**Athlete Input Council**

**November 16, 2019 – MINUTES**

**10:30 am – 3:30 pm**

**Present**: Missy Baldwin, Cole Cleworth, Danny Cox, Edward Kastern, Zachary Reetz, Jonathon Baker, Eresi Yarnery, Marquis Garner, Jake Casper, Steve Woodard, Tom Pezzi, Deb Moore-Gruenloh and Jeanne Hrovat. New members/guests Matt Martino and Christine Cherne

**Absent**: Christiana Coakley, David Thompson, Lora Behr, Lucas Smith and Zechariah Tietz.

1. Welcome and Sharing
2. Steve- Most proud of his completing the Partners in Policymaking course and representing at both the Tommy Thompson Center panel and a recent SOWI staff meeting.
3. Danny – Reported that he had attended the Train-the-trainer for Athlete Health Leader in Minneapolis in October and will be helping to host a workshop in January. Also, shared he will be attending Hill Days in February and it will be the first time he flies in an airplane.
4. Christine – Shared she had attended the Unified Leadership workshop with Jeanne in Washington DC in September. Also announced she recently took a new job.
5. Eresi – attended the Self-Determination conference in October as a representative from People First Ozaukee County and SOWI.
6. Jonathon – very proud of helping with the Athlete Leadership reunion. He also attended an Athletes-As-Coaches workshop and has been helping as a coach with his Agency.
7. Cole – Been asked to speak at the Rotary regarding the Polar Plunge
8. Missy – was also very proud to have helped with the athlete leadership reunion. She is currently working two jobs.
9. Zachary – he enjoyed helping with the technology portion of the athlete reunion. He also has undergone two major health issues – he can walk again due to getting new prosthesis and he had cochlear implant to improve his hearing. We were all excited to try out his new device and were glad to know it was working so well.
10. Cole- shared many accomplishments from this year including serving as a coach for his agency, representing SOWI at the Self-Determination conference and helping with fund raising through both the Polar Plunge and Run with the Cops.
11. Marquis – reported that he represented the athletes at the Champions Together Breakfast (a fundraiser for SOWI). He continues to
12. Edward – is proud that he has had an increase in the number of shows he conducts monthly on his “Making it Happen”. Most recently, he was pleased with an interview with someone with schizophrenia that was very forthcoming.
13. Jake – continues to represent the AIC on the board of directors, but he was most proud of his team’s accomplishments at the Outdoor Sports Tournament.
14. Young Athletes – Jenna Lang, SOWI Young Athletes Manager, gave an overview of our Young Athletes program and asked how AIC members and athletes leaders might be involved. We added this to our work plans for 2020 and many AIC members were interested. Anyone interested in learning more can visit our SOWI webpage. <https://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/sports-offered/become-an-athlete/young-athletes/>
15. Dance Theme votes – Winter Games theme will be 80’s, Indoor Sports Tournament theme – Hollywood.
16. We all signed a card for Nora Mason who will be resigning from Special Olympics North America (SONA) after decades of service. As part of her role, Nora was involved with and an advocate for athlete leadership.
17. Indoor Sports Tournament (IST) Activities – working in combination with the Youth Activation Committee (YAC). Jeanne will pass this information to Erin to pass to the YAC.
18. Athlete Leader Reunion will be held Saturday, April 4, 2020 from 5-7 pm in the Badger Room (basement) of Gruenhagen Hall, at UW- Oshkosh. The AIC likes the idea of stations similar to the Summer Games Reunion and would like it to include a meal. New suggestions were to include more activities to help people get to know each other (in addition to the corn hole, spike ball and ladder ball). One example was Improv skits, could also do team builders like group juggling to learn each other’s names and crossing the chocolate river to get people to work together. AIC members who want to be on the planning committee: Missy, Zachary, Jonathon, Edward, Cole, Eresi, Danny, Steve and Marquis.
19. Team Captains Table – We will offer a similar set up as last year. We will give each team a flyer and three sportsmanship stickers for their team captain to present to an opposing team player when they shake hands at the end of each game. Busiest time is Saturday, April 4, 2020 in Kolf Fieldhouse from 30 minutes before games begin until every team has played their first game (about 11 am). Then again, in Albee in the afternoon for unified teams. AIC members who want to help are Zachary, Cole, Marquis, and Steve.
20. Gold Star Standard at SOWI Games – Jason Blank, Sr Director of Athletics provided feedback to the group since their discussion on the January AIC conference call. AIC members may now choose these activities as part of their individual plans.
21. Christine Cherne and Jeanne led everyone in a group-juggling break. Christine and Jeanne learned this at their Unified Leadership. The idea is that none of us knew how to juggle on our own, but if we work together, we could do it. We had to practice making eye contact, knowing each other’s names, listening, paying attention and more.
22. 2020 Work Plan – the AIC broke into two smaller groups to review what they had completed on last year’s plan and to make choices for the 2020 plan. We went through each choice to learn what it meant. AIC members then limited their choices to five. Tom, Deb and Jeanne will work with each AIC member to finalize their plan. Jeanne will then share with the appropriate SOWI staff.
23. Adopt An Athlete – new name ideas.
    1. Sponsor an Athlete
    2. Loaned Athlete Leader (like United Way concept of Loaned Executive)
    3. Assist an Athlete
    4. Support an Athlete
    5. Athletes/Friends
    6. Friends of Athletes
    7. Unified Leadership
    8. Unify with an Athlete
    9. Corporate Athlete Partners
24. AIC member transitions – SOWI is proud to announce we have 165 new athlete leaders since January 2017 and we are ready to include more new leaders onto the AIC. We are so thankful for those AIC members who have carried us through and given more than their 3 year term. The following people will go off after our March meeting and IST reunion. Missy Baldwin, Christiana Coakley and Eresi Yarney. The next waive will be those that came on in 2017.
25. Watch Committee Report Video (Jeanne will send out the link so people can watch on their own. We can also table until our next face-to-face meeting).
26. Next Meeting – January 13, 2020 6-7pm. Potential agenda items – sharing, invite YAC to attend and explain their roll, SOWI etiquette (games/other), Train athletes to spread the word. Potential Reunion Committee call 5-6 pm

2020 SOWI AIC Meetings/Calls (2nd Monday 6:00-7:00pm)

January 13, Call – Phone: 1 (646) 749-3112; Access Code: 493-832-277#; Audio pin: 2#

March 14, Meeting Madison

May 11, Call - Phone: 1 (646) 749-3112; Access Code: 493-832-277#; Audio pin: 2#

July 13, Call (3rd Monday due to July 4) - Phone: 1 (646) 749-3112; Access Code: 493-832-277#; Audio pin: 2#

September 14, Call - Phone: 1 (646) 749-3112; Access Code: 493-832-277#; Audio pin: 2#

November 14, Meeting Madison

Upcoming workshops

November-December – Polar Plunge Ambassador – throughout the state

December 7, 2019 Global Messenger – Milwaukee

January 25, 2020 Athlete Health Messenger – Region 2 site TBD

February – date TBD – Athletes as Table Officials

August 22-23, 2020 – SOWI Unified Leadership Conference