

WV DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
Quarterly Meeting
October 23, 2018
Blennerhassett Hotel, Parkersburg, WV

MINUTES

Members present: Kenneth Accord, Doug Auten, Brandy Beery, Rhonda Blosser, Steve Brady, Angie Breeden, Cali Brill, Patty Combs, Delmar Davis, Julie Dial, Tonya Eve, Lynsay Frye, James Gallaher, JaQue Galloway, Richard Hammons, Susan Loudermilk, Kristin O'Neal, Pam Roush, Tara Roush, Jon Sassi, and Rebecca Stone.

Members absent: Lesley Cottrell, Marc Ellison, Dawn Embry-King, Susan Given, Patricia Nisbet, Jacqueline Proctor, Wanda Proffitt, Laura Sperry-Barno, Matthew Wink, and Sheila Zickefoose.

Staff present: Christy Black, Jim Cremeans, and Steve Wiseman.

Guests: Stacy Broce (BMS), Taunia Hardy (DRWV), Doug Hess (The Arc MOV), Della Lyons (The Arc MOV), Margaret Moore, Ed.D. (WV APBS Network), Julie Pratt (Consultant for Olmstead Council), Melissa Southall (People First of WV), and Vanessa VanGilder (Olmstead Council).

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

Introductions/Announcements by Members: Angie invited everyone to introduce themselves.

Rebecca Stone spoke to the Council about the Luke Stone Illumination Fund. Rebecca and her husband started this fund in honor of their son Luke who passed away because of complications from surgery earlier this year. Rebecca said that she and her husband are partnering with WV ABLE to offer two monetary merit awards. One will be for a child with a disability transitioning from of Birth to Three to Pre-K, and the other will be one for a student with a disability graduating from High School.

Stacy Broce, BMS, reported that 100 new slots for the I/DD Waiver program will be made available in January 2019.

Steve Brady said that the Families Conference will be held at Glade Springs Resort November 2-4. Kristi Pritt is the keynote speaker and will educate the families on the WV ABLE program. The Council will provide up to \$4,750 in stipends to assist families who attend the conference.

Mission Statement Reminder: Brandy Beery read the *Mission Statement*.

Approval of July 24, 2018 Meeting Minutes: Tara moved, and JaQue seconded the motion to approve the Minutes. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment: Dr. Margaret Moore, Chair, WV Association for Positive Behavior Support Network, provided an overview of the new grant with the Council, “Improving Service Quality through Credentialing Standards.” She said that the project will develop three (3) credential based on-line training modules for Positive Behavior Support and Person-Centered Planning. Dr. Moore said that the project will also streamline the PBS endorsement application process.

New Business

Approval of Legislative Statements: Julie reported out for the Legislative Statements workgroup. Other members were Angie Breeden, Marc Ellison, Tonya Eve, and Susan Given. The workgroup reviewed last year’s statements and determined that many of the statements were still issues. The workgroup strengthened the language and added a statement regarding first responder training. A section was added on Alternatives to Guardianship. Also, a paragraph was added under Education to address the Council’s concerns that students of a minority race or ethnicity and/or lower socio-economic status are suspended and expelled more frequently than other students. A copy of the draft statements was included in Members’ packets. **Julie moved, and Patti seconded** the motion to approve the 2019 Legislative Statements. **Motion carried.**

Christy said that the Council can and will address other issues that are not specifically described in the Legislative Statements. She mentioned continued work on the WV ABLE program.

Steve Wiseman said that the Council will be educating Congress on the need to expand the eligibility age of onset from 26 to 46.

Election of Executive Committee Member: Angie reported that the Council has a vacancy on the Executive Committee because Christina Mullins has taken a new position as the Commissioner of the Bureau of Behavioral Health and will no longer be on the Council. This vacancy is for an agency member of the Council. Doug Auten, WV Division of Rehabilitation Services, volunteered to be nominated to fulfill the remainder of Christina's term. There were no other nominations from the floor. **Delmar moved,** and **Richard seconded** the motion to approve Doug for the vacant seat on the Executive Committee. **Doug abstained. Motion carried.**

Call for Investments and Requests for Proposals: Steve reflected on the budget and funding that was approved at the April Council meeting. Steve reported that as he mentioned before, the Administration has changed the way it interprets how we use our money. The Federal Office of Grants Management now says that we must obligate and spend money in two years where before we had three years to spend our funds. If the current interpretation stands, we have funds that we must spend in a year or we lose that money. Several key Councils have written the administration to ask them to reverse the decision. Steve's recommendation is that the Council go forward with projects that are later in the plan in order to use these funds. In order to do this the Council needs to release a new call for grants and contracts. Steve's recommendation is to release \$150,000 for new grants and contracts. **Delmar moved,** and **Tara seconded** the motion to approve \$150,000 for new grants and contracts. **Motion carried.**

Employment Workgroup Report: Kristin reported on the activities of the Employment First Workgroup. Notes from the September 20th meeting were included in Members' packets. Christy attended the last workgroup meeting and said Mike Pushkin (D), WV House of Delegates, has expressed interest in sponsoring legislation to prohibit subminimum wage. Kristen also mentioned that the Transition Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) grant that is being carried out by Community Access, Inc. with the WV Department of Education, is providing training and supports for transition age students in 16 counties. The TTAC project is collaborating with the WV Division of Natural Resources to provide work experiences for students in several counties.

Grantee Presentation: People First of West Virginia - Doug Hess, Della Lyons, and Melissa Southall gave a presentation and overview of People First of WV. Doug said that People 1st has been in operation for 25 years and there are 12 active groups or chapters. He said that they are working on getting groups started in Boone and Mason counties, as well as the eastern panhandle. People First has

experienced obstacles of finding advisors and locations to meet. Melissa talked about and showed informational videos that are used for training local chapter leaders on topics such as Robert's Rules of Order.

Update on the IDD Waiver State Transition Plan: Stacy Broce, acting Program Manager for the IDD Waiver, gave an update on information that Rose Lowther-Berman prepared on the State Transition Plan. The transition to Home and Community Based Services must be completed by March 2022. Stacy discussed correction plans and timelines to correct deficiencies. Stacy stated that the third iteration of WV's plan was submitted on August 18, 2018. BMS will be posting the comments they received and the answers on BMS's website. She said that the fourth version of the State Transition Plan will be coming out soon.

Report on the Individual Budget Exception Process: Stacy said that BMS has formed a panel of representatives from BMS, KEPRO, and a medical professional to review budget appeals. No hearings have been held so far.

Olmstead Public Forum for Council Members: Vanessa VanGilder, Olmstead Director, and Julie Pratt, Facilitator, discussed the importance of the Supreme Court's *Olmstead* Decision. The WV Olmstead Council is in the process of updating its State Plan and obtaining input from people from around the State. Julie said that she is facilitating public forums for the Olmstead Council to get feedback on the following questions: If you could create an ideal community that fully includes and supports people with disabilities, what would it look like?; What is working well in our current system of supports for people with disabilities in WV?; and What would change about the current system?

There were several comments and ideas suggested: create a single point of entry to long-term care services; work to change attitudes and expectations; get away from reliance on standardized tests in service planning; improve the workforce; improve inclusion in the schools and improve access to transportation (among other comments). Julie handed out a survey for people to complete in addition to the rich discussion that took place.

Presentation on Supported Decision Making: Taunia Hardy of Disability Rights of WV gave a presentation on Supported Decision Making. Taunia stated that guardianship laws are different in every state, and that it is very easy to get a guardianship order in place. Supported Decision making focuses on promoting ways that people with cognitive disabilities can make their own decisions about

their own lives. The goals of supported decision making are to consider alternatives to guardianship first; think about ways to assist someone in the decision making process rather than making the decision for them; and put as much control as possible in the hands of the person with the disability. Angie stated more information is available at: www.supporteddecisionmaking.org.

Other: Angie announced that if anyone is interested in participating on a Partners in Policy Workgroup they should contact Christy.

Adjournment: Tara moved to adjourn.