# Minnesota State Council on Disability

## Meeting Minutes

QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 30, 2012

444 Lafayette, Room 5137, St. Paul, MN

## Attendance

Present: Council Members: David Schwartzkopf, Mark Hughes, Joani Werner, Carlos Vasquez, Laurie Hassett. Present by video: Kathy Peterson, Barb Stensland, Rev.David Sams, Robert Johnson, Kathy Wingen. Ex-officios present: Linda Lingen, Peg Booth, Neil Doughty, Jill Keen. Staff present: Joan Willshire, Margot Imdieke Cross, Diogo Reis, Claire Cosmos, Stuart Cross, Elizabeth Demski. Guests present: Nicholas Maryns, Deb Maruska, Bruce Nelson, Carol Rydell. Absent: Kim Tyler, Judy Friesen.

## Agenda

* Call to order
* Approval of agenda
* Approval of minutes
* Nick Maryns, Governor’s Workforce Development Council, discussion Of All Hands on Deck proposal.
* Legislative Issues – Diogo Reis
* Bruce Nelson from ARRM
* Guest Carol Rydell
* Manage Care Changes update – Deb Maruska (DHS)
* Subcommittee reports – Employment and Access
* Discussion of Annual Awards recognition event
* Budget
* Chair’s Report
* Executive Director’s report
* Other announcements
* Adjourn

## Minutes

The chair called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. Participants introduced themselves by location.

## Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Rev. David Sams motioned for approval of the agenda. Joani Werner seconded the motion. It was approved by voice vote.

Laurie Hassett motioned for approval of the September 26,2011 minutes; Mark Hughes seconded the motion. It was approved by voice vote.

## All Hands on Deck Proposal – Nick Maryns

Nick Maryns from the Governor’s Workforce Development Council presented recommendations from the All Hands on Deck proposal. Their council members are appointed by the governor representing business, education, labor and communities. The council is focused on improving employment, increasing skills and focusing on what the government can do, i.e. making Minnesota lead the way as an employer. The All Hands on Deck proposal makes 5 recommendations:

* **Accountability.** Employment goals exist, but there is no hard data reported to the public or legislature. The State of Minnesota needs to make agencies report on meeting goals.
* **Technical Access.** The state needs to make online applications and workforce centers accessible to all.
* **Staff Training.** State agencies need more training on compliance with the ADA. It is important to change perception and values to increase retention and promotion of workers with disabilities.
* **Funding for accommodations.** There is a need to equalize the cost of accommodations between large and small agencies. This could be accomplished by pooling resources; for example,making unused technologies available to all through a pool.
* **Internships and work experience**. MNDOT has seen Pathways to Employment help change perceptions and relationships. They are seeking MSCOD’s help in implementing these goals.

## Legislative Issues

Diogo Reis presented a report on 2012 legislative issues of concern to MSCOD. The Voter Identification bills, requiring photo ids, present three issues of concern:

* Restricting who may help you mark your ballot. This has been eliminated from the bill.
* People who live in residential facilities may have a hard time obtaining a valid photo id. We have made no headway on getting an exemption.
* Changing the law regarding voting for people under guardianship. This was introduced as a separate bill. Currently, the law states someone under guardianship can vote unless the court removes the right. However the MN constitution says anyone under guardianship is not eligible to vote. MSCOD is working with the author to make categories to address this issue.

NEMT, the Non-emergency Medical Transportation, is provided to individuals on MA to go to the doctor. This is to eliminate transportation as a barrier to preventive medicine for individuals rather than emergency room care that is more expensive. MSCOD was part of an advisory group that was assembled to address the legislative auditor’s concerns about NEMT. A list of recommendations was submitted, some of which will require legislative action in 2012. MSCOD hopes to support them.

The Sunset Commission has recommended that MSCOD not be sunset. It will require a bill from the legislature to remove the sunset clause.

Kathy Wingen motioned that MSCOD pursue the above-mentioned legislative issues separate from CCD. Mark Hughes seconded the motion. It was approved by voice vote.

Laurie Hassett motioned that MSCOD support CCD’s legislative efforts. Mark Hughes seconded the motion. It was approved by voice vote.

## Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota (ARRM)

Bruce Nelson from ARRM presented their cost-saving plan to deliver the right disability services in the right setting at the right time. Declining revenue at all levels of government will affect the rising demands of an increasing population and costs of medical care. ARRM solution is to reform and rebalance the system by identifying people that can be served in less costly, independent settings, increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness in corporate foster care.

This will require state regulations to implement common sense changes, allow more flexibility and innovation, and remove barriers to change.

## Minnesota Employment First Initiative

Carol Rydell spoke on the Employment First Initiative. This is a grassroots movement of disability advocacy groups with irregular funding with a vision of making making integrated competitive employment the first priority and preferred outcome of Minnesotans with disabilities. This is a win-win for all Minnesotans. Unlike many states, Minnesota focuses on employment for people with any type of disability. She presented steps to achieving this goal.

## Manage Care Changes

Deb Maruska from DHS reported on changes in Special Needs Basic Care (SNBC). This program is voluntary for those between the ages of 18 and 64 on MA or Medicare. The legislature made it automatic as of January, 2012, but provided an option to decline membership. Those eligible can contact an expanded website or call DLL for information, selecting a management provider or opting out of the program. It was established to provide better management of chronic illness, reduce emergency costs, and avoid rehospitalization.

## Subcommittee Reports

### Access and Housing

Mark Hughes reported on the access committee meeting held on January 19, 2012. Joan Willshire gave a report on the Transportation Access Council which consists of state agencies charged with co-ordinating transportation statewide for those who are aging or disabled. Diego Reis gave a brief report on the legislature and MSCOD’s new website. Margot Imdieke Cross gave a report on building code issues and presentations she and Linda Lingen will present on emergency preparedness at the Governor’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference. Light rail and metro mobility were also discussed.

### Employment

Joani Werner stated that the employment committee recommended MSCOD support the governor’s initiatives as earlier described by the Governor’s Workforce Development Council. They support collaborating with the business community. The committee recommended MSCOD support recommendations for non-emergency transportation.

## Annual Awards Recognition

Joan Willshire opened a discussion on changing our annual awards recognition from a luncheon to holding smaller quarterly awards at employer venues or other meeting places throughout the state. This could produce closer connections with job providers and people in outstate Minnesota at a smaller cost to the agency. MSCOD could also partner with other agencies or non-profits.

## Budget

The Executive Committee Encumbrance Report of January 11, 2012 was presented for adoption. Rev. David Sams motioned the council adopt the report of expenditures totaling $1078.00 from October 18, 2011 to January 10, 2012. Kathy Wingen seconded the motion. It was approved by voice vote.

## Chair’s Report

David Schwartzkopf reported that the council is three members short of a full council. The governor needs to make the appointments but has been unable to do so due to time considerations. It is on his calendar. The chair recommended the council suspend the bylaws regarding membership until the May 12, 2012 council meeting. Kathy Wingen made a motion for suspension until May 12, 2012; Mark Hughes seconded the motion. It was adopted by voice vote.

## Executive Director’s Report

March 15, 2012 will be Advocacy Day at the capitol. Members will meet with their legislators in the morning; there will be a brief rally between 12 to 1. The council will hold a brief meeting between 2 and 3:30 p.m.

## Adjournment

Joani Werner motioned for adjournment; Laurie Hassett seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Demski