



WV Developmental Disabilities Council  
Approved October 27, 2023 - Meeting Minutes  
Stonewall Resort, Roanoke, WV

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**Members present:** Kenneth Accord, Brandy Beery, Steve Brady, Rose Fair, Lynsay Frye, James Gallaher, Tracy Hartnett, Kim Hawkins, Samantha Matos, Amber Moore, Jacqueline Proctor, Charlotte Roth, Tonya Rutkowski, Anna Smith, Marsha Spiker, Jessica Sykes, Paulette Southerly, Mel Woodcock

**Members absent:** Rhonda Blosser, Cynthia Brockman, Lesley Cottrell, Jennifer Dotson, Tonya Eve, Susan Given, JaQue Galloway, Richard Hammons, Randy Hill, Susan Loudermilk, Ashley Stewart, Marc Ellison,

**Staff present:** Katie Arbaugh, Christy Black, and Tina Wiseman

**Call to Order, Welcome:** Brandy called the meeting to order. She went over the agenda and meeting packets with Members.

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

Katie gave directions on an Icebreaker Scavenger Hunt to help Council members and staff to get to know newer members.

Deputy Proctor read the mission statement.

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

### **Old Business**

**Approval of July 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes:** Lynsay moved, and Tonya Rutkowski seconded the motion to approve the Minutes. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**



### **New Business**

**Approval of DD Council Meeting Locations and Dates:** Brandy discussed the proposed dates and locations for the 2024 Council meetings. The dates and locations are as follows:

- January 23, 2024 in Charleston, WV;
- April 23, 2024 in Wheeling, WV;
- July 16, 2024 in Beckley, WV; and
- October 22, 2024 at Stonewall Resort, Roanoke, WV.

**Jacqueline moved** and **Tracy seconded** the motion to approve the proposed dates and locations. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of New Grants:** Jessica reported out for the Grant Review workgroup. The Grant Review Workgroup met on Friday, October 13th. The members present were Brandy Beery, Lynsay Frye, and Jessica Sykes. Steve Brady was unable to attend the workgroup meeting and sent in his comments for review. Staff in attendance were Katie Arbaugh, Christy Black, and Tina Wiseman.

The first grant was submitted by Community Access for their project entitled “Work Exploration/State Park Project” in the amount of \$72,000. The purpose of this grant is to purposefully include students with developmental disabilities into work opportunities within West Virginia’s state park system. The grant review workgroup felt this project supported integrated employment in West Virginia. The workgroup discussed the need for assurances that all job opportunities within the parks system would be considered depending on the students’ abilities and also ensure that students who are supported in public schools as well as other educational environments would be considered.



**Jessica moved**, and **Jacqueline seconded** the motion. Tonya R. asked if Community Access would be getting paid by the school system for this project. Tina informed her that they would not. **Motion carried.**

The second applicant was River Valley Child Development Services, Inc. for their project entitled “The Community Integration Project.” The goal of this project is to provide opportunities and training for families of children with developmental disabilities and to raise expectations for these families. The workgroup liked that the project’s activities are aimed towards the rural areas in West Virginia. The workgroup also liked the opportunities to provide education for parents and support for caregivers. The overall community building goal in this project is beneficial to those rural communities. The workgroup noted that a possible volunteer may be doing a large majority of the work and would like some more clarification. In addition, the Council will need clarification as to where their match would be coming from.

**Jessica moved** to approve the River Valley Child Development project for \$115,000. **Rose seconded** the motion. Mel abstained. **Motion carried.**

The third applicant was Vocational Services, Inc for their project entitled “The WV Student Success Project” in the amount of \$76,760. This applicant has previously held a grant through the DD Council with this project and this application is to continue the project. The WV Student Success Project creates student success videos on the current and active student success website. At the end of their current grant year, they were working to get a resource guide into birthing hospitals to support families of children born or diagnosed with a disability upon birth. The workgroup liked that Vocational Services, Inc. has continuously been a good grantee in terms of the products they deliver and their adherence to the statement of work for the grant they have previously held. The workgroup enjoys that this project motivates families and shows families and students with disabilities that have found success. The workgroup noted that there



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need to be additional stories addressing career development, independence, and social connectedness. The workgroup would like to see more diversity within the videos including people of color and people with more significant disabilities.

**Jessica moved**, and **Steve seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

Tina discussed a grant with Community Access. This grant covers Council's business and operational expenses. **Jessica moved** to approve the Community Access project for \$260,000, and **Kim seconded** the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of Legislative Statements:** Christy stated that the Executive Committee met on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss and develop a draft legislative statement. The committee agreed that many of the issues were still the same as last year. They felt that the Council needed to make strong statements about the Council's commitment to ensuring people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are in the most integrated setting, and that home and community-based services should be expanded, and WV should not rely on institutional care as a backup. The Committee discussed the need for improved outcomes and accountability for students with developmental disabilities in education and strong statements were developed to emphasize this need, and the need to keep students with developmental disabilities safe and free from abuse. The Council anticipates another bill around supported decision-making being introduced. A draft document was emailed to members a few weeks ago, and a copy is included in members' packets. **Amber moved**, and **Steve seconded** the motion to approve the draft statements. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

**National Conference:** The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities held their annual conference in Orlando, Florida in July. Anna and Brandy represented the Council at the conference. Katie and Tina were the staff



that attended in person, Christy attended virtually. Anna and Brandy gave an update on the conference.

### **Staff Updates**

Tina presented the new logo for the WV DDC that was chosen by the Executive Committee. All Council documents and items are in the process of being updated with the new logo.

Christy and Katie gave updates on the Transition to Adulthood Training which was a success. There were 29 attendees. Most being family members. Partners in Policymaking reunion is being planned. The Council has had a lot of positive responses, and the Council has secured Leslie Lipson of Lipson Advocacy as the speaker for the weekend.

**Members' Comments/Concerns:** There were none.

### **Completion of Feedback Forms**

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