

WV DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
Quarterly Meeting
April 23, 2019
Waterfront Marriott, Morgantown, WV

MINUTES

Members present: Kenneth Accord, Doug Auten, Brandy Beery, Rhonda Blosser, Steve Brady, Angie Breeden, Delmar Davis, Julie Dial, Marc Ellison, Tonya Eve, Lynsay Frye, James Gallaher, JaQue Galloway, Susan Given, Richard Hammons, Kristin O'Neal, Jacqueline Proctor, Pam Roush, Tara Roush, Jon Sassi, Rebecca Stone, Matthew Wink, and Sheila Zickefoose.

Members absent: Cali Brill, Patty Combs, Lesley Cottrell, Dawn Embry-King, Susan Loudermilk, Pat Nisbet, and Wanda Proffitt.

Guests: Stacy Broce attended from the Bureau for Medical Services, Melina Danko attend from WVUCED, Amanda Yeater attended from the Bureau for Children and Families (which has no official representative appointed at this time), and Emily Hopta attended for the DHHR Cabinet Secretary, Bill Crouch.

Staff present: Christy Black, Linda Higgs, and Steve Wiseman.

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

Announcements: Rebecca Stone announced that the Luke Stone Illumination Fund is accepting applications for a merit award. The winner will receive \$1,000 to be set up in a WV ABLE account. To be eligible, the person must qualify for an ABLE account and be under the age of 21.

Brand Beery announced that she and others in the eastern panhandle have filed papers with the national Arc to set up the Tri-County Arc. They are also starting a People First chapter called Tri-County People First.

Susan Given announced Disability Rights of WV is updating their outreach materials. They are looking for volunteers with disabilities who would be willing to be videoed for a day. Disability Rights has produced one video, using Rooted in Rights, to highlight the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program. The video uses real West Virginians.

Mission Statement Reminder: Julie read the Council's Mission Statement.

Public Comment: None

Approval of January 22, 2019 Minutes: Tara moved, and Sheila seconded the motion to approve the Minutes. **Motion carried.**

New Business

Grant Application Approvals: Kristin presented Members information on behalf of the Council's Grant Review Workgroup about three grant applications that were received and reviewed. Members of the Grant Review Workgroup were Doug Auten, Steve Brady, Angie Breeden, Kristin O'Neal, Pam Roush, and Jon Sassi. Members' packets included a handout with details.

Kristin moved, and Delmar seconded the motion to approve the Center for Human Engagement's proposal, "A Statewide Approach to Trauma-Informed Practices for Supporting People with I/DD" in the amount of \$26, 600. There were some questions/concerns, including: It's not a clear who will be trained; There are very few endorsed professionals in the State upon whom the project appears to rely for carrying out the proposal. Melina mentioned the WVUCED is providing training and may be able to help coordinate. After much discussion, the **motion carried. Marc abstained** because he is the director of an agency that employs several endorsed professionals who were mentioned in the application.

Kristin moved, and Richard seconded the motion to not grant funding for the proposal received from VOCA Corp of WV, Inc./RSCR of WV, Inc., "Community Services Facilitators." **Motion carried. Jon abstained** because a co-worker had written a letter of support for the project.

Kristen moved, and Rhonda seconded the motion to fund Vocational Services, Inc.'s proposal, "Student Success Project" for \$76,760 with several stipulations. There were questions/concerns raised by Members, including: How will the project get enough parent/student information to carry out the project? There does not appear to be enough mentors for the mentorship piece. Is there a duplication of services? The cost for the video seems too expensive.

After much discussion, the **motion carried** based on the stipulations presented by the Grant Review Workgroup and clarification of concerns raised by the Council during discussion. **Doug abstained** because DRS is actively involved in another project with the applicant.

Budget Update: Steve provided a brief update on the status of the Council's budget prior to making recommendations for funding for the Designated Stipends and Call for Investments allotment. He advised Members he is working to get back two positions that were lost in the Governor's sweep of vacant positions in State government. He is also working to upgrade the positions of Administrative Assistant and Planner.

Designated Stipends Allotment: Based on the history of the expenses in recent years, Steve proposed the Council approve \$35,000 in funding for the Designated Stipends program. **Delmar moved**, and **Tara seconded** the motion to allot \$35,000 for Designated Stipends. **Motion carried. Marc, Steve Brady, Susan and Julie abstained** because they are involved with agencies that typically apply for and receive funding.

Call for Investments (CFI) Allotment: Steve reviewed areas of the Council's Five-Year Plan and proposed the Council approve \$50,000 to be advertised in a CFI to address Objective 3.1 – Community Building and Engagement. **Jon moved**, and **Tonya seconded** the motion to approve the release of a CFI for Community Building and Engagement in the amount of \$50,000. **Motion carried.**

Nominating Committee

Election of Council Vice Chairperson: Sheila reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee, which was made up of Sheila, Jon, and Rhonda. The Committee met and held a discussion about filling the Vice-Chair position. They unanimously agreed to put forth Lynsay Frye to the Council for the position. Sheila contacted Lynsay to see if she was willing to be nominated and received a positive response. **Sheila moved**, and **Brandy seconded** the motion to nominate Lynsay Frye for the position of Vice-Chair of the Council. **Motion carried. Lynsay abstained.**

Election of Executive Committee Members: Angie reported there were two vacancies to be filled on the Executive Committee – a one-year term to fill the remainder of the term being vacated by Matthew Wink, and a two-year term to fill

the vacancy created by Jon Sassi's expiring term. Two people responded to a request of interest to have their names placed on the ballot – Brandy Beery and Lesley Cottrell. Angie invited nominations from the floor. No other nominations were received. **Sheila moved**, and **Susan seconded** the motion to appoint Brandy to the two-year term and Lesley to the one-year term on the Council's Executive Committee. **Motion carried. Brandy abstained.**

Reports

Disability Policy Seminar: Christy reported that she, Steve, Angie, Tonya, Lynsay, and JaQue attended the Disability Policy Seminar. Liz Ford from the Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley, Melissa Southall from People First of WV, and Jeremiah Underhill from Disability Rights of WV were also in attendance. Tonya said they met with WV's Senators and Representatives or their key staff members, and the sessions were very enlightening. She highly recommended the Seminar to other Council Members if they have the opportunity to attend. Lynsay said she loved it, but there was a lot of walking. JaQue mentioned that it was a great experience and enjoyed getting to meet with others. Angie stated that it is always great to meet people from different Councils and make connections from other states. Christy reported there were sessions on the ABLE Adjustment Act, Olmstead, and Employment. Members discussed appropriations for Councils and our DD Network partners with our elected officials.

PIP Update: Christy reported for the Workgroup. Workgroup Members are Angie, Sheila, Lesley, Kristin, Julie, Rhonda, Richard, JaQue, and Brandy. The Council has received ten applications. Applications are due by June 30th. The Workgroup has been working on recruitment. Brandy and Christy promoted the PIP sessions on a radio talk program. Christy also presented at a "Lunch and Learn" for Birth to Three. The Council and Workgroup Members are sharing information on social media. Christy thanked Susan with DRWV and Pam with WV Birth-to-Three for their sponsorships. Christy stated she will be getting with Lesley soon to work on the technology piece. Pam stated the WV Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (WV EIICC) could also lend their access to "GoToMeeting" for PIP. Christy reported the workgroup will be meeting again in June.

Final Legislative Report: Christy provided Members an update following the end of the session. She stated that 1,823 bills were introduced, of which 294 passed. The Governor vetoed 30 of those bills. She remarked it was a very difficult, but

successful, session. During the session she had several meetings that she scheduled and attended along with Paul Smith of the Fair Shake Network and Ann McDaniel with the WV Statewide Independent Living Council (WV SILC). She also attended several meetings at the request of legislators. She said education dominated the session once again. She reported HB 2020, the budget bill, passed during the regular session and the line items she monitored were level funded or received slight increases. She stated that she advocated for the budget to cover the I/DD Waiver waitlist but those efforts were not successful. Other bills she followed were SB 451, the Education Reform Act, SB 632, the Improving Student Safety Act, HB 2848, the WV ABLE Act, a couple of bills regarding nondiscrimination and involuntary denial of treatment, and a couple of bills around subminimum wage and Employment First. Christy mentioned the Governor called a special session for education betterment and teacher raises. She anticipates it will begin in May. The legislature will need to take action on this before the fiscal year starts on July 1st.

Recognition of Kenneth Accord: Angie and Steve presented Kenneth with a framed certificate and spoke in recognition of his dedicated service to the Council as its Vice Chairperson for the past two years.

Discussion of Employment First & Sub-minimum Wage, Patient's Rights, and Education bills: Steve spoke about efforts to pass a bill to establish West Virginia as an "Employment First" state and to eliminate sub-minimum wages for people with disabilities. After discussing the problems with the low employment of people with developmental disabilities with some legislators, one Delegate drafted a bill to address both the Employment First and sub-minimum wage issues. That bill did not pass, but it did generate a spirited debate in the House of Delegates. A subsequent effort in the Senate to repeal the provision in the State law that permits sub-minimum wage of people with disabilities also did not pass.

Linda spoke about proposed legislation to mandate non-discrimination in health care near the end-of-life which was introduced during the last session. She also spoke about the work the Council did with West Virginians for Life in support of the bill, and the subsequent bill introduced to provide clarity on Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders regarding hydration/nutrition. Neither bill passed.

Christy spoke about SB 451, the Education Reform Act, also known as the Education Omnibus bill. She stated the bill contained teacher pay raises, PEIA fixes, tax credits, funds to reimburse teachers for purchases for their classrooms,

and the establishment of charter schools and education savings accounts. Christy stated she was asked to testify before the Senate and House Education Committees regarding charter schools and education savings accounts. She, Angie, and Steve also spoke about the potential dangers for students with disabilities of establishing charter schools and education savings accounts at a public hearing called by the Chair of the House Finance committee. The bill passed the Senate and the House Education and Finance Committees. Once the bill went to the House floor there were over thirty amendments to the bill, some of which passed and others of which failed. The bill died in a House floor session. At the Governor's request, the WV Department of Education (DoE) held public forums across the State. The WV DoE also disseminated a survey for those who could not attend forums. An outside agency is computing the results of the surveys and forums. The topics of charter schools and education savings accounts are expected to be re-visited in the special session. Steve stated that, as we mentioned at the public hearing, charter schools and education savings accounts could be used to further segregate students with disabilities.

DD Act Partners Update: Melina Danko, WVUCED, gave a presentation of the UCED's Family-to-Family initiatives, including the use of simulation exercises to train new medical providers and the Project DOCC (Delivery of Chronic Care), which is being instituted at WVU Hospitals.

Group Activity

“What’s Worth Working For – Valued experiences for people: Sharing Ordinary Spaces”: Angie presented information based on the work of John O’Brien. She introduced John O’Brien’s five “Valued Experiences” for people: sharing ordinary places, making choices, contributing, being respected, and belonging. She then focused on the value of “Sharing Ordinary Places” for people with developmental disabilities. Angie invited Members to think about ways they could assist communities to be more welcoming of people with developmental disabilities. This generated discussion about Members’ experiences in helping communities be more welcoming.

Members’ Comments and Concerns: There was no discussion.

Completion of Meeting Evaluation Forms/Adjournment: Angie reminded Members to complete the evaluation forms before they left and asked for a motion to adjourn. **James moved**, and **Tara seconded** the motion.