

West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council
July 28, 2020
Zoom Virtual Meeting, Charleston, WV
MINUTES

Members present: Kenneth Accord, Doug Auten, Susan Beck, Brandy Beery, Janice Bostic, Steve Brady, Janie Cole, Lesley Cottrell, Delmar Davis, Julie Dial, Marc Ellison, Dawn Embrey-King, Tonya Eve, Lynsay Frye, James Gallaher, JaQue Galloway, Susan Given, Richard Hammons, Kim Hawkins, Randy Hill, Sherrill Hoffman, Susan Loudermilk, Jaqueline Procter, Pam Roush, Ashley Stewart, Rebecca Stone, Jessica Sykes, Matthew Wink, and Sheila Zickefoose.

Members absent: Rhonda Blosser and Wanda Proffitt

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

Call to Order, Welcome: Brandy called the meeting to order and welcomed Members. She then reviewed materials in the packets.

Introductions and Announcements: Brandy invited Members to introduce themselves.

Mission Statement Reminder: Lynsay Frye read the Mission statement.

Approval of April 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes: **Jacqueline moved**, and **Sheila seconded** the motion to approve the Minutes. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

New Business

Approval of FFY 2021 Budget – Handouts were sent to Council Members regarding the FFY 2021 budget. Steve Wiseman explained the proposed budget. All the Council's funds are from the federal government, no funds come from the State legislature. Other funds the Council uses are match funds provided by our grantees. Steve discussed the changes made by the federal administration in the interpretation of the rules for spending annual allocations. Previously the Council would allocate and use money in three years. In future fiscal years the funds will

have to be used in two years. The Council is working to make those changes. Steve recommended a total budget of \$1,077,360. The funds the Council will be using this year will include federal fiscal years 2019, 2020, and 2021. **JaQue moved** to approve the budget for FFY 2021 in the amount of \$1,077,360. **Jessica seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.**

Approval of funding for Call for Investment – Steve Wiseman discussed the funding for the call for investment. He reminded Members the Council is in the fifth year of the Five-Year Plan. Steve recommended making \$60,000 available for the Call for Investment. He explained the Council often targets certain areas of the Plan, but recommended they not target certain areas and instead cover the entire plan. **Richard moved**, and **Lesley seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Designated Stipends -Tonya Eve reported out for the Designated Stipends workgroup. The workgroup members were Steve Brady, Marc Ellison, Tonya Eve, JaQue Galloway, and Sherrill Hoffman.

The workgroup recommends funding The Arc of MOV, People First Conference, in the amount of \$10,000. **Pam moved** and **Sheila seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

On behalf of the workgroup, **Tonya moved** to approve funding for The Arc of MOV, Youth People First Conference, in the amount of \$2,000, and **Delmar seconded**. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

On behalf of the workgroup **Tonya moved** to approve funding for the Autism Society of WV Annual Conference in the amount of \$6,000. **Janice seconded** the motion. **Marc abstained**. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

On behalf of the workgroup **Tonya moved** to approve funding for the Fair Shake Network, Annual Training Day, and Disability Advocacy Day, in the amount of \$3,000. **Jaqueline seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

On behalf of the workgroup **Tonya moved** to approve funding for the WV Autism Training Center, Employment Workshop, in the amount of \$5,000. **JaQue seconded** the motion. **Marc abstained**. There was no discussion. **Motion carried**.

On behalf of the workgroup, **Tonya moved** to approve funding for the WV Bureau for Behavioral Health, Families Conference, in the amount of \$5,000. **Rebecca seconded** the motion. **Steve Brady abstained**. There was no discussion. **Motion carried**.

On behalf of the workgroup, **Tonya moved** to approve funding for the WV Statewide Independent Living Council, Youth Leadership Conference, in the amount of \$3,000. **Lynsay seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion carried**.

Approval of Renewal Grants: Marc Ellison reported out for the Renewal Grant workgroup. Members of the workgroup were: Steve Brady, Marc Ellison, Tonya Eve, JaQue Galloway, and Sherrill Hoffman. The Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley sent in an application for the People First Project. The Arc requested \$79,480 for the project. This is required by the DD Act. This will be the 13th year of funding the project. The grantee typically meets most goals and objectives. The Council relies on their match. They have one new goal to develop youth advocacy skills. Their biggest barrier has been COVID, but it has caused them to learn to use new technology. They must answer the question on how they are going to continue to meet their goals if COVID continues. On behalf of the workgroup **Marc moved** the Council approve a grant in the amount of \$79,480 for the People First project, and Jessica **seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion carried**.

Marc stated that the City of Saint Albans sent in an application for the Saint Albans on Purpose project. The city requested \$49,720 for the project. This request is for the second year of funding. The grant is innovative. The grantee has an active board as well as an advisory expert panel. The grantee made a lot of progress prior to the pandemic. They reported having two community conversations. The project needs to stay focused on the core purpose, let the Council how they will continue to use the expert panel, and explain what happens if the pandemic continues. On behalf of the workgroup **Marc moved** the Council approve a grant in the amount

of \$49,720 for the Saint Albans on Purpose project, and **Susan seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion Carried.**

Marc stated that Fair Shake Network sent in an application for the Statewide Cross Disability Advocacy Organization. The Fair Shake is requesting \$28,000 for the project. This will be the 23rd year of funding. This is required by the DD Act. They have made progress and have increased membership. They need a plan for “what if” the pandemic continues, including how they will hold Training Day and Disability Advocacy Day as well as meet with legislators. On behalf of the workgroup **Marc moved** the Council approve a grant in the amount of \$28,000 for the Fair Shake Network, and Sheila **seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion Carried.**

Marc stated that Vocational Services Inc. sent in an application for the Student Success Project in the amount of \$57,570. This will be the second year of funding. The project is working with the following entities: TTAC, Department of Education, and DRS to identify people for the project. The project is working to bridge a gap for students/parents in the community. Good progress has been made. The workgroup gave suggestions of other organizations to work with. A plan for accomplishing goals if the pandemic continues is needed. On behalf of the workgroup **Marc moved** the Council approve a grant in the amount of \$57,570 for the Student Success Project, and **Tonya seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion Carried.**

Approval of State Plan Update – Steve Wiseman gave an update on the State Plan. He recommended only making changes to completion dates. **Sherrill moved** to approve the State Plan Update, and **Richard seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion Carried.**

WV DoE Presentation – Services/supports/resources for students receiving special education services and their parents - Susan Beck, Executive Director of the Office of Special Education and Student Support: Susan presented on the plan for reopening schools amid the COVID pandemic. Susan stated that each county will have their own scenario of when and how they will re-open. Counties may have to start in remote learning if the Governor orders a school to stay closed. Options schools are looking at are in person and/or blended. Each county’s plan is

different. The Department of Education is focusing on internet and broadband and there are some quick options. Another option is virtual schools. A county can use the WV Department of Education platform. In this model the teacher is the facilitator. It is not interacting with the teacher live. It is a self-paced platform. Each county will have to look at how to accommodate students. Susan discussed different programs that counties could purchase or use, such as Microsoft Teams which is HIPPA and FERPA compliant. A parent would have to sign a confidentiality agreement. Susan stated that the Department of Education has not received guidance or waivers. The Department of Education is cautioning the approach to change all the IEPs to put everyone in a general ed classroom. They are telling counties to look at health and safety approaches. They are also recommending schools look at the CDC's guide for reopening schools or childcare centers. These are all considerations for counties, the counties are making their own plans. Special education is always a different situation. Schools must follow the law (IDEA and Policy 2419). The Department is not saying something is not an option. Time did not allow for questions, so Susan agreed to answer questions submitted by a workgroup of the Council.

Adjournment: Julie moved to adjourn, and Rebecca seconded the motion.