

West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council
July 26, 2022
Zoom Virtual Meeting, Charleston, WV

Members present: Kenneth Accord, Brandy Beery, Steve Brady, Lesley Cottrell, Delmar Davis, Marc Ellison, Tonya Eve, Rose Fair, Lynsay Frye, James Gallaher, JaQue Galloway, Susan Given, Richard Hammons, Tracy Hartnett, Kim Hawkins, Randy Hill, Susan Loudermilk, Amber Moore, Jacqueline Proctor, Charlotte Roth, Pam Roush, Tonya Rutkowski, Anna Smith, Paulette Southerly, Ashley Stewart, Jessica Sykes

Members absent: Rhonda Blosser, Janice Bostic, Cynthia Brockman, Jennifer Dotson, Julie Dial, Sherill Hoffman, Sheila Zickefoose

Guests: Emily Hopta, Marsha Spiker

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

Call to Order, Welcome: Brandy called the meeting to order and welcomed council members. Brandy reviewed the packets.

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

Brandy asked Christy Black to read the mission statement.

No public comment

Approval of April 26, 2022, Meeting Minutes: Lynsay moved, and Jessica seconded the motion to approve the Minutes. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

New Business

Approval of FFY 2023 Budget: Steve discussed the proposed FFY 2023 Budget. Steve stated that the Council was able to fill positions and the personnel line has increased to fill the positions to \$301,600. Current Expenses are items such as

rent, phone, travel, postage, furniture, equipment etc. Steve discussed grants and contracts. He anticipates the costs for grants and contracts to be \$699,549. Steve projects the total expenses to be \$1,085,649. Steve discussed match funds, and the funds available from FFY 2021, FFY 2022, and FFY 2023. **Marc moved**, and Jacqueline **seconded** the motion to approve the FFY 2023 Budget. **Motion carried.**

Approval of State Plan Updates: Katie gave an update on the State Plan. It was recommended to update Goal 2 Objective 1 due to the Council's demonstration project with Saint Albans On pPurpose ends September 30th. It was recommended to remove Goal 3, Objective 7 because it falls under the purview of Objective 6. It is recommended that Goal 3, Objective 8 is updated because the proposed change will address the targeted disparity and provide actionable steps. It is recommended to update Goal 3 Objective 9 because the update will help to address the current issue of lack of respite and integrated childcare. **Anna moved** to approve the State Plan Update, and **Tonya R. seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Renewal Grants: Anna Smith reported out on behalf of the Renewal Grant workgroup. Members of the workgroup were: Brandy Beery, Rhonda Blosser, Lynsay Frye, Pam Roush, Anna Smith, Ashley Stewart, and Jessica Sykes.

The Arc of MOV sent in a renewal application for People First of WV in the amount of \$89,549. Anna stated that People First of WV is a self-advocacy group led by people with developmental disabilities. They meet in groups across the state to learn how to advocate in different areas of their lives. They hold an annual conference and training for youth. The workgroup members have concerns about low attendance at the meetings, and that people do not feel included in the trainings that are held virtually. **Anna Moved** that the Council approve the grant in the amount of **\$89,549** for the People First project with stipulations that they update their Facebook page and website, suggest that they update their promotional materials, have an updated list of their active chapters, and a monitoring plan by the DD Council staff. **JaQue seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion Carried.**

Fair Shake Network sent in a renewal application for the Statewide Cross Disability Advocacy Organization. Anna stated that The Fair Shake requested

\$30,000 for the project. The workgroup commented that because the meetings are now being held hybrid that more people can attend. The proposal listed activities to increase and diversify membership. Negatives were that the workgroup would like to see new speakers, meetings should be held in different parts of the state, and the workgroup recommends paying the future administrative assistant more. On behalf of the workgroup **Anna moved** the Council approve the grant in the amount of **\$30,000** for the Fair Shake Network, and **Marc seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion Carried.**

The Mountain State Centers for Independent Living grant supports Governor appointed Members' participation and costs associated with quarterly and other Council meetings. It supports people with I/DD and family members to attend trainings events and offsets costs to provide training and publications. Some of the publications the grant will cover is: updating the Parent Advocacy Guide, a resource guide that the Council contracted with the Jeremiah Tree Foundation, and making the book, On the Outside available electronically on Kindle. **Marc moved**, and **Lynsay seconded** the motion to approve the grant in the amount of **\$120,000**. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

Community Access, Inc. is a long-standing grant. The grant supports the Council's Partners in Policymaking program, as well as research, quality assurance, and training coordination. This grant also supports the Council's social media presence, the production of video and other training materials, major training events and other State Plan initiatives. Some of the current projects this grant will cover is a training to be held on August 9th called the Power of Roles. This grant will also support initiatives with Employment First. **Rose moved** and **Kim seconded** the motion to approve the grant in the amount of **\$185,000**. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

Approval of New Grants: Pam Roush reported out for the grant review workgroup. Members were Brandy Beery, Rhonda Blosser, Lynsay Frye, Pam Roush, Anna Smith, Ashley Stewart, and Jessica Sykes.

Shared Support Maryland submitted a proposal to train people on person-centered planning. The workgroup felt that it was a positive that people with developmental disabilities will help train people with developmental disabilities in self-advocacy. This proposal addresses Goal One of self-advocacy

and family advocacy and uses the train the trainer model. The workgroup felt that it was a positive that trainers get stipends. Diversity is included in their proposal, and the workgroup liked that they have letters of recommendations and a plan to tackle the issue of people not having internet access. Some concerns of the workgroup were the match is low, and the proposal does not describe the plan to ensure the first eight people trained are spread across the state. **Pam moved** and **Anna seconded** the motion to approve the proposal in the amount of **\$75,000**. Susan G. had concerns that this project sounds like People First of WV. Christy clarified that the project is about training people and others on person centered planning. **Motion carried.**

THINK Kids submitted a proposal about public reporting and dissemination of IDEA data in West Virginia. The workgroup recommends that the data received should be shared in newspapers across the state and not just the Charleston Gazette. **Pam moved**, and **Lynsay seconded** the motion to approve the proposal in the amount of **\$30,000**. There was no discussion. **Motion carried. JaQue abstained** because she is a member of the THINK Kids Advisory Board.

United Way Alliance of the Mid-Ohio Valley submitted a proposal titled UWA Inclusion Project and Synergy Center. Anna stated that this project would hire an inclusion coordinator with experience of barriers of inclusion. This project will focus on positive and meaningful relationships and strengthen community networks by volunteerism. This project meets Goal Two: Community Engagement of the State Plan. The workgroup felt that it is positive that the proposal involves Americorp, the project is statewide, and it has a strong sustainability plan. The workgroup felt that there needs to be a clearer marketing plan, and there needs to be clarification on the numbers of people distributed between disabled veterans and people with developmental disabilities. **Pam moved** and **Jacqueline seconded** the motion to approve the proposal in the amount of **\$50,040**. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities submitted a proposal for a transition project. Pam stated the proposal was to create several different projects. Some components did not align with the Council's State Plan, but the Council was interested in the Project ECHO training series on navigating and transitioning medical support services from childhood and adulthood. On behalf of the workgroup **Pam moved** to offer to renegotiate a new grant agreement with a new

budget to cover the Project ECHO training series project. **Steve Brady seconded.** There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Designated Stipends: Lynsay reported out on behalf of the Designated Stipends workgroup. The members were Lynsay Frye, Brandy Beery, Ashley Stewart, Jessica Sykes, and Rhonda Blosser. The Committee reviewed five stipend request applications.

The Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley submitted a request in the amount of \$15,000 for the 30th Annual People First Conference to be held on Sept 6 -8, 2023. On behalf of the stipend workgroup, **Lynsay moved**, and **Anna seconded** the motion that the Council approve the request for **\$15,000**. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

The Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley submitted a request in the amount of \$1,500 for the Youth Self Advocacy Conference to be held on July 8, 2023. On behalf of the workgroup, **Lynsay moved**, and **Kim seconded** the motion to approve the request for **\$1,500**. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

The Autism Society of WV submitted a request for \$6,000 for the Autism Across the Life Span 6th Annual Conference. On behalf of the workgroup, **Lynsay moved**, and **JaQue seconded** to approve the request for **\$6,000**. **Marc abstained.** There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

The Fair Shake Network submitted a request in the amount of \$3,000 for Legislative Training Day and Disability Advocacy Day to be held on January 17 and 18, 2023. On behalf of the workgroup, **Lynsay moved**, and **Ashley seconded** the motion that the Council approve the request for **\$3,000**. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

The Bureau for Behavioral Health submitted a request in the amount of \$5,000 for the Families Conference to be held on November 11 through the 13, 2022. On behalf of the workgroup, **Lynsay moved**, and **Jessica seconded** that the Council approve the request for **\$5,000**. **Steve Brady abstained.** There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

Farewell to Members whose terms expired: Brandy stated that Delmar, Julie, and Sheila's terms have expired, and they will be going off the Council. Brandy said the members will be greatly missed, and she has learned a lot from them. Steve told Delmar that everyone has benefitted from him being on the Council. Delmar stated that he wants to give and hopes he can leave it a little better than it was, and that people stand on his shoulders after he leaves to continue their advocacy. Many Council members wished Delmar well and thanked him for his service to the Council.

Executive Director's Update: Brandy presented Steve with a plaque on behalf of the Council. She thanked Steve for his many years of service to the Council and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement. Steve thanked the Council and stated that it has been an honor being the Executive Director of the Council. Steve stated that this is the 50th anniversary of the Council. The Council has been around a long time and will continue on long after we are all gone. We have a healthy Council and as long as everyone is committed to the vision and the mission the Council will stay healthy. The Council has stayed focused on keeping our eye on the prize that people with developmental disabilities can be more independent and being a part of the community, and not just service systems. Alternatives to guardianship and finding ways to not strip people from their civil rights. Working on the Employment First Taskforce. Now we have to buckle down and raise expectations at an early age. It feels good leaving knowing that we got ourselves in a better place. The future is bright for the Council. You stand on the shoulders of giants, and hopefully you make some contributions yourself. Steve thanked the Council and looks forward to keeping in touch.

Council Members' Comments and Concerns: Lynsay stated that she will be the keynote speaker at the Families conference, and she will be moving up to the Chair on the Olmstead Council. Susan stated that DRWV has relocated to a new office 5088 Washington St West in Cross Lanes.

Brandy stated the next Council meeting will be October 25, 2022.

Jessica moved and Lynsay seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.