

**Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
Executive Committee – Continuation Grant Reviews**

November 5, 2020
GoToMeeting – 10:00 a.m.

Minutes

Executive Committee Members Present: Joanna ‘Jo’ Spargo, Chair, Rhonda Rich, Vice Chair, Jean Jakovlic, Secretary, Shannon Komisarek, Paula Rabidoux, Rachel Rice, James Plasencia and Jill Radler **Staff Present:** Carolyn Knight, Paul Jarvis, Carla Cox, Fatica Ayers, Sara Bates, Leslie Connelly, Gilbrina Dillon, Gary Groom, Kenneth Latham, Robin Shipp, and Kim Shoaf

Chair Jo Spargo called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Fatica Ayers, Council staff, briefly provided a summary of the Continuation Grant Review process. After her presentation, Chair Spargo proceeded with following the grant review schedule.

Public Policy

General Assembly Briefing (GAB) Sessions, \$40,000 – Colby & Colby, grantee. Paul Jarvis presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. He briefly summarized the grant and informed the committee that there was one GAB session held in 2020 prior to the government shutdown due to COVID-19. Because of COVID-19 sessions have been placed on hold, but interest and support continue amongst legislative staff. The grantee has not spent much money and will request a no-cost extension for the first quarter in 2021, to try to hold sessions once the legislature returns to work. Paul stated he had no program issues other than the barriers the COVID-19 has caused, and strongly encouraged the continuation of the grant. He asked for question, none were received, then turned over to Robin Shipp for any fiscal issues. Robin provided one fiscal condition for the grant. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions as stated, Rachel Rice seconded, **motion** passed.

Executive Committee

Communication to Increase Public Awareness for People with Developmental Disabilities, \$68,400 – O’Neill Public Relations, Inc., grantee. Carla Cox presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. She briefly summarized the grant and informed the committee that she was very pleased with O’Neill and mentioned the new methods they have used since the pandemic that included, blogs, Ohio Talks Podcasts, as well as providing a web app that allows Council’s publications to be read as a real booklet, where pages flip as they are read on the website. She indicated that Council has received good feedback because of these methods. Carla then informed the committee how O’Neill has been reaching the un/underserved through utilizing interns who are in un/underserved areas, as well as those with a disability. She asked if there were any questions; none were received, and she turned it over to Gary Groom to provide and fiscal conditions. Gary provided the fiscal condition for the grant. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with conditions as stated, Rhonda Rich seconded, **motion** passed.

Building Capacity for Assistive Technology Service Delivery in Ohio, \$75,000 – OCALI, grantee. Kim Shoaf presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. She provided background for the grant and its purpose to create training opportunities, online resources and develop a community of practice for SSAs. This will help them to obtain the knowledge and/or a national certification to better serve people with disabilities when assessing whether their clients would benefit from the use of assistive technology and which type of devices or services would best meet their needs. The grantee’s achievements in the first year include conducting a survey, holding focus groups (prior to the pandemic), developing online trainings modules, and providing scholarships to 14 SSAs for training and certification through the RESNA ATP National Certification. To date, one SSA received certification, three are pending, and one was denied. Efforts have been made to reach the un/underserved that do not have the AT services. Despite the pandemic, all of OCALI’s activities have continued as planned. They have provided more meaningful outcomes including strong collaboration with other DD entities. Kim provided statistical information for the grant’s activities, performance measures, and plans for year two of the grant. She stated she was very pleased and would like to see the grant continue. She then turned it over to Gary Groom to provide fiscal conditions. After Gary concluded, Chair

Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with conditions as stated, Rachel Rice seconded, **motion** passed.

Children/Health

Better Child Care for the Student with Developmental Disabilities, \$50,000 – University of Toledo, grantee. Rebecca Bates presented to the committee the continuation grant review. Rebecca briefly summarized the grant and stated that she would like to have the grant continue for another year. During discussion, Rebecca did mention that she would request that the grantee clearly explain the un/underserve requirement. She then turned it over to fiscal. Gary Groom indicated there were no fiscal conditions. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant without conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant without conditions and Jean Jakovlic seconded, **motion** passed.

Family Support in Early Intervention, \$100,000 – OACBDD, grantee. Rebecca Bates presented to the committee the continuation grant review. Rebecca briefly summarized the grant and stated the grantee did have some barriers with COVID-19 due in-person activities; however, they were able to develop a video for early intervention leaders, titled: Video Conferencing 101 in conjunction with Larry Edelman, a national expert on tele-practice in Early Intervention. She recommends that the grant continue so the grantee can finish out their proposed activities and has no program conditions. She then turned over to fiscal. Robin Shipp then provided fiscal conditions. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions as stated, Jill Radler seconded, **motion** passed.

Healthy Lifestyles for People with Disabilities, \$103,000 – Cincinnati Children's Hospital, grantee. Rebecca Bates presented to the committee the continuation grant review. Rebecca briefly summarized the grant of their current activities with Project SEARCH and new endeavors the grantee planned to include outside entities. The COVID-19 did cause a barrier with the in-person activities, but they were able to develop a COVID-19 webinar series in conjunction to healthy lifestyles for people w/DD during the pandemic. Rebecca did mention that she would request that the grantee explain their efforts for the un/underserve requirement. She then turned it over to fiscal. Gary Groom indicated there were no fiscal

conditions. Paula Rabidoux asked Rebecca about her suggestions regarding the un/underserved. Rebecca answered that she felt the grantee is working with the un/underserved in some capacity but does not document it very well. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with program conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with program conditions as stated, Jill Radler seconded, Shannon Komisarek abstain, **motion** passed.

Special Olympics Regional Games, \$40,000 – Special Olympics Ohio (SOOH), grantee. Rebecca Bates presented to the committee the continuation grant review. She briefly summarized how SOOH's project activities had to adapt to virtual programming creating educational materials towards health and providing PPEs for COVID-19 safety. Because of COVID-19 pandemic barriers it made it difficult to schedule Spring and Fall outdoor activities as planned. The grantee plans to move back to these events during the 2021 grant year and provide dental screenings if the opportunity permits. Rebecca recommended to continue the grant and had one program condition for SOOH to rewrite their work plan and she planned to assist them with that process. She then turned it over to fiscal. Robin Shipp stated that she had no fiscal conditions. During discussion Paula Rabidoux asked the question regarding the budget and that its majority was targeted for the regional games, but because they could not have the games what became of the budget? Rebecca explained that an amendment was voted on by the committee to have the funding cover the virtual educational sessions and PPE's. Paula stated that it may not be likely that the regional games will return in 2021, but most of their budget was focused on the regional games. She suggested that Rebecca should consider working with the grantee on a Plan B. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with program conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with program conditions as stated, and Shannon Komisarek seconded, **motion** passed.

Employment

Leslie Connelly, Council staff, informed the Executive Committee members that Gary Groom brought to her attention another grant that needed approval from the committee. She asked Chair Spargo if she could discuss this other grant prior to the Money Matters continuation grant or at the end of all the continuation grants. Chair Spargo allowed her to decide. Leslie proceeded to explain the Change Makes Sense grant. She stated that it

was one of the grants that was off cycle. Change Makes Sense is a grant that deals with financial literacy. During a July Committee meeting, the committee voted to change the plan language to increase the amount of work the grantee was doing to include an online platform in addition to working in the schools with people with disabilities. The original plan language indicated the allocated grant amount of \$85,000; however, when the grantee applied they only requested \$76,869.25. They would now like the additional \$8,130.75 of the original \$85,000 to cover the extra work. Leslie thought that since the plan language was voted on at the July meeting it would also cover the additional amount. However, the additional amount will need to be approved by the Executive Committee. Paula Rabidoux **moved** to approve the \$8,130.75 increase to the \$85,000 to the Changes Makes Sense grant, Rhonda Rich seconded, **motion** passed.

Money Matters, \$85,000 – Lucas County Board of DD-Community Inclusion Department, grantee. Leslie Paull presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. Leslie briefly summarized the grant by informing the committee that the grant provides three different types of training, work incentives, social security benefits, checking, savings and credit card accounts, work habits that assist with being successful in the workplace. The grant was going very well, but due to some COVID barriers the grantee had to make changes. New timelines were made, and online activities were developed to ensure people with disabilities were yet receiving the benefits of the grant. Notebooks were distributed to participants and more people were reached. Overall, Leslie was very pleased with the grant, she did not have any program conditions and would like to see it continued. Leslie then turned over to fiscal. Gary Groom then provided fiscal conditions. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions as stated, Jill Radler seconded, **motion** passed.

Outreach

Expanding the Amish Community Project, \$50,000 – DDC Clinic for Children with Special Needs, grantee. Kenneth Latham presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. Kenneth briefly summarized the grant and informed the committee that the grantee specifically targets the un/underserved populations. They have targeted the Amish communities in Northern Ohio and the Midwest that includes six states and have provided consultation and genetic disorder testing in approximately

300 districts or more. Because of the COVID, their consultations will be limited, but Kenneth is pleased with the grant and would like to see it continue. He asked if there were any questions and turned it over to fiscal. Robin Shipp stated she had no fiscal conditions. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant without conditions. Rhonda Rich **moved** to approve the grant as stated, James Plasencia seconded, **motion** passed.

Bridging the Gap – ReachOut e-Diversity Newsletter, \$30,000 – Outcome Management Group, grantee. Kenneth Latham presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. He briefly summarized the grant and stated how pleased he was with the progress of the newsletter. The e-Diversity newsletter is more than just a publication that provides current events and current news; it has become a tool and resource that educates, trains, and influences individuals and organizations, both governmental and private sector groups across the country within the DD community. State and local organizations across the country have given huge feedback to Council. He would like to see the grant continue and had no program conditions. Robin Shipp then provided fiscal conditions for the grant. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions as stated, Jill Radler seconded, **motion** passed.

Sustaining the Triple Jeopardy Statewide Network, \$25,000 - Cassandra Archie, grantee. Kenneth Latham presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. He briefly summarized the grant and stated that the grantee has begun to address the recommendations that were identified by the external evaluator. Kenneth indicated that the grant and grantee have been a strong influence on Council's outreach efforts throughout the years. This will be the last year of the grant and he would like to see it completed. Robin Shipp then provided fiscal conditions. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions as stated, Shannon Komisarek seconded, **motion** passed.

Leadership

Empowering Self-Advocates/Best Buddies, Inc., 28,000 – Best Buddies, International, Inc, grantee. Leslie Paull presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. She briefly summarized the grant and stated the grantee was slightly delayed due to COVID-19; however, they created a

virtual curriculum and revised timelines to stay on task. Leslie did not have any program conditions and would like to see the grant continue. Gary Groom then provided fiscal conditions for the grant. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with conditions as stated, Jill Radler seconded, **motion** passed.

Empowering Self-Advocates/Services for Independent Living, \$41,324

– Services for Independent Living (SIL), grantee. Leslie Paull presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. Leslie briefly summarized the grant and stated that this grant also went virtual due to COVID-19; however, their activities seemed to have expanded. Their leadership academies are very diverse with people with disabilities, minorities and they are quite successful. Once participants complete the trainings, the grantee will work with the participants to get them on a board, task force, etc. Again, she was pleased with the grant, she did not have any program conditions and would like to see it continue another year. Robin Shipp then provided fiscal conditions. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with conditions as stated, Jill Radler seconded, **motion** passed.

Empowering Self-Advocates/Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), \$77,000

– Ohio Self Determination Association, grantee. Leslie Paull presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. Leslie briefly summarized the grant and the grantee's plans to becoming sustainable in their last year. Due to COVID-19 this grant's curriculum also become virtual through a series of videos. The training will use videos and Zoom meetings to offer to people online with breakout rooms; just what they originally offered in person. This will make it easier for more people to become involved. She stated that this grant is very successful and has always exceeded her expectations. Leslie had no program conditions and would like to see it continue. Robin Shipp stated she had no fiscal conditions. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant without conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant without conditions, Rachel Rice seconded, **motion** passed.

Community Living

Strengthening the Voices of Direct Support Professionals, \$25,000 – Ohio Alliance of Direct Support Professionals, grantee. Fatica Ayers

presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. Fatica briefly summarized the grant indicating there was a plan amendment approved by the committee for a tv platform that will allow the training for the DSPs to be free of charge and conducted remotely. The grant has adjusted through COVID-19, and she has no program conditions and would like to see it continue. Gary Groom then provided fiscal conditions. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions as stated, Jill Radler seconded, **motion** passed.

Maximizing Resources and Changing Public Policy for Housing for Adults with Disabilities, \$100,000 – Wild River Consulting, Inc., grantee. Fatica Ayers presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. Fatica briefly summarized the grant and indicated that due to the COVID-19, the grantee hired an in-state person to coordinate activities for the grant virtually and in person whenever feasible. This grant works in conjunction with the Partnership for Housing Project, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, grantee. Therefore, the grantee is working towards sustainability. They would like to provide most of their funding to the Ohio County Board Association to hire a staff person. This staff person would continue all the work that has been done through both grants and maintain the overall collaboration amongst the different entities. Fatica stated she was pleased, would like to see the grant continue another year and had no program conditions. Gary Groom then provided fiscal conditions. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions as stated, Jill Radler seconded, **motion** passed.

Hashtag Support for Aging Caregivers#, \$50,000 – Hamilton County DD Aging Services, grantee. Fatica Ayers presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. Fatica briefly summarized the grant by informing the committee of the fundamentals the grantee is working on to streamline the DD and aging communities. The grantee wants to ensure that the transition of changing needs for the two communities amongst the people with disabilities family unit is successful. She stated that the grantee has overcome the COVID-19 obstacles and, she is pleased with the grant and has no program conditions. Gary Groom then provided fiscal conditions. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions as stated, Jill Radler seconded, **motion** passed.

Sustaining & Expanding Accessible and Affordable Transportation for People with Disabilities Anytime, \$109,000 - Hocking Athens Perry

Community Action, grantee. Fatica Ayers presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. Fatica briefly summarized the grant including the list of Transportation Coalition activities that was attached to the grant. The Transportation Coalition adjusted well to COVID by providing informative transportation webinars. Athens on Demand received \$2M in COVID money and enforced the health guidelines of thorough sanitation, mask requirements, sufficient six feet spacing, etc. to continue to provide transportation services to people with disabilities and their families. The Coalition will continue their work with the grant. Fatica stated that Athens on Demand grantee is the epitome of collaboration and networking. She is pleased with the grant, has no program conditions and would like to see it continue. Gary Groom then provided fiscal conditions. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant with fiscal conditions as stated, Jill Radler seconded, **motion** passed.

Partnership for Housing for People with Disabilities, \$50,000 –

Department of Developmental Disabilities, grantee. Fatica Ayers presented to the committee the continuation grant for review. Fatica briefly summarized how this grantee connects the housing issues, housing projects, affordable housing, etc. with the Maximizing Resources grantee. She again is pleased with the grant, would like it to continue and has no program conditions. Fatica turned it over to fiscal. Robin Shipp stated she had no fiscal conditions. Chair Spargo asked for a **motion** to approve the grant without conditions. James Plasencia **moved** to approve the grant without conditions as stated, Jill Radler seconded, **motion** passed.

Evaluation Forms

Fatica Ayers reminded committee members to complete the evaluation forms and email them directly to her.

Other Business

Implicit Bias Training - Carolyn Knight asked Carla Cox to inform the committee about the Implicit Bias Training. Carla briefly explained to the committee that the Governor was requiring all appointed boards and

commissions members to complete the training. Due to the late notice, he provided an extension for our members. She stated that she was trying to spread things out because everything seemed to be due at the same time.

Clear Language Manual – Carolyn Knight asked Leslie Connelly if the committee was aware that the Clear Language Manual was complete. Leslie informed the committee that the manual was located on the Council website.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:57a.m.