contacted Midcontinent in regards to TV advertisements like Jeff had suggested in the last meeting, but we are not nonprofit, so we did not qualify. Brett said we still have KELO spots running until the end of September. We will keep Midco in mind for future advertising campaigns. In the near future, Page will look into advertising at the transit systems.

Brett knows of a customer who is interested in doing an interview. This interview could be used in the video that the TIE office owes us. The video could be used on the website and/or social media.

Steve reminded us that he would like us to report back with a list of agencies who we have reached out to and the result of each contact. Page said he sent newsletters out to the agencies that were recommended in previous meetings. Page said we did not get any referrals from these contacts, but they do know about us now.

Brett had a request after he did the SPED convention to do a presentation to the staff of Resources for Human Development via a webinar. They are inquiring about potentially using one of the Medicaid waiver programs to purchase equipment for people that they serve. The Medicaid "Choices" waiver is being rewritten right now and may include more options for technology access in the future. Jared and Brett have worked closely with Monument Health and a couple of speech therapists there. They have put together a support group together and we presented to that group on June 9th. We did get a couple TAD referrals from the speech therapist that runs the group.

State Plan

Page has been working on the state plan. He recorded everything that DakotaLink does. Page does these reports every 3 years. He submitted it last week to the state. Jordan Trumbo, Jessica Sehnert, and Eric Weiss will review that at the state level and then it will go on to the federal level to be reviewed.

MERR Update

The MERR program contract has been renewed for another year. There will soon be a campaign soon to promote the program. The Department of Social Services wants to promote the program more through social media and possibly print and video advertising. Steve asked if the state will be funding it themselves and Page replied yes.

Steve asked if we are planning an equipment drive and Page said we will not be since we have little room for more equipment at this point.

DakotaLink Low-Interest Loan Program

The loan activity has picked up. Brett Crosby signed a person up for a loan for a CCTV. There is another loan for a \$18,000 track chair for a gentleman who wants to use it for hunting and camping. There is a \$12,000 loan pending for someone who wants to buy a modified van.

Next Meeting

Page mentioned normally we would meet once a year in person, but we will not be doing that this year. He is following the lead of other AT programs and we will look at doing it next year in Fort Pierre. The next virtual meeting is set for Wednesday September 21st, 9:30 am MT, 10:30 am CST.

Meeting End

Richard motioned to adjourn the meeting. Matt seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 am MT, 11:09 am CST.

Notes taken by Andrea Steele