

Disability Rights Arkansas, Inc.
Board of Director's Meeting
January 25, 2017

Minutes

The Board of Directors of Disability Rights Arkansas, Inc. (DRA) met on January 25, 2017 in the Regions Building Red Oak Conference Room, 400 West Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

Members Present:

Cherokee Bradley, President
Teresa Dodson, Secretary
Fred Reinhardt, Vice President
Mark George
Julie Petty
Kimberly Marshall
Lorrie Thiel
Veronica Tess Myers

Staff Present:

Tom Masseau
Greg Hankins
Yvonne Sterling
Debbie Poulin
Susan Pierce
Darren Morris
Jackie Gorton
Sharon Cowell
Cassie Howell

Members Absent:

Kaderick Jones
Toney Bailey
Kim Weser

Visitors:

Alexander Myers
Donna Lee
Dianna

President Cherokee Bradley welcomed all board members, guests and staff. The meeting was called to order at 10:03am. Darren Morris was introduced as the new Self-Advocate Coordinator. Jackie Gorton was introduced as the new Advocate. Sharon Cowell was introduced as the new Attorney.

Consent Agenda:

President Bradley would like to make the following changes to the agenda: Move Board Membership update after Consent Agenda, add Board Member Resignations. Add 403B Review & Vote before Executive Director & Staff Reports.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- a.) Approval of Agenda
- b.) Minutes from DRA Board Meeting- September 28, 2016

- c.) Minutes from DRA Executive Committee- December 16, 2016
- d.) Minutes from DRA Finance Committee- November 7, 2016
- e.) Minutes from DRA Public Policy Committee- October 11, 2016
- f.) Minutes from DRA Audit Committee- January 13, 2017

Approval of the Consent Agenda followed the Executive Directors Report. With there being no questions or recommended changes.

Lorrie Thiel made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, with the above mentioned changes. Mark George seconded and the motion passed.

Board Membership Update:

Board Resignations:

President Bradley reported that board member, Kaderick Jones, turned in his resignation a couple of weeks ago and Toney Bailey has just submitted his resignation as well.

Veronica Tess Myers made a motion to accept the resignation of Kaderick Jones. Lorrie Thiel seconded and the motion passed.

Veronica Tess Myers made a motion to accept the resignation of Toney Bailey. Fred Reinhardt seconded and the motion passed.

A discussion was held regarding any difficulties of board members meeting board expectations and meetings. Any suggestions or concerns can be emailed or texted to President Bradley.

Mark George nominated Kimberly Marshall to serve as Treasurer of the Executive Committee. Fred Reinhardt seconded and the motion passed. This will make Kimberly the Chair of the Finance Committee.

403B Review and Vote:

Tom Masseau passed out a copy of the agencies 403B Plan. This new plan adds all previous amendments to the prior 403B. No additional changes have been made to the plan. Per Mr. Masseau, Greg expressed the need to try to approve the plan as soon as possible. It was decided that the Executive Committee will remain after the board meeting to review and vote on the plan.

Executive Director and Staff Reports:

Executive Director Report:

Executive Director, Tom Masseau, gave an update regarding Darren's new position as the Self-Advocate Coordinator. Darren reported that he will be working to train and recruit self-advocates around the State. He met with individuals at ICM yesterday and spoke to them about the importance of self-advocacy and how they can speak up for themselves and their rights. He is planning a Regional Conference in the fall. They hope to have individuals who have been trained in self-advocacy to speak about what they have learned.

Mr. Masseau then spoke about the new Administration in the White House and what NDRN will be doing to educate the administration on disability related issues. He also have an update about State Legislative issues. President Bradley advised that we, as board members, need to be educating and communicating with our policy makers on the State and Federal level. Mr. Masseau reported that all bills being tracked by DRA are now listed on the agencies website.

Legal Director Report:

Debbie Poulin discussed the monitoring they have been doing at the Juvenile Treatment Centers around the State and how deficient these programs look. She reported that we are continuing to monitor the HDC's.

Cassie Howell gave a report on a project she has been working on regarding Restraints in Schools. The agency is getting numerous reports of restraints occurring in school districts. They are recommending that some type of legislation be enacted to make school districts follow guidelines that have been published by the Department of Education. They will release a White Paper soon to this regard.

Susan Pierce gave her report on PPR's. She advised that she will be creating a spiral bound notebook that has all the PPR reports. She will complete the Congressional Reports once all the PPR reports are completed.

She reported that there was not a lot of outreach in the 1st quarter due to the holidays.

At this time, President Bradley introduced D'Andre Jones as a possible new board member. D'Andre will be joining us for lunch and the board was encouraged to visit with him. D'Andre introduced himself and his board application/resume was handed out to Board Members for review.

Lunch: 12:00-12:30

Financial Report:

Audit Presentation:

Steven Booth, Beth Knipscheer, and Michelle Mann, with JPMS Cox, were present to review the Financial Audit with the Board. Ms. Mann went over the tax return information. Beth went over the audit report and touched on documentation issues that were documented within the report.

Kimberly Marshall raised concerns over the fact that we were not provided with a copy of the audit prior to it being presented to the full board. President Bradley advised that this is the reason we have the Audit Committee. Ms. Marshall's concern is that we are being provided with a copy of the audit at the same meeting that we are expected to vote on it. She would like to be provided with a copy to review before the meeting. It was decided that next year a draft of the audit will be sent to the full board for review prior to the board meeting. Any questions regarding the audit could then be directed to the Audit Committee Chair.

Julie Petty made a motion to approve the Financial Audit. Lorrie Thiel seconded and the motion passed.

Julie Petty made a motion to approve the draft copy of the 990. Lorrie Thiel seconded and the motion passed.

Financial Quarterly Report:

Greg went over the quarterly financial report with the board. He advised that it has been approved by the Finance Committee. At this time, President Bradley, raised questions about the agencies lease agreement. Mr. Masseau reported that the building is still in foreclosure and that the Property Management has advised them that all leases will remain in effect.

Lorrie Thiel made a motion to approve the Quarterly Financial Report. Kimberly Marshall seconded and the motion passed.

Investment Policy:

Greg reported to the board that if we have not yet developed an investment policy, one should be developed. It was determined that the Finance Committee had talked about an Investment Policy in the past but one was never developed. We have decided to send this back to the Finance Committee. Finance Committee will be responsible for developing an Investment Policy.

Planning for DRA Board Retreat in April:

It was decided that the Board Retreat will be held on Friday, April 21st and Saturday, April 22nd for ½ day. Mr. Masseau reported that the agency gets a lot of requests from the NW part of the State.

Mark George made a motion that we host the Board Retreat on April 21st and 22nd in the NW area of the State. Veronica Tess Myers seconded the Motion.

The Governance Committee will be responsible for further planning of the retreat.

Reports:

Audit Committee:

There were no further comments from the Audit Committee.

Public Policy Committee:

President Bradley reported that she will no longer be utilizing this committee. She would like for members of this committee to move to the Governance Committee and for the Executive Committee to take over handling of Public Policy. She reported that we really need to focus on Board recruitment. Mr. Masseau pointed out that we also need to look at recruiting individuals with disabilities as board members.

PAIMI Advisory Council:

Chair Myers reported that they are really trying to promote self-advocacy within the council. She reported that they worked on the PAIMI PPR at their last meeting. President Bradley asked that the council make a recommendation to the full board at all meetings. There are no formal recommendations from the PAIMI Council at this time.

DD Council:

Mr. Masseau reported that he still serves on the oversight committee of this council. Their State Plan was approved. He reports that they have made good steps forward. Mark George recommended that we invite the DD Network to attend our Board Retreat in April.

Board Member Vote:

D'Andre was asked to step out of the room so the board could vote on him as a board meeting. Discussion ensued regarding his application and resume. It was reported that the Governance Committee has recommended him as a new board member effective immediately. His 4 year

term would start October 2017 and run through September 30, 2021. The vote was unanimous and President Bradley did not vote.

D'Andre Jones was welcomed as a new Board Member.


President Bradley asked Mr. Masseau to send out a new committee listing. All members of the Public Policy Committee will be moved to the Governance Committee.

Public Comment:

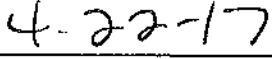
There was no public comment.

Adjourn:

With there being no further business to discuss, Teresa Dodson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:50pm. Lorrie Thiel seconded and the motion passed.



Teresa Dodson, Secretary



Date