

Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities
Monday, December 7, 2015 from 8:30 am – 11:00
Prairie Room – Prairie Hills Plaza
1237 W. Divide Ave., Bismarck, ND

Members Present

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| Tina Bay | Vickay Gross | Chad Kourajian |
| Barb Murry | LouAnn Nider | Ryan Volk |
| Eric Wittliff (by phone) | | |

Members Absent

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| Gerry Teevens | Paul Vardanega |
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Others Present

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| Russ Cusack | Cheryl Hess | Melissa Naslund |
| Nicole Peske | Dori Leslie | Jeff Pederson |

Roll Call

Chairperson Barb Murry called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Barb proceeded with presentations due to presenters needing to leave early.

CHI Friendship Community Based Employment Model

Dori Leslie and Jeff Pederson from CHI Friendship presented their vision and philosophy and details of the community based employment model they follow. This model has resulted in CHI Friendship receiving an International Award of Excellence from the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) as a leader in the field. A handout was provided of the PowerPoint slides.

Review of a Better Bottom Line

Chairman Barb Murry provided a handout highlighting “A Better Bottom Line”. Barb suggested the Committee review the items to determine what is already being done and what still needs to be done.

Vickay Gross offered a suggestion to look at what the State Rehabilitation Council is doing and work with them to support their efforts.

ND Hiring Initiative Update

Harley Engelman, State Rehabilitation Council Past Chair, provided information in follow-up to his August 2015 presentation to the Committee. A handout was provided which details the plan for a North Dakota Provisional Hire Program. The goal is for North Dakota state government to become a model employer.

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) has approved the plan and is working to move this forward. The SRC is seeking to build support from different councils and the timeline is to present the plan to the Governor by June 2016.

ACTION: A motion was made by Tina Bay and seconded by Chad Kourajian to support the ND Provisional Hiring Program as presented. Motion carried.

Subcommittee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities in ND

Susan Gunsch provided information on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which was passed in July 2014 and reauthorized the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Under WIOA, the State Workforce Development Council is required to have a subcommittee for employment of people with disabilities. Susan formally requested this Committee serve as the subcommittee to meet this requirement and report to the State Workforce Development Council at quarterly meetings.

Barb Murry inquired about the lines of authority and whether this action would strengthen our communication with the Governor or add another layer. Russ Cusack indicated the Workforce Council communicates workforce issues and needs with the Governor's Office. Both he and Susan felt this action would strengthen our communication.

Chad Kourajian inquired if this will add to the mission of this Committee. Susan stated she sees it as another way for what this Committee is doing to be shared with more stakeholders. Susan indicated the Council is has a business majority and 15 of 30 members are employers. Barb Murry indicated this could be a standing agenda item and an individual from this Committee would attend the quarterly Workforce Council meetings.

ACTION: A motion was made by Ryan Volk and seconded by Vickay Gross for this Committee to assume the additional responsibility of being the subcommittee for State Workforce Development Council. Motion carried.

Approval of August 2015 Minutes

Action: A motion was made by Vickay Gross and seconded by Tina Bay to approve the August 2015 minutes. Motion carried.

2016 Meeting Dates

A draft meeting schedule was presented for the Committee to continue meeting on the third Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to noon in Bismarck as has been done in the past. Members were in agreement and indicated meeting rooms should be scheduled.

Following are the confirmed dates for 2016:

- February 17, 2016
- May 18, 2016
- August 17, 2016
- November 16, 2016

Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

Barb Murry opened the floor to nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Vickay Gross presented the option of Bruce Murry for Chair. Bruce Murry is the incoming Executive Director of NDACP, replacing Barb Murry when she retires. Chad Kourajian nominated Gerry Teevens for Vice Chair. Additional nominations will be accepted at the February meeting and voting will follow.

Vickay Gross agreed to serve as the Interim Chair for the February 2016 meeting.

Update on Employment Survey by NDCPD

Melissa Naslund, North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD) provided an update on the employment survey. Melissa provided a copy of the draft survey questions and reviewed with the Committee. The survey will open in January 2016 and will remain open until the middle to end of March 2016. Melissa will plan to present preliminary data at the May 19 Committee meeting and a final report will be complete by the end of June.

Melissa will work with the NDACP Executive Director and Tina Bay, Developmental Disabilities, to announce the survey to the providers.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.