

WV DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL  
VIRTUAL QUARTERLY MEETING  
April 26, 2022

MEETING MINUTES

**Members present:** Kenneth Accord, Brandy Beery, Steve Brady, Cindy Brockman, Lesley Cottrell, Delmar Davis, Lynsay Frye, Susan Given, Richard Hammons, Tracy Harnett, Kim Hawkins, Sherill Hoffman, Susan Loudermilk, Pam Roush, Char Roth, Tonya Rutkowski, Anna Smith, Amber Moore, Ashley Stewart, Jessica Sykes, Sheila Zickefoose

**Members absent:** Rhonda Blosser, Janice Bostic, Julie Dial, Marc Ellison, Tonya Eve, James Gallaher, JaQue Galloway, Randy Hill, Jacqueline Proctor, Rich Ward.

**Staff present:** Steve Wiseman and Christy Black

**Guests:** Katie Arbaugh, and Marsha Spiker (for WVDRS)

**Welcome, Call to Order, Introductions:** Brandy called the meeting to order and reviewed the contents of the meeting packet. Members introduced themselves. Steve introduced Katie Arbaugh who will be joining the Council staff on May 2nd as the new Planner.

**Mission Statement:** Ashley Stewart read the mission statement.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Approval of January 25, 2022 Minutes:** Brandy asked for any corrections to the Minutes. Hearing none, **Lesley moved** and **Sheila seconded** the motion to approve the Minutes. **Motion carried.**

**New Business**

**Budget Update:** Steve gave a brief budget update as is typically done at the mid-way point in the Council's fiscal year. He stated the Council is under budget due to different factors. There have been long standing vacant positions. The Planner position has been recently filled, and we continue to work to fill the front desk (Administrative Assistant) position. Grantees have not used funds as quickly as planned due to not being able to do their work person-to-person during the pandemic. The pandemic has affected training and many other Council activities.

**Designated Stipends Allotment:** Steve recommended the Council set aside \$32,000 for Fiscal Year 2023 for conference and training event stipends. The stipends are used to offset expenses for people with developmental disabilities and family Members to attend those events. This amount was recommended based on the history of expenditures by the host agencies of the events. He reminded the Members that if the need arises later, the Council can elect to increase that amount for specific, unanticipated events. **Delmar moved** and **Charlotte seconded** the motion to allot \$32,000 for designated stipends for FY2023. **Motion carried.**

**Call for Investments Allotment:** Steve recommended the Council set aside \$75,000 for new grant projects for FY 2023, based on the availability of funds in the budget. **Charlotte moved** and **Lynsay seconded** the motion to allot \$75,000 for new grant projects for FY2023. **Motion carried.**

**Election of Executive Committee:** There are three openings for the Executive Committee. Three Members submitted their names for consideration. They were Lesley Cottrell, Pam Roush, and Jessica Sykes. **Cindy moved** to approve by acclamation Lesley, Pam, and Jessica for the three openings on the Executive Committee. **Anna seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.** Lesley, Pam, and Jessica abstained.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Jessica chaired the Nominating Committee. Other Members present were JaQue Galloway, Ashley Stewart, and Sheila Zickefoose. Jessica reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee which met on April 12<sup>th</sup> to review applications for renewing and new Members.

**Election of Chair:** The Nominating Committee asked Brandy if she was willing to serve a second term as Council Chair. Jessica reported that Brandy is willing to continue as Chair. **Sherill moved** to elect Brandy to a second two year term as Chair, and **Lynsay seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.** Brandy abstained.

**Approval of Nominations for Governor's Appointment:** Jessica stated that the Council received applications for Cindy Brockman, Lynsay Frye, and Sherill Hoffman for a second term. **Charlotte moved** the Council forward the applications for Cindy Brockman, Lynsay Frye, and Sherill Hoffman to the Governor for re-appointment to terms of four years each, ending June 30, 2026. **Susan seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.** Cindy, Lynsay, and Sherill abstained.

Three applications were received from people in the category of “a parent or guardian of a child (under 18 years of age) with a developmental disability,” and one was received from someone in the category of “the immediate relative or guardian of an adult with mentally impairing developmental disability that causes him/her great difficulty in advocating for him/herself.” Jessica explained that the Committee looked at the categories remaining on the Council and the requirements of the DD Act before choosing the two applicants to bring before the Council. They will be replacing Delmar Davis and Julie Dial whose terms expire. Those applicants are: Jennifer Dotson of Falling Waters, Berkeley County and Rose Fair of Weirton, Hancock County. Jennifer is the parent of a daughter and step-parent of a young man, both of whom have developmental disabilities. Rose is the parent of a son, and has a brother, both of whom have autism spectrum disorders. **Jessica moved** and **Charlotte seconded** the motion that the Council forward the application of Jennifer Dotson to the Governor for appointment to a term of four years ending June 30, 2026. **Motion carried.** **Jessica moved** and **Lynsay seconded** the motion that the Council forward the application of Rose Fair to the Governor for appointment to a term of four years ending June 30, 2026. **Motion carried.**

Two applications were received to fill the slot being vacated by Sheila Zickefoose, whose second term expires. The Committee chose to recommend Paulette Southerly who is employed at the Northern Center for Independent Living as a representative of a local and non-governmental agency concerned with services for individuals with developmental disabilities. **Jessica moved** and **Charlotte seconded** the motion that the Council forward the application of Paula Southerly to the Governor for appointment to a term of four years, ending June 30, 2026. **Motion carried.**

### **A look back and thoughts for the future:**

Steve announced that he plans to retire in July. He stated that it has been a great privilege to be the Council Director for the past 23 years. Steve discussed the 50th Anniversary celebration and how it caused us to reflect on some high points over that period of time. He reflected on the past years and gave thoughts for the future. Steve stated that his work with and around the Council in 1982 when he became Director of the Medley Project for deinstitutionalization. His office was located at the Department of Health Office of Behavioral Health Services which was located at the time next to the office of the Developmental Disabilities Council. In 1986 the federal Developmental Disabilities Act was changed to give the Councils more

autonomy from the State administration. This made it easier for the office to move out of the state office building in 1987. In 1989, Julie Pratt became the Director and Linda Higgs became the Chair. They secured a new spot on the Council for the Medley Project Director because it aligned with the Council's values and was instrumental with closing of the State institutions. When Julie left, Steve helped with hiring the next Director. At that time Steve was the State Director of DD Services. The closure of the State institutions for people with developmental disabilities in 1998 was a highlight of the work of the DD Division and the DD Council. The Council partnered by providing funds for staff members who managed the transition process for people who left the institutions for life in the communities. WV was the 5th State in the country and the poorest state to do this. Many States still have large institutions. The Council always has to be on guard that the State does not backslide. A recent example of concern was the proposal to build a segregated residential school in Pendleton County. From the closure came the book "On the Outside" which showcased some of the people who left the institutions and some who would have gone into them without the strong support of their families.

Another important achievement was the passage of the *WV Family Support Act*, SB 29. Linda Higgs, acting in her role as a parent, mobilized other parents and got the Senate President at the time to understand the needs of families. The Council was instrumental in helping get this important bill passed.

After many years of work, the Council worked with other advocates to get Employment First legislation in WV. That passed in 2021. The Council is a key member of the State Taskforce that was established pursuant to the legislation. People love one training program the Council provides: Partners in Policymaking. The Council has done considerable training on Program Analysis of Service Systems, Social Role Valorization, and PASSING. These continue to be great teaching tools for many parents, advocates, and service staff. The Council is unique in that, of 56 Councils, WVDDC is the only one doing this kind of training. Other important training events have included: Medical Safeguarding, Strangers in the House, Alternatives to Guardianship (and now Supported Decision Making training), Wills and Trusts, the Affordable Care Act, and Crafting a Meaningful Day to name a few. The Council was instrumental in getting Approved Medication Assistive Personnel established in State code, policy, and practice, as well as adult dental care. The Council was instrumental in advancing many other systems improvements including inclusive education and positive behavior support. We need to continue to carry-out new projects to learn what works and what doesn't work. We have learned and demonstrated much over the years. We need to apply that knowledge to problems with public policy and how people are treated. We

need to continue to ask questions such as; How can people live their lives with the minimal amount of formal support services? A good life is the goal. We have to look at the long picture. This Council is a great group. Steve has an optimistic view for the Council to hire a good director and stated he is looking at ways he can help in the future. Thank you all for your dedication to the vision and mission of the Council.

**Final Legislative Report:** Christy spoke on the climate of the session compared to the previous year when the public was allowed in the building by invitation only. Christy followed many bills but highlighted a few for Members:

SB 250 -Budget bill, kept disability services/supports level funded.

SB 647 - Organ Transplant Discrimination bill, passed. It was the third year being introduced. This bill prohibits organ transplant discrimination based on a physical or mental disability.

SB 470 - The purpose of the bill is to remove persistent vegetative state (PVS) from the Living Will and Combined Medical Power of Attorney form and to clarify that food/drink would be provided as tolerated. This bill was also the third year this bill was introduced. It passed.

SB 261 The purpose of this bill was to clarify procedures for cameras in special education classrooms. This bill also passed.

SB 645 - The purpose of this bill was to regulate private schools for students with disabilities which basically gave the State DoE the authority to approve curriculum for private schools. The legislation was in response to the proposed opening of a private segregated boarding school for children four to twenty one years old with Autism. Steve spoke at committee about concerns. The bill passed the Senate with only Senator Baldwin opposing it. The Council was successful in educating key House Members about the inappropriateness of enabling the development of segregated special schools for children with disabilities. The bill failed to pass the House committee.

**Council Members' Comments and Concerns:** None.

**Completion of Poll for In Person Council Meeting:** The poll was opened on whether the Council should return to in-person meetings. Sixteen of the 17 Members who responded chose that the Council should hold the July meeting in-person.

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

**Adjournment:** Delmar moved and Charlotte seconded the motion to adjourn.  
**Motion carried.**