

WV DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
January 28, 2020
Four Points by Sheraton, Charleston, WV

MINUTES

Members present: Kenneth Accord, Doug Auten, Brandy Beery, Rhonda Blosser, Lesley Cottrell, Delmar Davis, Julie Dial, Dawn Embry-King, Tonya Eve, James Gallaher, JaQue Galloway, Susan Given, Richard Hammons, Randy Hill, Sherill Hoffman, Kristin O'Neal, Pam Roush, Tara Roush, Jon Sassi, Rebecca Stone, Matthew Wink, and Sheila Zickefoose.

Members absent: Steve Brady, Cali Brill, Janie Cole, Patty Combs, Marc Ellison, Lynsay Frye, Susan Loudermilk, Jacqueline Proctor, and Wanda Proffitt.

Guests: Heather Cummings (BCF), Keri Ferro (Higher Education Policy Commission), Pam Ingram (BBH), Jenny Lancaster, Jeff McCroskey and Betsy Peterson (Vocational Services, Inc.).

Call to Order, Welcome: Kristin called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Introductions and Announcements: Kristin invited everyone to introduce themselves, then Steve made several announcements. He reminded Members to complete their Ethics forms they received this month and told them about three upcoming workshops: the one-day SRV trainings being held in late February; the Civil Rights Summit being held at WV State University in March, and the Disability Conference being held in April.

Mission Statement Reminder: Susan Given read the Council's Mission Statement.

Public Comments: None

Approval of October 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Sherill moved and Brandy seconded the motion to approve the Minutes as written. **Motion carried.**

New Business

Election of Nominating Committee: Since there were five names on the ballot, Kristin asked for a motion to approve all five Members to the Nominating

Committee. **Delmar moved** and **JaQue seconded** the motion to approve those on the ballot as the Nominating Committee. **Motion carried.** The 2020 Nominating Committee members will be Lesley Cottrell, Sherill Hoffman, Rhonda Blosser, Jon Sassi, and Sheila Zickefoose. Those five members abstained from voting.

Grant Renewals Allocation: Steve reported approximately \$420,000 will be needed if the Council renews all the current grants which expire June 30th. **Jon moved** and **Lesley seconded** the motion to make \$420,000 available for grant renewals. **Motion carried.**

WV ATC request: Steve reported on two funding requests received from the WV Autism Training Center since the last quarterly meeting. The Executive Committee reviewed the requests and agreed to forward them to the full Council for consideration. The first request of \$1,182.93 was for funds to buy materials to make sensory hallways at several Title 1 elementary schools in rural WV. **Rebecca moved** and **Delmar seconded** the motion to approve the request for up \$1,182.93. **Motion carried.**

The second request was to provide designated stipends funds in the amount of \$5,600 to allow students with developmental disabilities to attend a three-day Summer Employment Workshop which focuses on preparing for employment, on-the-job skills, and sustaining employment. **Brandy moved** and **Delmar seconded** the motion to approve the request for \$5,600. **Motion carried.**

Updates

PIP Update: Christy stated that PIP was more than halfway over. There are 29 participants with 8 participants participating by webinar. Technology has been a challenge, but it is working and beneficial. The focus for the next session is education, March is employment and resources, and April is government.

Legislative Update: Christy stated that today is the 21st day of the legislature. There have been 1,740 bills. She is following approximately 110 bills. Christy stated that the budget line items she monitors were all level funded, except for the IDD Waiver which had an increase of \$19 million to clear the waitlist. Christy mentioned other bills of interests. Steve discussed Employment First bills. He stated that he testified, and the Council brought in a national expert and former President of APSE, David Hoff, to also testify before the Joint Judiciary Committee.

Staffing Update: Steve informed Members the position of Administrative Assistant was filled the first week of December, but the person quit after 2.5 days. The position has been re-posted. The position for Planner was submitted but has been going between the Governor's office, personnel, and DHHR and has not yet been posted.

Steve also mentioned the office would be getting new phones on Thursday and will also be getting Wi-Fi in the conference room soon.

He told Members he spoke at the IDD Waiver Rally and at the Fair Shake Network Legislative Training Day. At Legislative Training Day he spoke on Employment First and how the IDD Waiver does not incentivize employment.

He informed Members the Council needs to begin working on its next Five-Year Plan, which is due in 2021. He expects a work group will be formed but the work will likely begin with the Executive Committee.

DD Act Partners' Updates: Susan provided an update for Disability Rights of WV (DRWV). She reported they were contacted by Dept of Homeland Security to be a resource and assist during emergencies. They are excited about the partnership. They will be at the emergency operations center when an emergency is declared. She mentioned the foster care lawsuit and the lawsuit against Kanawha County Schools with which DRWV is involved.

Susan reported DRWV recently received a call from an Oregon Senator regarding a facility in Illinois of which he had concerns. Both OR and WV had a child in this facility. DRWV sent staff to the facility to check on the status of the child. The facility was later decertified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

DRWV is looking for a parent or guardian of a minor child with severe mental illness to sit on their Advisory Board of a grant on mental illness.

Susan showed Members where they can find DRWV videos on a variety of topics on their YouTube channel and mentioned they will soon have new videos on voting when you live in a facility, representing yourself in Medicaid Fair Hearings, and Alternatives to Guardianship.

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Lesley provided an update for the Center for Excellence in Disabilities at WVU. She informed members CED Grand Rounds are held the 2nd Tuesdays of the month from 2-3pm, and people can call in to them. The next one, on February 11th, will include a presentation by Jonathan Martinis titled “Supported Decision-Making and Health Care: Improving Outcomes by Empowering Patients and Professionals.”

Lesley also let Members know the Mountain State Disability Conference is being held April 14-15, 2020 and spoke about the Country Roads program which will begin in late August or early September 2020. This is a college program for students with intellectual disabilities the UCED is beginning in collaboration with WV State University with a focus on community living. The intent is to expand it into a four-year program. She also spoke about their work in connecting 4-H programs and robotics in three areas of the State. This involves robotics programs at Marshall, West Virginia, and Concord Universities.

I/DD Waiver Update: Randy first addressed the Bureau for Medical Services’ (BMS) State Transition Plan by saying he had spoken with Rose Lowther-Berman to determine the status. Rose was going to be putting new data on the BMS website which would indicate residential settings are 90% compliant and non-residential settings are 80% compliant at this time. He mentioned compliance percentages did not initially include Specialized Family Care, but the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) began requiring the inclusion of that program in 2019.

Randy advised Members the IDD Waiver Quality Improvement Advisory (QIA) Council discussed Conflict-Free Case Management (CFCM) at its recent meeting. CFCM will be implemented with the new Waiver in July 2020. He reported the training curriculum has been developed and is now being put in a web-based format. Licensed social workers will not need to complete all modules. Modules are competency-based, so those with experience will have the opportunity to “test out” and will not need to complete a module if they pass the competency test.

He then spoke about the IDD Waiver wait list, saying DHHR completed the study requested by the Governor by the January 15th deadline. They are now waiting for the Legislature to approve a budget including the funds. He stated the goal is to clear the wait list by July 1st. KEPRO would begin assessing those on the list and slots would be released in March, April, May, and June. The program also generally has around 100 roll-over slots each year due to those who exit the

program after using services during the fiscal year. Those slots will be available July 1st.

Randy reminded Members that WV's eligibility criteria for the program is stricter than most, if not all, other states.

BMS is looking at rates and units for CFCM and may change to an event code. They are also looking at rates Supported Employment services, including value-based payments used by some other states. Payment is made based on the success of job placement, job retention, and the backing-off of job coaches.

He also mentioned CMS would be coming next week for a review of the three Waiver programs. They are particularly interested in how states provide oversight for health and safety.

Presentations

Higher Education Policy Commission: Kerri Ferro, Ed.D., Director of Statewide Academic Affairs, accepted the Council's invitation to attend and provide information to Members on which schools of higher education are offering programs for students to become special education teachers. She provided a listing (attached) of the programs offered at each school.

Dr. Ferro stated the critical areas are math, science, elementary education, and special education. Underwood-Smith scholarships of \$10,000 are available for four years for students going into these areas who agree to teach in the State for five years.

When asked what training general education teachers get in order to teach children with special education needs in their classrooms, Dr. Ferro stated all general education students take nine hours of special education instruction, and all courses are about differentiating instruction.

She also reported WV University uses a co-teaching model embedded in student teaching. Higher education is moving towards a "residency program" rather than student teaching. This means an education student spends an entire school year, from start to finish, in a classroom.

Vocational Services, Inc: Jeff McCroskey, Betsy Peterson, and Jenny Lancaster were invited to speak about their grant with the Council, the “Student Success Project.”

Jeff, the Executive Director of Vocational Services, Inc. (VSI) gave an overview of the project including how he came up with the idea. He stated that he kept hearing a recurring theme that, while we have made great progress medically, parents who have a new son or daughter with a disability are being given a bleak prognosis as far as what the future holds. VSI will be creating a website and highlighting local positive stories. It will be a two-tiered parent system with resources for new parents and positive stories from people and families in West Virginia. At this point, two families have been videotaped. They are also talking with hospital administrators to be able to do outreach to medical professionals in an attempt to change negative perceptions.

Betsy is the former Parent Educator for the WV DoE Special Education department. She discussed doing outreach and calling on Gizmo families and other families with whom she has relationships. Betsy stated that success means something different for everybody, and you shouldn’t compare your child’s success to another child’s success, even siblings.

Jenny, who is the webpage designer for the project, walked Members through the project’s website.

Council’s new webpage: Linda showed Members the new Council webpage which should go live later in the week.

Members’ Comments and Concerns: None

Completion of Meeting Feedback forms: Kristin encouraged all Members to complete and leave the feedback forms that were provided.

Adjournment: Matthew made a **motion** to adjourn. Brandy **seconded**.