# Minnesota State Council on Disability

## Meeting Minutes

Quarterly Council Meeting – March 15, 2012

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Room 500 North, St. Paul, MN

## Attendance

**Present:** Council Members: Dave Schwartzkopf, Laurie Hassett, Robert Johnson, Rev. David Sams, Barb Stensland, Carlos Vasquez, Kathy Wingen, Mark Hughes; Ex-officio Jill Keen; Staff: Joan Willshire, Claire Cosmos, Diogo Reis, Margot Imdieke Cross, Linda Gremillion, Elizabeth Demski; **Guests:** Chris Bell, Anni Simons, Melvin Jury, Kristin Jorvy, Ann Zelewski, Kim Kang, Sam Holloway, Antony Cooper; Legislators: Paul Theissen, Sen. Carla Nelson, Torry Westrom. Absent: Kim Tyler, Judy Friesen, Kathy Peterson, and Joani Werner.

## Agenda

* Call to Order
* Approval of Agenda and January 30, 2012 minutes
* Meet and Greet with Legislators
* Legislative and Website Updates – Diogo Reis
* Legislative Updates regarding Healthcare – Anni Simons, CCD
* Discussion of Annual Awards event
* Training on new Requirements for Lodgings – Margot Imdeike Cross
* Chair’s Report
* Executive Director’s Report
* Other Announcements
* Adjourn

## Minutes

The chairman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

## Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Rev. David Sams motioned for approval of the agenda; Kathy Wingen seconded the motion. It was approved by voice vote.

Laurie Hassett motioned for approval of the minutes of the January 30, 2012 meeting; Mark Hughes seconded the motion. It was approved by voice vote.

## Meet and Greet with Legislators

The meeting was interrupted to meet and speak with legislators as they were able to come to the meeting.

## Legislative and Website Updates

Diogo Reis gave a brief update on legislative issues and MSCOD’s website.

In the area of transportation, there is a proposed pilot program which would pay mileage in place of fare increases; by increasing non-emergency transportation for people on MA , the state would save money due to increased preventive care. The voter ID amendment has gone to the House Ways and Means committee for hearing. The sunset commission bill has met the deadline in the house; resunset will be in 2024. Regarding MA-EPD (medical assistance for employed people with disabilities), MSCOD supports eliminating the current age requirements and changing asset limits at age 63. We are opposed to the 20% pay cut for PCAs.

## Legislative Updates regarding Healthcare

Anni Simons, CCD coordinator, spoke on proposed legislation affecting healthcare. The Federal Healthcare Reform act sets a minimum set of benefits; it requires an explanation of rate setting methodology. There are differences in costs statewide which can impact waiver services. The managed care mandate passed in the last session; the disability linkage line has a waiting list of requests for information on managed care. The ARM bill cut 10% from residential care and group homes; spaces were lost.

There is a bill introduced to try and aleve the impact. CCD is also watching DHS changes in case management/services and the legislation regarding use of prone restraints on children.

## Annual Awards Event

Joan Willshire discussed a proposed partnership with the MIXED BLOOD Theatre; they are applying for a grant to produce a play around employment. This would be a 2 year project that would employ people with disabilities as part of the project. It would be a social piece that would reach out to the broad community. We would have a smaller event in fall and it would be less expense.

## Training on new Requirements for Lodgings

Margot Imdeike Cross presented highlights from the ADA revisions for lodgings that went into effect on March 15, 2012. Revisions include new reservation practices for lodging; readily achievable barrier removal; definition of service animals; wheelchair/other power-driven mobility devices; safe harbor (if the business was in compliance with the 1991 Standards, it does not have to make further modifications to comply with 2010 standards.)

## Chair’s Report

Dave Schwartzkopf announced that Joan Willshire’s review is rescheduled until April 11, 2012. He also announced that the council will need to re-open the statute regarding council membership. Currently, the statute reads membership “shall be 21”; it should be changed to “may be 21”. It will cost an extra $10,000 for the full 21 members.

## Executive Director’s Report

Joan Willshire reported that she had a good meeting with Commissioner Phillips of DEED regarding the governor’s job bill; he needs to be more responsive to accessibility at workforce centers. The governor’s tax incentive bill encouraging hiring of veterans, recent graduates, and the unemployed should include those with disabilities; it is important to get this issue on people’s radar. The commissioner of human rights invited MSCOD to participate in an education retreat on April 19, 2012 which will cover the achievement gap of minorities. MSCOD has contracted Kim Kang for this project.

## Budget

SWIFT is now 2 weeks behind schedule. There are out of state conferences in the near future. Kathy Wingen motioned that the council approve the executive council to fund conferences. Mark Hughes seconded the motion. It was approved by voice vote.

## Announcements

The next council meeting will be the afternoon of June 4, 2012 and all day June 5, 2012 in which MSCOD will update the strategic plan. There will be a video conference on May 8, 2012 on the Olmstead Townhall Meeting.

The council extends it’s thanks to Claire Cosmos for her work and to Linda Gremillion’s nephews Sam and Anthony for their enthusiasm.

## Adjournment

Bob Johnson motioned for adjournment. The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Demski