

Full COCA Conference Call

Minutes for Thursday, April 17, 2014

Introductions & Icebreaker

If you could have any job, what would it be?

Brady Sellet, Cindy Singletary

Brady led roll call asking the icebreaker question. Everyone answered the icebreaker question, "If you could have any job, what would it be?"

The members listed below were in attendance:

Dawn Olson, ND

Kathy Mikitka, CA

Shannon Caldwell, KY

Elizabeth Bishop

Brady Sellet, OH

Olivia Lebens, ID

Cindy Singletary, MS

Matthew Hutchkinson-youth SA, UT

Mitchell Levins, NY

Shaun Bickley, TX

Gordon Richins, UT

Tiffany Hunter, NV

Kenny Taycher, NV

Priscilla Carlston, CO

Mark Smith, NE

Kecie Weller, CA

Dave Bahr, CO

Tanisha Clarke, AUCD Staff Liaison

Carl Duroche, WI

Andy Imparato, AUCD Executive
Director

Amy Sharpton, IN

Agenda Approval; Additions from Committee Members

Shannon Caldwell, Dawn Olson

Tanisha stated that Andy Imparato would be doing the AUCD Update, not her as the agenda reflects.

Amy motioned.

Mark seconded.

The agenda with the change passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes and Secretaries Report

Brady Sellet, Cindy Singletary

Brady asked if everyone on the call had received the January 2014 Full COCA Minutes. They had.

Kenny motioned.

Mitchell seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

COCA Co-Chairs Report

Shannon Caldwell, Dawn Olson

Dawn and Shannon reported that they attended the Strategic Planning Retreat. It was stated that Andy would provide further detail in his update.

COCA 2014 Initiative Discussion

Dawn Olson

Dawn led discussion of what the Initiative. It was mentioned that COCA had chosen employment, transportation and education. There was discussion of where those could go.

Mitchell mentioned that COCA needs to take any opportunities possible to highlight opportunities for self-advocates through LEND.

Concurrent Session Discussion 2014 Annual Meeting

Dawn Olson

Dawn led discussion asking for clarification of where COCA was in this process. Cindy stated that at the last call where it was discussed, the Steering Committee had made a decision of focus and what its format would be. The topic would be employment as suggested by Mark Smith. CACs would be invited to share their programs in this area, highlighting successes, challenges and any features that could be useful to attendees. A panel would be derived from these to present.

Extensive discussion stemmed from this. From the discussion, it was decided that CACs would be able to nominate themselves through a query created through SurveyMonkey. Cindy offered to create it. Topics and questions were discussed concerning the questions that will be on it. Dawn asked that these be emailed to her.

Tanisha reminded those on the call that the proposal deadline is June 2nd, and there will not be an extension. With this in mind, there was discussion of the timing of the process. Emails with question and related thoughts for the development of the SurveyMonkey query will be accepted until Tuesday, April 22nd. The query will then be created and sent to the listserv Monday, April 28th. Two weeks will be given for CACs to submit their programs. From that the chosen CACs will be contacted and session proposal will be created and submitted. Mitchell stated his concern for the timing with the multiple Springtime holidays. It was discussed, but an alternative could not be found amidst the June 2nd deadline.

Committee Reports:

Planning Committee

Dave Bahr

Dave reported that he recently learned that he does not have a co-chair nor knows who is serving on the Committee. He stated that he is soliciting help. Mitchell offered to serve as Co-Chair. They will get together after the call to make a game plan.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee

Cindy Singletary, Jack Brandt

Cindy reported the Nomination Committee has met. They are reviewing Job Descriptions of Officers. They will meet in May to plan the roll out for soliciting of COCA Award nominations.

Committee Reports:

Legislative Committee

Carl Durocher, Joe Basey

Carl reported about status of sub-minimum wage and updates concerning FDA consideration of banning aversive shocks. Shaun discussed the variety of styles aversive shocks used in varying environments including schools. Mitchell asked Andy what the AUCD stance on aversive shocks. Andy said that it is to use alternatives. Brady reported the time limit. Mitchell requested Andy to provide research on alternatives to aversive shocks. Andy said that he would.

General AUCD Update:

Andy reported. LEND Directors have had 2 sessions on self-advocacy along with various conversations.

Goals from Retreat:

Strengthening ties among the networks.

Diversifying funding.

Strengthen diversity of network leadership.

Telling our story better. We do good work.

Have a bigger impact on federal policies.

They hope to finalize goals in the Fall and announce them at the conference.

2014 Conference theme is The Power of Engagement.

Amy stated that the goals have been positively received.

Parking Lot:

In parking lot, Shaun requested further information about self-advocate participation in LEND. Mitchell stated that he and Crystal were to address the issue were to address it, but they had not due to scheduling conflicts. Combating Autism bill funds LENDS and is up for re-authorization. Tanisha stated Kim and Rachel of AUCD are addressing it. Shannon covered the involvement of this issue at the Retreat.

The meeting adjourned at 3:34pm EST

Next Call:
July 17 (Full COCA Call)

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia A. Singletary on April 25, 2014.