

Connections for Independent Living

Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 25, 2022 @10:00 a.m. Hybrid via Zoom & in person

Attendance in the meeting:

President-Mary Jo Brockshus, Secretary-Elizabeth Mahoney, Treasurer-Lou Steinberg, Member-Kate Howell, Member-Tony Gonzalez, Executive Director-Rochelle Miller, Director of Transitions-Brad Taylor, Director Finance and Admin.-Carol Cochrane

Absent from meeting:

Member-Erica Barraza (temporary hiatus)

President Brockshus called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

A brief discussion of the minutes for the May and June (*no July meeting*) board meetings occurred. Secretary Mahoney stated the need for a few spacing and punctuation corrections. Treasurer Steinberg moved to approve the minutes for both the May and June meetings with the corrections. Director Howell seconded the motion for the May 2022 board minutes and Secretary Mahoney seconded the motion for the June 2022 board minutes. Secretary Mahoney abstained from voting on the May minutes due to absence. The motion approving the May minutes passed unanimously by the remaining board members. The motion approving the June minutes passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Treasurer Steinberg stated that the financial reports are within expectations. The balance sheet shows that the cash and equity positions are fairly stable. ED Miller mentioned that there are interpreting department financial concerns being addressed in the 2023 budget and drilled down on items in this area. The deficit at the beginning of the year was from the client settlement. All other areas are in line with the targeted budgeted revenue and expenses. The financial dashboard includes key indicator buttons which are adjustable. They direct attention to areas of concern. Treasurer Steinberg stated that most of the money to cover the loss in the interpreting department came from the reserves. ED Miller added that other grants were utilized. Treasurer Steinberg stated that the reserves currently amount to about \$60,000 or one month of operating expenses. Hearing no further questions on the financial statements, ED Miller

mentioned that the state shorted funding by \$75,000 this year. In the effort to adjust the budget to this deficit in funding, changes in personnel occurred, money was saved on some expenses and increased ASL billing rates were implemented. This significantly reduced the deficit from approximately \$200,000 in the prior year to an expected \$80,000 by end of FY22. Treasurer Steinberg moved to accept the financial report. Member Howell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Finance Committee did not meet this month. Before the next board meeting they will meet to discuss the FY22 draft budget. The draft budget will be sent to all board members before the next board meeting. Please reach out to Treasurer Steinberg, Secretary Mahoney or ED Miller if you have any questions before the meeting. The final FY22 budget will be voted on by the board at the September meeting.

Currently administrative expenses are exceeding the income by approximately \$16,000 but we are waiting on the Part C funding amounts to be finalized. Housing has a deficit of just under \$3,000. However, emergency housing vouchers will be issued at a \$67 rate. We are awaiting finalized voucher numbers.

Previous years information did not accurately reflect the true costs of the Interpreting department.

To mitigate shortfalls in the draft budget, ED Miller is working with the Childress staff to shorten the margins. The likelihood of an adjustment of fees passed onto the clients is being worked on and will be presented to the finance committee. Connections is the only non-profit provider of interpreting services in the state. We adjusted the interpreting rates last January and are slightly above the median.

A partial COLA increase for most employees is being considered. The finance committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. on September 7th to discuss the budget.

ED Miller stated that the ACIL members are coming together as a group to discuss CIL's relationship with the designated state entity. The Weld Trust staff met with Connections staff to discuss an additional grant for housing deposit assistance. They encouraged submitting a multi-year request.

Operations and Executive Director Report

The housing department is receiving county and area referrals. We have increased working with Jobs of Hope and North Range Behavioral Health who have provided

social security and employee benefit referrals. We have a standing contract with Vocational Rehabilitation to bill.

ED Miller made an appearance on KMGH to promote Connections and ACCIL..

60+Rides informed Connections that a graduate student is conducting a study on providing transportation services for people with disabilities who are over the age of eighteen.

Connections is looking into a new program that would provide non-attorney representation in SSDI claims. We are reviewing the training needs and costs.

ED Miller mentioned that the retreat is September 28th at Riverside Library Cultural Center ballroom in Evans. The retreat and other leadership training will be covered by unspent State Independent Living Council Part B funds that were passed onto most of the CILs. The agenda will be sent to you. Currently, it includes breakfast, a welcome and brief statements by President Brockshus and ED Miller with an introduction of the guest speaker, a presentation by the speaker, lunch, information tables for 403(b) and health insurance, chair massage stations and other events. The board meeting will occur during the afternoon events in an adjoining but private meeting space.

Transitions Director Brad Taylor entered the meeting at 11:15 a.m. He stated that two transitions were completed from July to June of this year. Many more were started, but did not end with a transition. He hopes that the DOJ lawsuit (re: Olmstead Act) will provide more access to nursing home residents with disabilities who desire to move into an independent living situation. Connections is one of two organizations that provide transition services for people with disabilities in Weld county. The other is Focus Care. Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), a portion of the medicaid system, is the government agency which funds these transitions.

A candidate for transitions is identified through a social worker, the candidate themselves, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) or a family member. The name of the candidate is provided to one of the two Weld county organizations. This starts the paperwork portion of the process. A team is selected to evaluate the candidate's ability to make the move to independent living from the congregate care setting. This includes a social worker, doctor, and sometimes a family member. Various meetings are held and options discussed. The Connections representative documents these meetings but does not give their opinion on the viability of the transition. If housing is found, appropriate home health care resources are located and the team determines that the candidate is appropriate for transitioning, then Connections assists the candidate's

relocation and obtaining necessary items for their apartment. The billing for our services-time occurs in 15 minute blocks through the cumbersome medicaid system. Mr. Taylor left the meeting at 11:29

Old Business

Efforts to recruit new board members were discussed. Member Howell will contact the potential candidate in Sterling. Director Brockshus will follow up with an acquaintance who showed interest when it was presented at another group meeting of Ms. Brockshus'. Secretary Mahoney will place a notice in chambers of commerce and community foundations communications.

New Business

President Brockshus stated that she has begun the process of succession as it is her wish to step down as board chair after thirteen years of service. She wishes to remain a voting board member through the 2023 fiscal year and then in an advisory role after that in order to accommodate retirement activities with her family. The board was presented with a succession plan that outlined the specifics of the proposed activities. The membership and nominating committee will meet in September to create a ballot of officers for consideration at the September board meeting. ED Miller presented a succession plan for the Executive Director position, per the strategic and operations plan goals for 2022. Please refer to the succession plans for details.

Treasurer Steinberg left the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

The next Connections board meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2022. It will be in-person at Riverside Library & Cultural Center in Evans at 1:00 p.m., immediately following the Connections retreat morning sessions and lunch.

Secretary Mahoney motioned to adjourn the meeting. Member Howell seconded. Vote taken. Motion approved unanimously. The board adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, done to the best of my belief and ability, by Carol Cochrane.

September 28, 2022

APPROVED AT BOARD MEETING held _____.

DocuSigned by:
Affirmed by:  Date: 10/14/2022 | 2:39 PM PDT
23CEE8C6941748B...
Elizabeth Mahoney, Board Secretary