

WV DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
Quarterly Meeting
January 22, 2019
Holiday Inn & Suites, South Charleston, WV

MINUTES

Members present: Kenneth Accord, Susan Beck, Brandy Beery, Rhonda Blosser, Steve Brady, Angie Breeden, Lesley Cottrell, Delmar Davis, Marc Ellison, Dawn Embry-King, Tonya Eve, Lynsay Frye, James Gallaher, Susan Given, Richard Hammons, Kristin O'Neal, Jacqueline Proctor, Pam Roush, Tara Roush, Jon Sassi, Rebecca Stone, and Matthew Wink.

Members absent: Doug Auten, Cali Brill, Patty Combs, Julie Dial, JaQue Galloway, Susan Loudermilk, Patricia Nisbet, Wanda Proffitt, Laura Sperry-Barno, and Sheila Zickefoose.

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

Guests: Elizabeth Bragg, Staci Broce, Alanna Cushing, and Kristi Pritt.

Call to Order, Welcome: Angie called the meeting to order.

Introductions/Announcements by Members: Angie invited everyone to introduce themselves, then asked for any announcements. Steve announced that Jim Cremeans retired at the end of December, after having worked at the Council for 18 years. Prior to working at the Council, he worked for Steve at the I/DD Division of the Office of Behavioral Health Services. He began his career working for Autism Services Center in Huntington, WV. He then announced that Jan Lilly-Stewart, a previous staff member at the Council, recently passed away. While working at the Council she was the Council's Advocacy Specialist, along with being the first coordinator of the Council's Partners in Policymaking program and she also coordinated Normalization/PASS training workshops. Prior to working at the Council, she worked at Mountain State Centers for Independent Living, and following her retirement from the Council she became the director of the Fair Shake Network.

Mission Statement Reminder: Rhonda read the *Mission Statement*.

Public Comments: None

Approval of October 23, 2018 Meeting Minutes: Brandi moved, and Richard seconded the motion to approve the Minutes. Motion carried.

New Business

Election of Nominating Committee: Since only three Members volunteered to have their names placed on the ballot, Angie asked for a motion to accept the ballot by voice vote. Kristin moved, and Marc seconded the motion to approve the three names on the ballot to serve as the Council's Nominating Committee. Motion carried. Rhonda Blosser and Jon Sassi abstained. The Nominating Committee Members are Rhonda Blosser, Jon Sassi, and Sheila Zickefoose.

Council Updates

Employment First Workgroup Update/UK UCEDD Training: Kristin reported on behalf of the Employment First Workgroup. Notes from the November 29th meeting were included in Members' packets. Kristin then reported on the training she attended, Social Role Valorization (SRV) Training and Implications for Supported Employment, at the University of Kentucky's Human Development Institute in Louisville, KY. She reported she learned practical things. An example she gave was studying images, noting the differences in how people with and without disabilities are portrayed, as well as studying the differences in language used when speaking about people who are valued by society at-large versus those who are devalued. She believes all employment related personnel need to be trained in SRV and Discovery, and that it isn't a matter of money, rather, it is a matter of priorities.

Legislative Report: Christy reminded Members there was a copy of the Council's 2019 Legislative Statements in their packets which they could use when speaking with their representatives. Christy mentioned that the session is just getting started. She has analyzed the budget bill which is SB 150 and HB 2020, and there were no decreases in line items that the Council monitors. There were some small increases in a few line items. Christy mentioned HB 2020 Education Savings Accounts for students with special needs and HB 2070 Helmet bill which are both carryovers. Christy gave an overview of the ABLE legislation that is to be introduced soon. Christy mentioned that she is following 79 bills out of the 949 that have been introduced thus far.

PIP Workgroup: Angie reported on behalf of the Partners in Policymaking Workgroup. The Workgroup agreed to offer webinar/video conferencing for the next class of PIP in hopes of appealing to more people who live away from the Charleston area. Members received a copy of the revised Application in their packets. She invited Members to go to the Council's website and share the information with people they know who might be interested. She requested parents to recruit other families and suggested service coordinators could share with families also.

Grants/Contracts Update: Steve reported the Council's grant with the WV Association of Positive Behavior Support is still waiting to start. They are working on the Federal level to get paperwork needed in order to be able to bill.

He also announced the new Call for Investments (CFI) was released last week, and a technical assistance call will be held on January 29th. The Council will vote on any new grants at the quarterly meeting on April 23rd, with grants potentially beginning on July 1st. The Council will still be putting out a new CFI later in the year as usual. There could also be new contracts rather than grants, in some instances a Request for Proposals may be needed and may be released soon.

Staffing Update: Steve reported he is working with the Division of Personnel to replace Jim and is looking at the possibility of upgrading the positions for Planner and the administrative person in order to attract better qualified candidates. He hopes those positions will be posted soon. The vacant Human Resource position should be posted sooner.

Budget Update: Steve reminded Members he has been reporting to them on the proposed changes from the federal administration on the timeframe Councils have to spend yearly allotments. At this point they have agreed to allow Councils the three years they have always had for 2019 funds and it is looking like they may also waive the 2020 restrictions.

He advised Members the Council recently switched grantees to quarterly invoices with reconciliations rather than monthly invoicing and believes that process will work better once everyone adjusts.

DD Act Partners Update

Parent Advocacy Guide (PAG) Videos and Social Security Project Update: Susan showed one of the videos that is being developed to accompany the Parent

Advocacy Guide. The project is not finished. Disability Rights of WV (DRWV) is working with the company developing the videos and hopes to have a completed project soon. Links to the videos will be available on the Council's website upon completion.

Susan then provided information to Members on DRWV's project with the Social Security Administration (SSA)– P&A for Beneficiaries with a Representative Payee. This project has begun slowly because of the stringent security requirements. Staff had to be cleared through the SSA's background check and then receive training on the program. DRWV just recently received the first computer that will be necessary to work on the reviews. They are designed to be used only for the purposes of social security reviews and have security features built in.

Susan reported that representative payees all got letters stating they no longer needed to fill out the forms for financial accounting of the funds received on an annual basis. The SSA will tell DRWV whom they want the agency to review. DRWV will also be able to request to review a representative payee if they know of or suspect problems. Because they will be sending staff into people's homes there is some concern for safety. Susan hopes the staff will be able to spend time educating people who are making small errors more than needing to take back funds from people who committing intentional fraud.

Presentations

Independent Service Coordination: Liz Bragg, the Conflict Free Case Management Program Manager for the Bureau for Medical Services, spoke with Members about the upcoming change to case management services (currently service coordination services) for the Title XIX Waivers. She has formed a workgroup to provide input into the process and is looking for more parent involvement. She would like input on what families feel case managers need to know. She intends to build upon what works well now and make the entire process better. There will be a link on the BMS website with information coming from the workgroup. She also reported KEPRO is now sending information important to them directly to service coordinators rather than just to agency management.

Update from WV Dept. of Education, Office of Special Education: Susan Beck, Executive Director, and Dawn Embrey-King, Coordinator for ID, provided information on a variety of topics to Members. Susan reported the new Assistant Director of the Office of Special Education is Dianna Whitlock.

She spoke about the impact of the opioid crisis and reported the Office of Special Education is assisting the Department in dealing with the opioid crisis and resulting mental health crisis as it affects students, schools, and education because they have the knowledge and expertise needed. She reported they are not seeing an increase in the numbers of students using drugs. The increase is in the numbers of students who are affected by others' use of drugs.

Susan spoke about the ReClaim WV initiative, designed to connect social-emotional and mental health supports to students affected by the opioid epidemic. The WV Behavior/Mental Health Technical Assistance Center is designed to implement positive behavioral interventions and supports school-wide, including early childhood. It also is meant to provide youth mental health first-aid training, engage community mental health providers, and place behavior support specialists in each of four regions to provide technical assistance, training, coaching, and support to counties and schools. The program is housed at the Autism Training Center at Marshall University.

Dawn spoke about the Department of Education's vision for inclusion and integration and provided information about the timeline for the changeover from modified diplomas to alternate diplomas along with a great deal of information about educating students in the least restrictive environment, alternate standards, and alternate assessments. Last year's ninth grade class will be the first class to have the opportunity to graduate with an alternate diploma. The new alternate standards went into effect on July 1, 2018.

Susan then provided an update on the Individual Work Ready Competencies (IWRC) program, which began as a Council funded project and the work being accomplished through a Work Exploration project, the Transition Technical Assistance Center. They are partnering with WV State Parks and have recently developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority.

Update on WV ABLE: Kristi Pritt, with the WV State Treasurer's office, provided Members an update on the WV ABLE savings program. She spoke about legislation being introduced this year to allow guardians to manage someone account in lieu of a Rep Payee or a Conservator. This legislation will ensure that upon the death of the beneficiary that the WV DHHR will not pursue estate recovery unless the beneficiary is over 55 and the assets are sizeable, and that upon

the death of the beneficiary funds will be transferred to their estate unless prohibited by federal law. Federally there is legislation that will be introduced called The ABLE Age Adjustment Act. This bill will raise the age limit for the acquisition of an eligible disability to 46 and are trying to get a tax deduction for contributions.

Members comments/concerns: Angie reminded Members they have received forms from the State Ethics Commission that must be filled out and returned. She also mentioned that people who live a long distance from Charleston can participate in all but three sessions of Partners in Policymaking by webinar. Finally, she asked Members to fill out their Feedback forms and to explain their responses when giving a low rating (for instance, sometimes people mark they would like more opportunities for interaction during the meeting, but it is hard to know what that means).

Adjourn: Tara moved to adjourn the meeting.