



Members present: Shawn Allen, Michelle Angus, Shannon Blosser, Michelle Angus, Lesley Cottrell, Carissa Davis, Christen Dougherty, Rose Fair, Lysay Frye, Jacque Galloway, Susan Given, Tracy Hartnett, Sheri Mills, Lydia Milner, Cara Price, Jacqueline Proctor, Charlotte Roth, Angela Signore, Anna Smith, Paulette Southerly, Jessica Sykes, Mel Woodcock

Members absent: Stephen Barr, Steve Brady, Darla Ervin, Kim Hawkins, Samantha Ribeiro Matos, Tonya Rutkowski, Marsha Spiker

Staff present: Katie Arbaugh and Tina Wiseman

Guests: Rafael Barker (photographer) and Leslie Lispson (guest speaker)

Call to Order, Welcome: Jessica **called the meeting to order** at 9:23 am. Welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Jessica asked members to introduce themselves.

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

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

Jessica introduced the **Icebreaker**. Members wrote their answer to the following questions. These were shared with the membership.

- What is a Council or personal achievement you are proud of?
- What goal would like to see the Council work towards next year?

Jessica asked everyone to share their achievements and goals with the group. Members were asked to put their notes on the chart paper. These will be typed up by Council staff.

OLD BUSINESS

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

NEW BUSINESS

New Executive Committee Member Vote

Jessica will announce **Sheri Mills was nominated and volunteered to serve on the Executive Committee.**

Jessica stated that since the candidate is unopposed, Sheri Mills can be elected by acclamation. No member objected, Jessica declared Sheri Mills as the newly elected member of the Executive Committee.

Update Mission Statement

Jessica introduced the updated, draft mission statement. Jessica asked for discussion. Members made changes for better clarity.

Rose moved, and Tracy seconded the motion to approve the Mission Statement with changes during the discussion. **Motion to accept the Mission Statement with the changes made.** No nays, and Jessica abstained because she drafted the updated Mission Statement.

The Updated Mission Statement

The Council's mission is to ensure that West Virginians with developmental disabilities make their own choices, live independently, be productive, and are included in their community.

Five-Year State Plan Goals and Objectives

Jessica will ask Katie and the Workgroup to share an update on the Five-Year State Plan.

[Katie add a summary of your presentation and discussion.]

2025-2026 Public Policy Priorities

Jessica asked Tina to share an update on the 2025-2026 Public Policy Priority Statements. Tina explained these were approved last year as a two-year document. She explained that four public policy statements were updated for clarity and to make them shorter.

- **HOME & COMMUNITY SUPPORTS:** Ensure individuals with developmental disabilities have access to fully-funded, high quality and accountable formal and informal support to live, work, socialize and belong in their home and community.
- **DIRECT SUPPORT WORKFORCE:** Strengthen the recruitment, retention, and professional development of the direct care workforce by ensuring competitive wages, comprehensive benefits, professional support, and training programs
- **EMPLOYMENT:** Ensure individuals with developmental disabilities have opportunities for meaningful employment, competitive wages, and career advancement.
- **ACCESS TO COMMUNITY LIVING:** Ensure individuals with developmental disabilities have a right to meaningful participation and equal access within their community, including but not limited to housing and transportation.

Tina will update the 2025-2026 Public Policy Statements with the edits made by the Council today. Next steps, Tina will pull together the Public Policy Workgroup to establish talking points for each public policy statements.

2026 Council Meeting Schedule

The Calendar Year 2026 Meeting schedule is:

January 27, 2026 (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)	Virtual Meeting
April 28, 2026 (9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)	In Person Meeting Location to be determined
July 28, 2026 (9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)	Virtual Meeting
October 27, 2026 (9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)	In Person Meeting Location to be determined

COUNCIL UPDATES

Next Year, Federal Budget, and Beyond

Jessica asked Tina to provide an update on Budget for Next Year, Federal Budget, and Beyond.

Tina provided the following update on the status of the DD Council and federal funding.

- The West Virginia DD Council should be financially secure until September 30, 2026.
- Some Councils face layoffs and stopping grants and contracts soon if the shutdown continues.
- The Administration on Community Living – most staff have been temporarily furloughed.
- The longer the shutdown lasts, the more uncertainty we face.

Tina provided a presentation on the prohibition of lobbying as a DD Council.

MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Jessica recognized the following Members in the Spotlight:

- Celebrating Lynsay's time as a Vice Chair (2019-2025) and, to recognize her leadership. Jessica presented her with a plaque.
- Jessica formally welcomed Anna Smith as the Council's new Vice Chair.
- Jessica recognized Sher Mills as the First Quarterly Council Member featured on the Council's FB page.
- Jessica recognized Christen as the People First Self-Advocate of the Year award.

CLOSING

Public Comment: None

Members' Comments/Concern: None

Adjournment: Shannon moved to adjourn, and JaQue seconded the motion. Motion carried.