

**MDDC Meeting Minutes**  
**September 15, 2015**  
**100 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA**

**Present:** Matthew Bander, Kate Bartlett, Lisa Ching, Carol Curtin, Hillary Dunn, Lydia Brown, Bethany Brown, Erik Nordahl, William Conley, Suzanne Gottlieb, Christine Griffin, Julie Fitzpatrick, William Kiernan, Marie Narvaez, Tim Kunzier, Cyndy Miller

**Excused:** Sabrina Cazeau-Class, Gail Grossman, Naomi Goldberg, Phillip Harrison, Emily Korkaris, Kate Ryan, Irving Sacks, Robert Smith, Caroline vanBruinswaardt

**Absent:** Brianna Bevins, Crystal Hebert, Debbie Pierce, Donald Washington

**Guests:** Nicole Khuna, Amy Weinstock, Jan Tobin

**Staff:** Faith Behum, Kristin Britton, Craig Hall, Cathy Jackson, Harold Lieberman, Ashley McAnespie, Dan Shannon, Liz Fancher, Adelia DelTrecco

**1. Acceptance of Agenda:** Motion passed unanimously.

**Amendments:** Action Item added under number 3: Proposed meeting dates; Julie will be presenting

**Motion to accept (as amended):** First: Lisa Ching                      Second: Matthew Bander

**2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes:** Motion passed

**Motion to approve:** First: Kate Bartlett              Second: Matthew Bander

**3. Council Update (Julie Fitzpatrick, Chairperson)**

Updates:

Please complete meeting time survey and return to Adelia Del Trecco by the end of the meeting.

ArcMA 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be recognizing individuals and organizations that have shown dedication to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as dedication to the Arc and its programs. MDDC has been chosen as one of the 10 spotlight honorees. Dan Shannon will accept the award on behalf of the Council.

*Budget update:* No news on our allotment for FFY16 other than the estimate that AAIDD gave us in the spring. Under that projection we will be level funded. The House proposed budget level funded Councils but the Senate proposal includes a 5% cut to DD Councils. If a government shut-down does happen, we can operate on reserve funds for the time being. If the government doesn't pass a budget by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 then they could pass a Continuing Resolution, which would fund everything at level funding. During the Executive Committee

meeting earlier, we approved the proposed budget from Craig Hall. It's important to note that projections show that annual allotment reductions will begin to impact the Council starting next year. Carryover grant funds will essentially be gone by next October, which will limit what the Council can do in the next 5 year state plan (2017 – 2021). We will have to reduce and be more strategic about State Plan goals and objectives. We are looking for more volunteers for the State Plan Committee and encourage you to participate in the state plan development process.

Please review the membership directory to ensure your information is updated.

Materials in packets include:

Membership Directory; MDDC Project Activity Reports 2015-04-01 through 2015-06-30; Meeting Agenda; June Meeting Minutes; Letter from the Arc of MA about the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Public Policy Team report; SALS Report; MDDC 2016 State Plan Goals and Objectives; MDDC FFY 2106 Budget; Commonly used Acronym List; MDDC Communication Guideline Questionnaire.

**Proposed FFY16 Meeting Dates:**

Tuesday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Full Membership

Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (Executive Committee - all members invited to attend)

Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Full membership (Five-Year State Plan Approval)

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 Full Membership

**Motion to accept the proposed meeting dates for FFY16 passed unanimously:**

First: Lydia Brown Second: William Conley

**4. Membership Committee Report (Julie Fitzpatrick, Chairperson)**

No updates to be made. Adelia Del Trecco continues to be in contact with the Governor's appointments office in an effort to move pending appointments forward.

**5. Public Policy Report (Kristin Britton, Faith Behum, Liz Fancher)**

ADA Celebration: The day started with a parade and consisted of several speakers including Attorney General, Maura Healey. There was a great turnout from the community, and we also had a table at the event.

Educating policy makers: Congressman McGovern visit with Debbie Pierce and Sandy Houghton; Congressman Molten; Congresswoman Nikki Tsongas. The Public Policy team had 2 interns this past summer from Brandeis. The interns worked on understanding the DD Act; attended the Self Advocates Leadership Series (SALS) at the Cambridge series; attended hearings for our policy priorities; and worked on fact sheets for our policy priorities.

## **6. Program Updates (Ashley McAnespie)**

**SALS Update:** A copy of the SALS report may be found in Council packets. Highlights include updates on the SALS Western Massachusetts and Metro teams, and the SALS for Youth in Transition project.

**Independence College:** Changes were made to the curriculum based on year one experiences. Eleven students completed their practicums and conducted presentations on their projects. We have 2 students that need a deferment to next year due to medical reasons. We are currently recruiting for year two and the deadline for applications is Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. We have 39 applications to date. The Orientation is set for October 6<sup>th</sup>. We are also organizing a graduation dinner and ceremony for the year one students.

## **7. Grantee Update- Autism Insurance Resource Center (Amy Weinstock, Director, Autism Insurance Resource Center)**

The Council has been instrumental in the changes over the last 5 years, and how people access treatment. The Council got behind the Autism Insurance bill after the bill sharing session in 2008. The bill was to ensure Autism services were covered under private insurance. In 2010, Governor Patrick signed the Autism Insurance Bill. The Council was there at the signing. Last year MassHealth passed autism insurance coverage, however, it will only cover children up to age 21.

Autism Insurance Resource Center (AIRC) was created under Shriver Center and MA Disability INDEX. AIRC provides general information and training on autism insurance; provides individual assistance to help people understand what is covered; advises on alternatives when necessary treatments aren't covered. We knew we needed to get more information and the Council began to give grant funds to help AIRC.

What does the Council funding help us with? It enables us to help families; every dollar of council funding = thousands of dollars of treatments. It is changing the system for people with autism. By the numbers: We receive 3,605 individual calls (increasing each year); 2,559 training attendees and 946 webinar participants.

Question: Do you have calls/questions that come in across the lifespan? Yes. We have adult factsheets on insurance, and we also have families who called for their adult children, but they also have us talk with their adult child.

What are the critical areas that you will need to be addressing over the next 5 years?: Continuing to be active in the MassHealth implementation; working on 3 different types of insurance in MA; private insurance subject to MA law that they are complying; working with the MassHealth law

and getting it to cover the lifespan; private federally regulated insurance is not subject to MA law. We have a lot of advocacy work to do.

**8. State Plan Amendments (Dan Shannon)**

Dan advised the Council that 2016 is the final year of the current five-year plan and staff recommend no changes for the final year. Julie noted that the Executive Committee agreed with this recommendation.

**Motion to approve the 2016 State Plan Goals and Objectives with no changes** passed unanimously.

**Motion to approve:** First: Lydia Brown      Second: Henry Milorin

**9. FFY16 Budget (Craig Hall)**

Julie introduced Craig Hall, CFO to present the FFY 16 2016 budget as recommended by the Executive Committee. Craig conducted an overview of the budget process and a line item presentation of the prosed budget.

**Motion to approve the FFY2016 budget as recommended by the Executive Committee** passed unanimously.

**Motion to accept:** First: Matthew Bander      Second: Kate Bartlett

**10. Other Business/Public Input**

Julie reminded members to complete the Council Meeting Time Survey and the Communication Guidelines Questionnaire before leaving.

**11. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn** passed unanimously

First: Matthew Bander      Second: William Conley

**Time: 8:53 pm.**



12/1/15

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Caroline vanBruinswaardt, Secretary

Date



12/1/15

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Daniel M. Shannon, Executive Director

Date