

Strategic Visioning Committee Meeting

July 23, 2021

Attending: Dr. John Kowalczyk (President), John Huber (Chairperson of the SVC), Erik Geizer (CEO), Ellen Feldman, Mari Howard, Kirk Lewis, Stanford Perry, Judy O'Rourke, Mary Skillan, Shaloni Winston, Joseph Zifchock, Cyndi Borozny, Kate Geurin, Kate Jerian, Bruce Parsons (Mahoney Performance Institute)

Absent: Susan Lucas and Sandy Gumerove

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm on **July 23, 2021**.

Introductions

Mr. John Huber thanked all again for taking time out of their schedules to come together to discuss the mission statement language change as previously discussed last week. Mr. Huber stressed the importance of making a decision on the language at this meeting as it has been debated and discussed many times throughout the process. He noted that the only thing that has changed since this was adopted was a difference in opinion on the language except for two things – new and unique information that was presented at the last meeting.

Proposal of the Arc New York Mission Statement Language Change

Mr. Erik Geizer shared the following two proposals for the Strategic Visioning Committee to review and then take a straw poll by all Committee Members:

Current Mission Statement (Approved April 29, 2021)

To provide **people with disabilities** the ordinary and extraordinary opportunities of life.

Proposed Mission Statement (proposed July 2021)

To provide **people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities** the ordinary and extraordinary opportunities of life.

Mr. John Huber then asked that a straw poll be taken on each. 7 were in favor of the current mission statement; and 6 were in favor of the proposed mission statement. Based on the results being a split vote, he felt that we go with a contingency vote and asked those Committee members who are Board of Governor representatives to vote as they would vote if the two mission statements were presented to the BOG for a vote. There were 3 Board of Governor representatives on the call and the vote was 2 for proposed and 1 for current.

With that being said, Mr. Huber felt we should bring forth the proposed mission statement to another meeting to ensure we have consensus from all Board of Governors that are represented within this Committee. Mr. Joseph Zifchock expressed his thoughts on organizations dealing with different product categories and how those missions drive those product categories and folds up into an overall organization. He felt that both of these mission

statements could fall under some holding company under The Arc New York that would pertain to those outside of people with I/DD. Mr. Huber appreciated the comments by Mr. Zifchock noting that what is being presented may not remain as the end all of mission statements due to the ever evolving changes in our landscape and environment.

Proposed Funding Requests from Initiative Workgroups

Mr. Erik Geizer stated that we sent out our funding requests to the five initiative workgroups last week so we could start to review and bring forth those requests to the Budget and Finance Committee. The requests he noted are for the first 12 months of the strategic plan process and as previously stated, they have come in a bit lower than originally expected (\$675,000 total). Mr. Geizer then went through each of the initiative funding requests noting that they are broad estimates at this point and will be subject to change.

Discussion then centered around how the costs would be funded and how those costs fit in on the potential future expenses that may come forward (State Office move and/or another wave of COVID for example). It was noted that only two of the six initiatives are reoccurring while one initiative will hopefully have grant funding through eFMAP. Mr. Joseph Zifchock as Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee noted that he is not concerned with how the initiatives will receive their funding – the State Office budget is strong and has the reserves necessary to fund our initiatives. However, he cautioned that once we use those reserves, we currently do not have a mechanism in place to replace those reserves if that is how it will be funded. Mr. Zifchock further noted that it is the anticipation that the initiatives will pay us back in various ways in being more efficient in moving forward.

A vote was taken by all members of the Strategic Visioning Committee to move forward with presenting the initiative funding requests to the Budget and Finance Committee for consideration. All were in unanimous agreement with moving forward in that capacity. A brief discussion did take place on whether this will need to go before the Board of Governors for final approval to ensure that the initiatives can get off the ground and keep the momentum going. It was noted that the Executive Committee can meet specifically to review, discuss and approve this request outside of the BOG approval.

The Strategic Visioning Committee meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.