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TASP Board of Directors Meeting

February 20, 2015

Participants: Susan Yuan, President; Sue Jones, Senior Board Member; Bernadette Irwin, Senior Board Member; Leslie Kinney, Treasurer; Ellen Gilmartin, Secretary; Lindsay Brillhart, Nicole Brisson, Ella Callow, Traci LaLiberte, Sylvia Long, Denice Mock.

The meeting was called to order at about 3:10 PM, via phone conference, by Susan Yuan, president and chair of this meeting.

1. Report of the Conference Committee was provided by Sue Jones and Bernadette Irwin, who are cochairs of this committee.

1. The venue, menu, and a tentative schedule have all been determined.
2. The committee is working on planning a legislative panel session. Robyn Powell suggested contacts in the states that have passed legislation regarding supports to parents with cognitive disabilities. (Kansas legislation didn't have a sponsor because it was a part of an overhaul of the child protection system; this predated the Rocking the Cradle report.)
3. They are also working on a legal panel with people from DOJ and human services, following up on the Massachusetts case where DOJ found that a parent with ID had her rights violated because he child was taken away without considering accommodation of her disability with respect to parental training and support.
4. A keynoter has confirmed: Senator Massey, from TN.
5. Aaron Bishop commissioner of AIDD has been invited, no answer yet.
6. RFP went out last week. They have a time line: responses are due back by the end of March and decisions will be made by late May.

2. Report of the Membership Committee provided by Leslie Pokras, chair of this committee.

a) This committee had difficulty with the scheduling of a meeting but will meet this Friday.

b) Bernadette will give Ellen contact info for the self advocates from Kansas.

3. We are celebrating the findings of DOJ and HHA in the Mass case: Nicole Brisson was their expert witness.  Sue Jones was reaching out to the Mass ARC at the same time that this came out, and this will help move things forward.

Sylvia long did a short version of the letter, 23 pages down to 4 pages or so. This been posted on our web site, but this still needs to be simplified for self advocates. Susan will email it to Lindsay and Ellen, who will work on getting it into more accessible language.  Lindsay: we can all encourage self advocates to attend conference for more info.

4. Report of the Public Affairs Committee provided by Susan Yuan, Chair. There was discussion of TASP’s response to the findings (see #3 above), that ADA was violated in this parent’s case. Ella discussed that we are in a preliminary stage. She explained some of the possibilities for what could happened next, each of which would require a different TASP response, (aside from any response to the findings themselves):

a) The State can challenge the findings in court, or

b) The State may agree in part or in whole, or

c) The State may agree to do exactly what is recommended in the findings statement.

d) Depending on these things, it could end up in Federal Court, which would be risky for all sides; if we have a bad outcome, it could be devastating.

e) While we don't know what the state will do, the solution that will be most workable would be to reference back to the Rocking the Cradle recommendations. We want to avoid having people try to interpret the law case by case.

f) We want to use this to force trainings, to encourage people to be proactive so they don't end up with a lot of problems like MA did.  This training will need to focus on ID but also can involve cross training with other disability groups. The board discussed the need to move quickly, to push for training.

5. Training Committee: this is basically taken over by Conference Committee at present.

a) Susan Yuan will talk to Maggie Nygren of AAIDD about partnering on webinars. TASP had a lot of difficulty getting this done due to technological problems.

b) The Committee is working on doing an inventory of the trainings people have already, listing their various strengths and types. We will publicize what is available, so we don't have to do it all ourselves. Examples of existing training:

1. Nikki- Leslie training;

2. CT Workgroup training;

3. Susan and Bernadette's training, MA training on working effectively with pwd;

4. Vermont’s training for with DCF workers;

5. Lindsay has a worksheet of do's and don'ts for working with parents;

c) Ella suggested a legal component be included in training. The board agrees with this;

d) We also need to do a training just for Psychologist's to get more people qualified to do positive, fair assessments. GOAL: 2 or 3 day conference with Maurice, Marjorie, Ella, Susan And Nikki and Pittsburgh people - charge enough for it. The goal is to vendorize people that are properly trained, and then have these be given a qualification to become “experts” listed on our web site. Other psychologists can learn from these experts.

e) Perhaps there could be a team responsible for reviewing assessments. Eventually there should be an infrastructure for this in every state, and a way to try to monitor whether the people who have been endorsed as experts are getting referrals based on this qualification. Also, to try to determine what the difference is in the way cases go.

f) A face to face training is better than webinars for training psychologists, need leaders in each state monitor the quality of each state's expert evals.

g) Traci suggested that this could be offered as a preservice to a psychology training venue; Nikki is a member of American Psychological Association and will look into possibilities. Eventually, we can have parent with cognitive disability be a menu option on their directory by expertise and location. Susan will work on this with Traci.

6. Finance committee report by Leslie Kinney:

1. TASP received a gift from Susan Yuan – thank you, Susan!
2. Leslie paid Directors’ insurance and web-x payment is going out. After these large bills TASP has a balance of $7,298 now.
3. Leslie did the annual filing as a non-profit in CO; next month will do the tax filing, even though we pay none.
4. Discussion: when Ginny moves to CA we will not  have an address in CO anymore; where should our home state be?  We are not sure of the process to change.
5. Nomination committee: Liz Lightfoot was not able to participate in today’s call due to conflict: may need to change date if this conflict will continue.  Presently, the board is full. The next priority will be to add self advocates to the board.
6. Research committee: Traci not aware of anything happening. collaboration with Maryland didn't happen.
a) Ella and Traci contributed to a book - no update.
7. Traci will take sabbatical with Gwen in Australia in 2016.
8. David McConnell just did a great study on social isolation, helping make connections through mom's groups. Ella will ask if we can all get it and/or get link on web site.
9. Tech Committee: Denice Mock and Traci LaLiberte re tech committee:
10. They have done a lot to rearrange stuff on the web site
11. They have posted call for proposals, minutes and reports.
12. They are working on links under committee.
13. We still need bios for Ella and Carolyn Harpole.
14. They are still figuring out how to make Membership work.
15. The site is now it is host to a bunch of resources. We want to make a resource for advocacy for the cause of support for parents with ID or other cognitive impairment.
16. Discussion of purchasing achancetoparent.org, which can be linked to achancetoparent.net. The Board agreed to this by consensus. Denice took care of this during the call so we now have both domains for TASP.
17. The tech committee recommended plug in from Woo Commerce (not WP); this was agreed by the board at a cost of $190/year. (Proposed by Trace, Second by Leslie, agreed by consensus).
18. Membership committee:
19. The committee has a goal of producing 2 newsletters a year, can mail out hard copies to those who need it, but these will mainly be posted to the web site.
20. The plug in from Woo Commerce agreed to above allows different levels of membership and different annual schedule depending on when a person joins.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Ellen Gilmartin on 3/6/15, resubmitted with corrections on 3/9/15.*