



Members Present: Shawn Allen, Shannon Blosser, Steve Brady, Lesley Cottrell, Carissa Davis, Christen Dougherty, Jackie Erb, Darla Ervin, Rose Fair, Lynsay Frye, JaQue Galloway, Susan Given, Kim Hawkins, Tracy Harnett, Sheri Mills, Cara Price, Samantha Ribeiro Matos, Charlotte Roth, Tonya Rutkowski, Anna Smith, Paulette Southerly, Marsha Spiker, Jessica Sykes, Mel Woodcock

Members Absent: Stephen Barr, Vanessa Combs, Richard Hammons, Lydia Milnes, Amber Moore, Jacqueline Proctor, Angela Signore

Staff present: Katie Arbaugh and Tina Wiseman

INTRODUCTION

Jessica Sykes, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed Council Members. Jessica asked for Member introductions. Jessica asked Tina to review the agenda and meeting materials with Council Members. Jessica asked all Members to read aloud the Council's Mission Statement. Jessica introduced the icebreaker.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of April 22, 2025, Meeting Minutes: Jessica asked members to take a few minutes to review the past meeting minutes. **Darla moved**, and **JaQue seconded** the motion to approve April 22, 2025, meeting minutes. There was no discussion. **Motion carried. No nays or abstentions.**

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chair Nomination

Jessica asked Tina introduction the nomination for Vice Chair. The Council by-laws require a family member and a member with lived experience hold the Chair and Vice Chair roles. Anna Smith was nominated by several members. **Darla made a motion** to nominate Anna Smith to the office of Vice Chair. **Shannon seconded the motion.** No discussion. **Motion carried. No nays. Anna Smith abstained due to the conflict of being nominated.**

FFY 2026 Proposed Budget

Jessica asked Tina to review the proposed budget for FFY 2026. **Sheri Mills moved**, and **Darla seconded** the motion to approve the preliminary 2025 budget. There was a discussion. **Motion carried. No nays or abstentions.**

MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Jessica asked Shannon Blosser to detail this state and national advocacy efforts since our last meeting. Next, Steve Brady was asked to share his experience at the 2025 APSE Conference. Tina provided an overview of the June 5, 2025, film premiere, Coming Home. Members were asked to share their experiences. Tina stated the staff were working to add a webpage to the WVDDC site for On the Outside and Coming Home. Katie provided an overview of the Medical Safeguarding workshop. Members were asked to share their experiences. Jessica asked Lesley Cottrell to discuss the “Toolkit” to members.

QUARTERLY STAFF REPORT

Partners in Policymaking

Jessica asked Tina to share information about the next Partners in Policymaking (PIP) class with Members. Tina explained that the next PIP class will start in the fall of 2026. A work group will be developed to help the staff plan this event. The following Members volunteered to be on the work group: Jessica Sykes, Cara Price, Marsha Spiker, Lesley Cottrell, Shawn Allen, Rose Fair, and Sheri Mills.

State Plan and Work Plan Update

Jessica asked Katie to share information about the state plan and work plan. Katie discussed that the Annual Work Plan for FFY 2026 is due August 15, 2025. Katie will update the workplan following Council member approval of the FFY2026 budget.

5-Year State Plan

Jessica asked Katie to share information about the 5-Year State Plan. Katie discussed the activities of the Five-Year State Plan workgroup with the conclusion of the data gathering period. The workgroup will present a rough draft of the state plan at the October 2025 meeting with final approval at the January 2026 meeting. Then the state plan will be posted for a 45-day comment period.

CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

Announcements: Susan Given and Lesley Cottrell discussed how the federal budget is drafted to defund some programs within the Protection and Advocacy Program and the complete defunding of the Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

Public Comment(s): None.

Council Members' Questions, Comments and Concerns: None.

Adjournment: Jessica asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Shannon moved**, and **Cara seconded** the motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting **adjourned**.