Members present: Kenneth Accord, Doug Auten, Brandy Beery, Greg Bilonick, Rhonda Blosser, Angie Breeden, Jonathan Chaffin, Patty Combs, Lesley Cottrell, Delmar Davis, James Gallagher, Gina Desmond for Susan Given, Dawn Embrey-King, Mary Etta Jones, Pam Roush for Christina Mullins, Taniua Hardy for Pat Nisbet, Kristin O’Neal, Jacqueline Proctor, Wanda Proffitt, Clark Queen, Tara Roush, Jon Sassi, Tina Tanner, Melvin West, Matthew Wink, and Sheila Zickefoose.

Members absent: Cali Brill, Julie Dial, Marc Ellison, Beth Morrison, and Laura Sperry-Barno.

Staff present: Linda Higgs and Steve Wiseman.

Staff absent: Christy Black and Jim Cremeans.

Guests: Justice Breeden and Perry Bryant.

**Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions:** Angie called the meeting to order and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

**Announcements:** Lesley announced that Teresa McCourt has been officially named the Assistant Director of the WV University Center for Excellence in Disabilities (WVUCED).

**Mission Statement:** Tina Tanner read the Council’s mission statement.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of January 24, 2017 Minutes:** Greg moved and Jacqueline seconded the motion to approve the Minutes as written. *Motion carried.*

**Budget Update:** Steve provided Members a mid-year budget update (included in Members’ packets) to help in determining the amount of funds the Council has
available to advertise for the Call for Investments (CFI). Personnel has been underspent due to the vacant position for an administrative assistant.

Delmar asked if the Council is in danger of losing the position since it has remained unfilled. Steve informed Members that since Council is federally funded, the state does not mess with its staffing.

**Designated Stipends Allotment:** Steve recommended allotting $35,000 for designated stipends, based on previous years’ expenditures. **Tara moved** and **Tina seconded** the motion to allot $35,000 for designated stipends. **Motion carried.**

**Call for Investments Allotment:** Steve recommended putting out a grant advertisement with $100,000 available for funding. **Greg moved** and **Patti seconded** the motion to allot $100,000 for the CFI. **Motion carried.**

**Election of Executive Committee Member:** Ballots for the election of an Executive Committee Member were included in Members’ packets. Angie asked for any nominations from the floor; none were made. Members voted by ballot, and Jon Sassi was re-elected for a two year term to the Executive Committee.

**Bylaws/Policies Revisions:** Angie advised Members the Executive Committee had recently reviewed the Council’s *Bylaws* and policies and is recommending several changes. Proposed revisions were sent to Members more than the required two weeks prior to the meeting.

Linda reviewed the proposed changes to the Council’s *Bylaws*. **Delmar moved** and **Sheila seconded** the motion to amend the *Bylaws* as presented. **Motion carried.**

Linda reviewed the proposed changes to the *Policy on Membership*. **Delmar moved** and **Tara seconded** the motion to amend the *Policy on Membership* as presented. **Motion carried.**

Linda reviewed the proposed changes to the *Policy on Committees/Workgroups*. **Delmar moved** and **Clark seconded** the motion to amend the *Policy on Committees/Workgroups* as presented. **Motion carried.**
Linda reviewed the proposed changes to the *Policy on Grants*. Rhonda moved and Jonathan seconded the motion to amend the *Policy on Grants* as presented. **Motion carried.**

**Nominating Committee Report:** Jonathan reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The Committee Members were: Kenneth, Doug, Jonathan (Chair), and Sheila.

**Election of Council Vice-Chair:** The Committee was tasked with bringing forth a name for election as Council Vice-Chair. Jonathan moved that the Council elect Kenneth Accord to the position of Vice-Chair of the Council for a two year term beginning July 1st. Jon seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of nominations for Governor’s appointment:** Jonathan reported the Council had two Members, Wanda Proffitt and Matthew Wink, whose first terms were expiring and who applied for second terms to the Council. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Jonathan moved and Patty seconded the motion that the Council forward applications for Wanda Proffitt and Matthew Wink to the Governor for reappointment. **Motion carried.**

Jonathan then reported the Council had three vacancies (Mary Etta Jones, Clark Queen, and Tina Tanner) to fill. The Council received five applications. Two were from areas where the Council already has Members. Since the Council is trying to get representation from counties not currently represented, the Committee agreed to recommend the three applicants from counties that have no current Members. All three are parents of young children. They are: Trina Clark, a parent of two children with developmental disabilities from Jackson County; Richard Hammons, a parent of a child with dd from Webster County; and Rebecca Stone, a parent of a child with dd from Nicholas County.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Jonathan moved and Rhonda seconded the motion to submit the applications for Trina Clark, Richard Hammons, and Rebecca Stone to the Governor for appointment. **Motion carried.**

**Employment First Workgroup Report:** Kristin, Chair of the Employment First Workgroup, gave a report on behalf of the Workgroup. The Workgroup met twice since the January 24th Council meeting. Notes from the February 17th meeting were in Members’ packets. The April 21st meeting was a conference call with the Employment Learning Community technical assistance advisors (Rie Kennedy Lizzotte and Debra Lueking).
The Workgroup will have a full day meeting on May 19th in Charleston to plan a series of community conversations around the State with teachers, students, parents, employers, leaders in economic development, DRS counselors, and others to get their ideas for creating integrated employment opportunities for people with I/DD. They may also organize a meeting focused on people who are now accessing day programs or sheltered work services.

The Committee also plans to develop more ideas about useful educational products for parents and people with I/DD about employment.

Information learned from the Community Conversations will be used in a State report for policymakers on the status of employment services for people with I/DD and progress in carrying out federal mandates such as Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Rule.

Kristin also spoke about the article she wrote (in Members’ packets) for the Beckley newspaper, the Register-Herald, for DD Awareness month. It focused on the integrated work experiences of her daughter, Chloe.

**Executive Committee Report:** Angie provided a report on the work of the Executive Committee (meeting notes were in Members’ packets). The Committee met twice since the January 24th Council meeting. Once was to review the Council’s Bylaws and policies and make recommendations for changes. The Committee also reviewed Council Members’ feedback forms from quarterly meetings to help in determining future Agendas and to set the quarterly meeting Agenda. She reported the Committee also received a late request for designated stipends funding for the Mountaineer Autism Project (MAP) conference being held at Stonewall Jackson Resort. Since the conference was being held prior to the Council’s quarterly meeting, the Executive Committee agree to allot $2,000 in stipends for the conference. (Per Council policy, $2,000 is the maximum amount the Executive Committee can agree to spend without full Council approval.)

**Legislative Update:** In Christy’s absence, Steve provided Members a legislative update. Council staff met with staff from the Governor’s office on two separate occasions during the session with two different disability advocacy groups. Staff also met with legislative leaders and staff during the session and used the Council’s Legislative Statements frequently. The Council also worked with Disability Rights of WV and the WVUCED this session. The Fair Shake Network was at the legislature on the Council’s behalf too. Council staff attended the press conference
on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) held by the Fair Shake Network and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and the “Safe our Lifeline” rally at the State Capitol on behalf of people using IDD Waiver services.

Steve reviewed several pieces of legislation listed on the handout in Members’ packets. He suggested people meet with their legislators when they are back in their home districts. While the Legislature is not in session they have more time to listen and get up to speed on issues that are important to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Jacqueline reported that, related to HB2404, BoSS, DHHR, AARP, and the University of Charleston are hosting an event related to elder abuse on June 15th. Information can be found on the BoSS Facebook page. (This information has also been shared on the Council’s Facebook page.)

Lesley reported on a piece of state legislation (SB 527) related to traumatic brain injury, which was titled, “Return to Learn.” It would require school systems to create concussion management teams that would convene after a student has incurred a concussion. The team would be responsible for assessing and developing any needed accommodations for the student who is returning to school. The bill did not pass.

**Disability Policy Seminar:** Members who attended the Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC in March reported on the Seminar. Over 900 people attended the Seminar.

Tina met with Congressman Jenkins and aides to both him and Senator Manchin. She spoke about cuts to Medicaid and Social Security.

Delmar was impressed with Senator Manchin’s aide who seemed very interested when he shared his story with him. He was disappointed with Congressman Mooney’s aide, who seemed disinterested.

Angie and Steve met with Senator Capito. She is very knowledgeable about the Council and appreciates what the Council does but would not commit on proposed cuts to Medicaid. Congressman Jenkins also would not commit.

Christina Smith, Arc of WV, and Melissa Southall, People First of WV (and a Partners in Policymaking graduate), also made Hill visits with Council Members.
Steve reported that both of WV’s Senators (Capito and Manchin) are on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Among all the appropriations it considers are one to the DD Councils, University Centers, and Protection and Advocacy agencies.

**I/DD Waiver and State Transition Plan Update:** Taniua reported for Pat Nisbet. In February, the Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) sent a letter to CMS requesting flexibility in two areas: 1) a waiver of eight facilities in the State that exceed the residency requirement of four or less residents, and 2) a request to relax the 3 year time frame for transition to community employment for 82 day habilitation facilities. BMS intends to amend the Waiver application to include these changes. The CMS letter and updates to technical guidance are posted on BMS’ website. BMS hopes to be able to add 50 slots to the program when they submit the Waiver application amendment. (At the July 25th meeting, Pat commented that this statement is incorrect. What should have been reported will be reflected in the July Minutes.) There are over 1200 people on the waitlist and approximately 80 rollover slots will be available on July 1st.

**Understanding proposed changes to the ACA: Medicaid Block Grants and Per Capita Caps:** Perry Bryant, with West Virginians for Affordable Health Care, presented an informational session to assist Members in understanding some of the proposed changes to Medicaid. He reviewed with Members how Medicaid is currently funded, provided explanations of block grants and per capita caps, and discussed what the likely effect of these proposals would be for West Virginia.

**Community Leadership Academy, WVU:** Angie attended the WVU Extension Community Leadership Academy, which brings together leaders from all over the State from various sectors including county commissions, Family Resource Networks (FRN), education, government, economic development, and others. The keynote speaker was Tom Heywood. The sessions were not disability focused, but every session she attended was applicable to the work of the Council. She made several good contacts and connections with people from all over the State who were interested in the Council, what it does, and possible opportunities for collaboration in the future. Angie wrote an essay about how people with developmental disabilities and their families are heavily impacted and very vulnerable to budget cuts and natural disasters that have had an impact on the State. They are a large segment of the population who have a lot of unused capacities and gifts to help build stronger communities. She is interested in helping to find ways for people with developmental disabilities and their families to be part of the solutions for WV, rather than just another problem to be solved.
Prior to the afternoon break, Angie presented Greg a Certificate on behalf of the Council in appreciation for his work as Vice-Chair of the Council.

**SRV – Meaningful Day:** As a continuation of presenting some Social Role Valorization (SRV) information at Council meetings, Steve presented an informational session on helping people to have a meaningful day, whether or not they work. To begin the session, each Member was invited to give an example of what brings meaning to their lives. They included these things: motherhood, kindness, getting an “I love you” every morning, staff helping me do what I need help with, my dog, mowing grass, helping the person I live with, relationship with God, laughter, being alive, prayer, family, being able to serve on the Council, friends, helping others, waking up every day, faith, people depending on me, being a grandparent, memories of parents, helping people get on the Council, children’s growth, music, and having a variety of relationships.

To begin to assist people in having a meaningful day, Steve suggested using information developed by Darcy Elks, which includes starting with values and beliefs, then developing a vision based on what’s valued in society and who the person is, then developing a plan and supporting the person to move and grow into valued social roles by working to enhance competencies and images. Steve reiterated that every person has value and meaning, but there is a lot of societal devaluation of people with developmental disabilities.

**Members’ Comments and Concerns:** None

**Completion of Meeting Evaluation Forms:** Angie encouraged all Members to complete the evaluation form prior to leaving the meeting.

**Adjournment:** Tara moved the meeting be adjourned.