

# **OHID DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**

## **Executive Committee**

**January 11, 2018**

Ohio DD Council Conference Room 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
899 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205

### **Minutes**

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Mark Seifarth, Chair, Paula Rabidoux and Karen Kerr, **via conference call:** Joanna ‘Jo’ Spargo and Sue Willis **Staff Present:** Carolyn Knight, Carla Cox, Paul Jarvis and Gary Groom

#### **# 00-18 Conflict of Interest Council Policy Discussion**

Chair Seifarth called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and approve Sue Willis to receive compensation as an employee of a current grantee, Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA), based on the criteria outlined in the Council Policy #00-18 Conflict of Interest.

Chair Seifarth began by explaining to the Executive Committee members that new development had occurred which disclosed that Sue Willis did not abstain from approval of the Empowering Self-Advocates/Ohio Self-Determination Association (OSDA) grant during the Grant Review meeting held on November 2, 2017. It was found that she signed and approved the grant, signed the Ethics Statement as having no Conflict of Interest and it was noted in the Executive Committee Minutes that she did not abstain.

During discussion, Sue stated that she had a conversation with the Executive Director, Carolyn Knight, and knew she was to abstain, but signed the documents unintentionally due to assisting a fellow Council member, Marci Straughter. Marci Straughter did abstain as instructed by Sue, but Sue did not. Sue Willis stated that she intended to abstain but possibly because of the distraction of assisting Marci, she signed the documents in error.

Chair Seifarth stated that because Sue did sign the documents and there was public record in the minutes that she did not abstain, the Executive Committee must seek additional counsel in the matter. Carolyn Knight, stated to have the issue reviewed

by Legal Counsel, Brad Singer with the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD).

Chair Seifarth suggested to provide background of the matter to Counsel Singer of the following:

During the grant review process Sue Willis:

- Did not speak on this grant,
- Assisted Marci Straughter and
- Meant to abstain, but did not

The main concern in this matter is to determine how can this issue be resolved?

Carolyn stated that she will meet with Brad to discuss and would let Chair Seifarth know of the outcome. Chair Seifarth informed the Executive Committee that once we receive this information he would get back with the committee.

Jo Spargo mentioned if the committee needed to meet again, she would provide dates of when she would be in Columbus to Carla Cox.

Chair Seifarth stated no vote will be necessary for today, and the meeting was adjourned.

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.