

WV DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
VIRTUAL QUARTERLY MEETING
April 27, 2021

MINUTES

Members present: Kenneth Accord, Doug Auten, Brandy Beery, Janice Bostic, Steve Brady, Lesley Cottrell, Delmar Davis, Marc Ellison, Tonya Eve, Lynsay Frye, James Gallaher, Susan Given, Richard Hammons, Kim Hawkins, Randy Hill, Sherill Hoffman, Susan Loudermilk, Jacqueline Proctor, Pam Roush, Rebecca Stone, and Jessica Sykes.

Members absent: Rhonda Blosser, Janie Cole, Julie Dial, Dawn Embrey-King, JaQue Galloway, Wanda Proffitt, Ashley Stewart, Matthew Wink, and Sheila Zickefoose.

Staff present: Christy Black and Linda Higgs

Staff absent: Steve Wiseman

Guests: Emily Hopta, DHHR.

Welcome, Call to Order, Introductions: Brandy called the meeting to order and reviewed the contents of the meeting packet. Members introduced themselves.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of January 26, 2021 Minutes: Brandy asked for any corrections to the Minutes. Hearing none, **Lynsay moved** and **Rebecca seconded** the motion to approve the Minutes. **Motion carried.**

New Business

Budget Update: Linda informed Members that Steve was unable to attend due to the recent passing of his mother and she would be reporting the information provided by him.

She announced the Council will be receiving approximately \$27,000 to use, with our disability advocacy partners, to work to increase the vaccination rates of people with developmental disabilities, family members, and their staff.

She also reported the Council is well under budget for Fiscal Year 2021. Staff vacancies and lower than expected expenditures for face-to-face training events, meetings, and grant project activities due to the pandemic have all contributed to underspending. The Administration on Disabilities, Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) has formally extended the use of FY2020 money for another year for all Councils in recognition of the circumstances.

Designated Stipends Allotment: Linda reported Steve was recommending the Council set aside \$44,000 for Fiscal Year 2022 for stipends. This is the same amount that was set aside last year. **Jessica moved** and **Susan seconded** the motion to allot \$44,000 for designated stipends for FY2022. **Motion carried.**

Call for Investments Allotment: Linda reported Steve was recommending the Council set aside \$40,000 for new grant projects for FY 2022, based on the availability of funds in the budget. **Delmar moved** and **Lesley seconded** the motion to allot \$40,000 for new grant projects for FY2022. **Motion carried.**

Election of Executive Committee Member: Brandy announced that since Ashley Stewart was the only Member responding to the request for interest in being added to the ballot for an election, she was asking that Ashley be elected by acclamation. Ashley has served the past year in an unexpired term. This will be a full term of two years. **All Council Members voiced their support** for the election of Ashley to a two-year term as a Member of the Executive Committee, expiring June 30, 2023.

Nominating Committee Report: Jessica reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The Committee was made up of Jessica, Marc, and Pam. The Committee met on April 9th to review applications for renewing and new Members and to determine which Member would be put forth for approval as Vice-Chair of the Council.

Lynsay has served as Vice-Chair for the past two years and is interested in continuing to serve on the Executive Committee.

JaQue and Richard both sent applications to serve a second term on the Council. They are both parents of children with developmental disabilities.

Six other applications were received. Four were from people with developmental disabilities and two were from parents of children with developmental disabilities.

Jessica explained the Committee looked at the categories of Members remaining on the Council and the requirements of the DD Act before choosing the four applicants with developmental disabilities. They will be replacing Wanda Proffitt, Rebecca Stone, and Matthew Wink, whose terms expire, and filling a one-year vacancy left by the resignation of Kristin O'Neal. Those applicants are: Cynthia Brockman, a woman living in Jefferson County who is the President of People First of the Eastern Panhandle; Tracy Hartnett, a woman living in Lewis County who has been involved with People First; Charlotte Roth, a woman living in Monongalia County who is currently the President of People First of WV; and Anna Smith, a young woman living in Wood County who graduates high school this spring and who has been involved with the Arc, the People First Youth group, and 4-H.

Election of Council Vice-Chair: Jessica moved the Council approve Lynsay as Vice-Chair of the Council for a two-year term ending June 30, 2023. **Rebecca seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.** Lynsay abstained.

Approval of Nominations for Governor's Appointment: Jessica moved the Council forward the applications for JaQue Galloway and Richard Hammons to the Governor for re-appointment to terms of four years each, ending June 30, 2025. **Pam seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.** Richard abstained.

Jessica moved and Delmar seconded the motion that the Council forward the application of Cynthia Brockman to the Governor for appointment to a term of one year, ending June 30, 2022. **Motion carried.**

Jessica moved and Sherill seconded the motion that the Council forward the applications of Tracy Hartnett, Charlotte Roth, and Anna Smith to the Governor for appointment to terms of four years each, ending June 30, 2025. **Motion carried.**

New State Plan: Linda presented information on the Council's *State Plan* using Steve's PowerPoint presentation. She reminded Members they had received an email including the goals and objectives included in the current *Plan* with information on how they are being addressed and some suggestions for removal.

The presentation included information on the role of Councils, the three key areas to be addressed, the sources of information that are used in developing goals/objectives/activities, how the three goals are currently being addressed, and

suggestions for possible new areas. Respite care was the service mentioned most often as needed but not available in the Council's Survey for input on the new *Five-Year Plan*. The ability to find, hire, and keep direct support personnel is also a problem the state needs to address.

Sherill moved and **Steve seconded** the motion to add objectives related to respite services and direct service personnel. **Motion carried.**

Brandy asked for a motion to allow the Executive Committee and any other Members who volunteer to join them to finalize the draft *Plan*, which will then go out for public comment and come back to the Council for final approval at the July meeting. **Kim moved** and **Susan seconded** the motion for the Executive Committee and other Members who volunteer to join them to finalize the draft *Plan*. **Motion carried.**

Final Legislative Report: Christy spoke to the Members about the challenges of the most recent legislative session presented by the Capitol being closed to visitors due to the pandemic. She was still able speak with and meet with legislators virtually when needed. She also told them Steve had been invited to the Capitol several times with Marijane Waldron from the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) to speak or answer questions about the Employment First bill, which passed this year.

Christy followed many bills but highlighted a few for Members:

HB2290 – Employment First, passed. It was the third year it has been introduced.

HB2022 – Budget bill, kept disability services/supports level funded.

SB634 – a bill to cause law enforcement and corrections officers to be trained on appropriate interactions with people autism spectrum passed. The guidelines and instructions for training are to be developed by the WV Autism Training Center at Marshall University.

SB551 – the bill to remove persistent vegetative state (PVS) from Living Will legislation and to clarify that food/drink would be provided as tolerated did not pass.

SB73 – the bill to prohibit discrimination in organ transplantation programs did not pass. This bill was requested by national and state Down Syndrome advocacy organizations but was opposed by the organ transplant center at WVU.

Disability Policy Seminar: The Seminar was recently held virtually. Brandy, Lynsay, Sherill, Christy, and Steve attended for the Council.

Lynsay shared the presentation she gave during her hill visits with staff for Congressman McKinley and Senator Capito.

Sherill said this was her first time attending and she was impressed by the great speakers. She had hill visits with staff for Congresswoman Miller and Senator Manchin.

This was also Brandy's first time attending. She felt they did an excellent job holding the seminar virtually. Her hill visits were with staff for Congressman Mooney and Senator Manchin.

Christy coordinated the hill visits and reported the Olmstead Director, people from the Arc of WV/Mid-Ohio Valley, and representatives of People First of WV also attended.

Council Members' Comments and Concerns: None.

Completion of Meeting Evaluation Poll: The evaluation poll was opened online for Members to complete prior to adjournment.

Adjournment: Jessica moved and Rebecca seconded the motion to adjourn.
Motion carried.