



Members present: Shawn Allen, Michelle Angus, Shannon Blosser, Steve Brady, Lesley Cottrell, Carissa Davis, Christen Dougherty, Darla Ervin, Rose Fair, Lynsay Frye, Susan Given, Tracy Hartnett, Kim Hawkins, Samantha Ribeiro Matos, Sheri Mills, Lydia Milnes, Cara Price, Jacqueline Proctor, Charlotte Roth, Tonya Rutkowski, Angela Signore, Anna Smith, Jessica Sykes, Mel Woodcock

Members absent: Jaque Galloway, Paulette Southerly, Marsha Spiker

Staff present: Katie Arbaugh and Tina Wiseman

Call to Order, Welcome: Jessica **called the meeting to order** and welcomed members. Jessica asked members to introduce themselves using an icebreaker, “What is your favorite holiday?”

Jessica will ask Katie to **review the agenda** and Tina to review the **meeting packet materials**.

We **read the mission statement** as a group.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of October 2025 Meeting Minutes: Lynsay **moved**, and Sheri **seconded** the motion to **approve the Minutes**. There was no discussion. **Motion carried**.

NEW BUSINESS

Five-Year State Plan

Jessica asked Katie to review the Five-Year State Plan progress with members. Katie shared the goals and objectives finalized by the Council and Workgroup. Once these are approved by the Council, they will be released for a 45-day comment period.

Charlotte moved, and **Tracy seconded** the motion to approve the goals and objectives for the Five-Year State Plan public comment period. **Motion was accepted** with no nays or abstentions.

Preliminary FFY 2027 Council Budget

Jessica asked Tina to review the preliminary FFY 2027 Council budget with members. Tina shared the goal of approving the budget earlier is to ensure maximum Council input and planning time. The preliminary budget included personnel, current expenses, and grants and contracts.

Darla moved, and **Tracy seconded** the motion to approve the preliminary Council budget for FFY 2027. **Motion was accepted** with no nays or abstentions.

Public Policy Committee

Jessica asked Tina to review the proposal for a standing public policy committee of the Council. Tina shared this committee would ensure more input into the Council's public policy work. The current Workgroup will meet to develop the Council's policy for this new committee.

Steve moved, and **Sheri seconded** the motion to approve the preliminary Council budget for FFY 2027. **Motion was accepted** with no nays or abstentions.

COUNCIL UPDATES

Federal Appropriations

Jessica asked Tina to provide an update on federal appropriations. The U.S House of Representatives passed a budget bill to the U.S. Senate to fund the federal government through September 30, 2026. DD Councils, P&As and UCEDs are level funded in the House bill. The Administration on Community Living (ACL) remains its own federal agency. January 30, 2026 is the deadline for the U.S. Senate to pass a budget bill to avoid a shutdown.

Re-Appointments and Vacant Positions

Jessica asked Tina to provide an update on Council re-appointments and vacancies. The Council is still waiting, along with other organizations, for gubernatorial approval of our re-appointments from last year. The Council is moving forward with filling 7 current and upcoming vacancies. Council staff will continue to reach out to the Governor's staff for updates.

Federal Reports

Jessica asked Tina to provide an update on the Council's required federal reporting. Tina reported the Program Performance Review (PPR) was submitted timely to ACL. ACL will let us know if the report is approved or needs some changes. The Federal Financial Reports (FFRs) were submitted timely to ACL. These are done in collaboration with the designated state agency, the Department of Health.

Impact Report

Jessica asked Tina to provide an update on the 2025 Impact Report. Tina reviewed the great work of the Council from the previous year. A link to the report is located: <https://ddc.wv.gov/whatsnew/Pages/2025-Impact-Report.aspx>.

Legislative Calendar and Strategy

Jessica asked Tina to provide a legislative update. Tina discussed bills of interest and the Council strategy for this session. The list of bills will be sent to Council members weekly during the session. The Council staff update this list daily. Council staff mailed a copy of the 2025 Impact Report and the 2025-2026 Public Policy Priorities to the Governor, the WV Senate, the WV House, and U.S. Congressional delegation.

The strategy for this session includes: tracking bills of interest, providing education and advocacy for bills of interest or concern, attending relevant legislative committee meetings, testifying in House committee meetings, and reaching out to legislators and their staff, as appropriate.

Tina walked members through the WV Legislature website to demonstrate how to look up committee meetings, committee agendas, bills to be introduced, and how to look up a bill.

CLOSING

Public Comment: None

Members' Comments/Concern: None

Adjournment: Darla moved to adjourn, and Charlotte seconded the motion. Motion carried.