

Arizona Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2017

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Location: Raising Special Kids: 5025 E. Washington Street, Suite 204
Phoenix, Arizona 85034

Meeting called to order at 9:08 am

In Attendance:

Joyce Millard Hoie – Committee Member

Grahame Richards – Committee Member

Robert Fleming – Committee Member

Karla Phillips – Committee Member

Robert Smith – Silver Tree Special Planning

Jon Meyers – The Arc

Debi Peterson – Arizona Department of Economic Security, Assistant Director

Wendy Wilda – Arizona Department of Economic Security, Executive Staff Assistant

Ariel Neville – Down Syndrome Network Arizona

1. Introductions:
 - A. This is the first meeting of the ABLE Act Oversight Committee. Introductions around the table were made.
2. Legislation information
 - A. Debi Peterson discussed the law that passed last session to fund the ABLE Act Oversight Committee. The law allows for \$240,000 non-lapsing appropriation for the Committee. Debi discussed how other committees at DES work and where they report.
 - B. The Executive Director position was advertised and has closed at the Department of Economic Security (DES). Debi would like the committee to help in the selection of the person for the position. Debi explained the hiring process for the State of Arizona. Robert Fleming, Grahame Richards, and Joyce Millard Hoie agreed to be a part of the interview panel. It was determined that one hour for an interview will be scheduled.
 - C. Debi stated that we have an office for the person to start. The committee and the new Executive Director will need to determine where they are to be located physically in the future. DES has many options available for space if they are interested and are here to help and facilitate, if and when it is needed. The committee and the new Executive Director will also need to determine what kind of support staff they will require. Ronda Duryea and Wendy Wilda will help during the transition period, but the committee will need to put their own support in place.
3. Looking Forward

- A. The committee agreed that they want to look at the best practices being used in other states. Both Ohio and Nebraska were discussed as model states to look at best practices. Debi handed out a copy of the Arizona Legislation. Karla also would like to look at other states and that looking at a 529 committee may be helpful too. Debi also distributed a presentation that Social Security has done. They are very involved and have a lot of information transferred on a monthly basis. The committee will need to put together a procurement process.
 - B. Debi described the consortium phone calls that Ronda participates in monthly. At this time it is information sharing. Debi emphasized that the Committee is the experts and we are here to assist you in getting up and running.
 - C. Robert will look into the public meeting laws for the committee.
 - D. We need to set protocols for future meetings. The committee agreed to the following:
 - Robert Fleming was selected for the Chairman.
 - Meetings will be on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30am for 1.5 hours.
 - Establish meeting rules by July 1st, 2017
4. Next Steps
- A. DES will need a budget package to submit no later than the end of July.
 - Debi will put together an overview of costs and positions that other committees are currently using.
 - Office Space – DES will probably have lower lease rates than other spaces.
 - B. Bring in future presentations to the meeting. The following were suggested:
 - 529 oversight committee
 - Attorney General's office for public meeting protocol.
 - Other states – Robert suggested bringing Ohio in.
 - ABLE National Resource Center
 - C. The Committee needs a board member who has a disability and one appointed by the State of Arizona Treasurer Office. Debi is filling in as the board member from the Arizona Department of Economic Security, until another one is appointed by the Director.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 9:30am – 11:00am, at Raising Special Kids, 5025 E. Washington Street, Suite 204, Phoenix, Arizona 85034.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:48 am.