**Ethan Saylor Alliance Steering Committee**

Teleconference

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: https://meet.google.com/tjm-qkdm-dcm

Or dial:

Members present: Secretary Carol Beatty, Erica Wheeler, Katherine Follin, Bob Wagner, Stephanie Dolamore, Stephanie Jones, Teri Sparks, Patti Saylor

Guests present: Kim McKay (MDOD), Shelly McLaughlin (PFA), Kendal Foster (DRM)

**Teri Sparks, Co-Chair started the meeting with the announcement that she is stepping down from the Steering Committee.** Her role at Disability Rights MD has changed and she’s no longer working within the DD unit. Kendall Foster from DRM will serve as her replacement and represent DRM.

February and April meeting minutes were approved.

Secretary Beatty thanked Teri Spark for her service to the Alliance. Other members shared their experiences working with and appreciation for Teri’s dedication and diligent work to advance the mission of community inclusion for people with I/DD.

It was shared that electing another Co-Chair to serve alongside Erica is a good model and one that Erica is in agreement with. If anyone is interested in serving alongside Erica, please email Jennifer and Erica expressing interest.

**Department Updates,** *Jennifer Eastman, MDOD*

Jennifer included a table of the award recipients and amounts that were granted. **The total amount funded was just under $37,000 to 10 organizations.** The table is included below. Please note the numerical error in the approved amount for PFA’s mock traffic stops. It should be $10,080 and not $1080. Some of these were approved as Community Impact Grants (7) and others were approved outside of that process. Jennifer drafted a simple reporting form and, in the award letter, requested dates for when these events were scheduled. It would be great if Steering Committee members could attend. Jennifer has already received the reporting forms for the Arc of the Central Chesapeake’s events. This was surprising because she was expecting to be provided advanced notice about when they would occur. The Arc Frederick County has already be in contact about a change in its proposal. It is partnering with PFA which is conducting mock traffic stops with a new academy class for Frederick City police. This event is scheduled for July 5th. Bob expressed interest in attending.

In addition to the Community Impact Grants, other funded projects include Pathfinders for Autism for 3 mock traffic stops in Washington, Harford, and Prince George’s Counties; Deaf Independent Living Association for the development of curriculum on law enforcement’s interactions with people are who deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf with I/DD, to develop and train self-advocates on relevant scenarios an officer might encounter with a member of the population, to pilot the training to a group of in-service officers, and to develop materials; and to Loyola University MD for conducting an entry-level training for DNR police. Many thanks to Stephanie Dolamore for participating in the planning meetings with DILA and ensuring that they had a proposal that was going to have impact and be meaningful!

Because the DILA funding speaks to the need for improved training across all disability groups, the Steering Committee discussed a mutual interest in expanding the work of the Alliance. The statute specifically mentions the I/DD population and funding cannot be allocated to groups that do not focus on this population. In order to expand the work of the Alliance, legislation would need to change the statute. Jennifer collected names of members who would be interested in participating in that discussion. MDOD’s new Deputy Secretary, Lisa Belcastro, will also be included once she starts work at MDOD in a few weeks.

**Jennifer shared the proposed outreach materials from Laura Hatcher.** Laura has developed two handouts – one aimed at the law enforcement community and another for both self-advocates and community-based organizations. Initial comments suggested that one document was too text-heavy and that both might benefit from plain language. It was decided to create a workgroup that could look at these in more detail. Jennifer gathered the names of volunteers.

**Jennifer has requested a quote from one vendor for swag items with the Alliance’s logo on it.** She needs another one before she can put in an order. Items Jennifer requested quotes on include: pens, pins, patches, stickers, lip balm, fidget spinners, first aid kits, etc.

**Self-Advocate Interviews:** Jennifer conducted 4 interviews so far with people with I/DD who have been involved in law enforcement trainings. The purpose of conducting these interviews was to obtain information from the perspective of the self-advocate on the experience and importance of self-advocates participating in trainings. Jennifer wants to use their feedback in outreach materials and the website.

Jennifer also shared recent information about the training arrangement for FY24 between Loyola and DNR Police. Over 240+ DNR officers are out of compliance with the every 3 year training requirement. MDOD was going to partner with DNR and cover a significant portion of the training costs for Loyola to conduct 10 virtual trainings. DNR canceled the arrangement last minute and is refusing to meet to discuss in detail. This has a tremendous impact on Loyola since its professors have already accommodated their Fall 2023 schedules to conduct these trainings.

Erica brought up the point of involving more self-advocates in the Committee. Many people with I/DD don’t know about the work of the Alliance and how they can get involved. Erica wants to spearhead this initiative and received support from other members.

**State and National News and Initiatives/Announcements,** *All*

Patti shared that Sen. Bob Casey again introduced the Safer Interactions Act in Congress which would provide grants to law enforcement entities that partner with community-based organizations to improve the interactions between law enforcement and people with disabilities. The bill was informed by the work of MD and strongly encourages the inclusion of self-advocates in all interventions.

Patti also shared that Steve Slack in West Virginia is partnering with the National Down Syndrome Society to train the WV State Police. He now includes self-advocates in his trainings at the insistence of Patti.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Eastman, Staff to Steering Committee

