West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council

January 24, 2023

Holiday Inn and Suites, Charleston, WV

**Members present:** Kenny Accord, Brandy Beery, Janice Bostic, Steve Brady, Lesley Cottrell, Jennifer Dotson, Tonya Eve, Rose Fair, JaQue Galloway, Susan Given, Kim Hawkins, Lynsay Frye, Tracy Hartnett, Randy Hill, Susan Loudermilk, Amber Moore, Jacqueline Proctor, Charlotte Roth, Pam Roush, Tonya Rutkowski, Anna Smith, Paulette Southerly, Marsha Spiker, Jessica Sykes

**Members absent**: Rhonda Blosser, Cynthia Brockman, Marc Ellison, James Gallaher, Richard Hammons, Sherill Hoffman, Amber Moore, Ashley Stewart

**Staff present:** Katie Arbaugh, Christy Black, Debbie McVey, and Steve Wiseman

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order, Welcome:** Brandy called the meeting to order and reviewed packet contents.

**Introductions and Announcements:** Brandy welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

**Anna Smith** read the mission statement.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment given.

**Old Business**

**Approval of October 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Lynsay moved** and **Tonya** **seconded** the motion to approve the Minutes. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

**New Business**

**Council Updates**

**PPR Update:** Katie reported that WV was one of the first states to submit the PPR this year. The document reviews every goal set forth in the 5 year plan and allows for the DD Council to explain and evaluate its activities through the federal fiscal year. The Council is awaiting feedback.

**Annual Report Update:** Katie reviewed the information contained in the Annual Report for FFY 2022. It is available on the WV DD Council website and Facebook page.

**Legislative Update:** Christy gave an update to the active legislative general session.1,373 bills have already been introduced. SB 150 and HB 224 are the budget bills being run. Christy reports that the majority of programs have been level-funded. Christy has met with Senator Grady regarding Special Education and concerns. Christy discussed SB 144 regarding segregated schools. This is a carryover bill from last session. Christy explained HB 2505 regarding Supported Decision Making and mentioned being invited and attending a meeting with Chairman Capito by a PIP graduate regarding Universal Changing Tables.

**PIP Update:** Partners in Policymaking will begin in September and a workgroup will be formed as applications go out.

**Updates, continued:** Katie discussed the Jeremiah Tree Foundation project that is creating a website and notebook of resources for families of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The products will be available by the end of the summer.

Steve discussed “On the Outside” which is now available in Kindle format. He discussed new “On the Outside” projects including a Facebook page for books, videos, and plays. A play will be produced for a 30-40 minute Reader’s Theatre that can be filmed and turned into podcasts, 3-5 minute short pieces, Messer Media will work on a 20-30 minute documentary reflecting on the institutionalization of West Virginians and lessons learned through the process of deinstitutionalization.

**Budget Update:**  Steve gave an update on the budget and addressed the remaining funds that have not been allocated. Steve reports that pre-pandemic the Council has utilized the majority of its budget. However, due to unforeseen circumstances of the pandemic there have been funds not used. Steve discussed the factors leading to a budget overage including: staff vacancies, the inability of grants to have in-person events which typically cost more than virtual events, allotted funds must be spent in two years as opposed to three years, and a lack of grant applications. The Council currently has ten active grants and the vaccine money will be spent this fiscal year. Steve discussed the match requirement by the federal government of 10% because West Virginia is in a federal poverty area.

**Presentations**

**West Virginia Guide Post to Graduation:** Tonya presented on the website for Policy 2419 and the WVDE website. She demonstrated how to navigate the WV Department of Education website and gave an overview of the Statewide Systemic Improvement Plan. Tonya reviewed the West Virginia Graduation 20/20 program and the goal of 86% students with disabilities graduating high school and receiving a regular diploma. Tonya reviewed the WV Guideposts to Graduation. Tonya asked Council members to complete the WVGtG External Shareholder Feedback Survey available on their website. The WVDE is piloting an online training to anyone with a WVDE email address to teach teachers how to write high-quality transition plans.

**Update from the Bureau of Medical Services:** Randy Hill presented a Home and Community Based Services update. BMS is working towards an online Case Management and Incident Reporting System and will be accepting requests for proposals with an implementation date of 1/1/24. The goal of this system is to improve communication and access to documents will be defined by roles. Randy requested feedback regarding the change that people who live in natural family settings will only need quarterly face-to-face meetings instead of monthly. There may be an additional service of transitional case management to provide assistance to individuals during the enrollment process. All of these changes will be available for public comment before being published. Randy reviewed policy changes for the Aged & Disabled Waiver. He discussed the “unwinding” of Covid-19 measures that is in preparation for the Public Health Emergency (PHE) not to be extended.

**Update from WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities:** Lesley Cottrell reported on the Country Roads program which is designed for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Students earn 36 credit hours and live first on-campus and then off campus for the second year. The rationale for this program is because higher education opportunities lead to improved employment outcomes and increased participation in communities. Beginning Fall 2023, the program will require tuition and the charge per credit hour will be the same as the credit hours for WVU. The program focuses on occupational preparation, independent living skills, communication skills, and leadership skills. Two students have graduated from the program and both are gainfully employed.

**Members’ Comments/Concerns –** There were none.

**Completion of Feedback Forms**

**Adjournment**: **Jacqueline** moved to **adjourn**, and Lynsay **seconded** the **motion**.