

West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council
April 25, 2023
The Blennerhassett Hotel, Parkersburg, WV

Members present: Kenneth Accord, Brandy Beery, Jennifer Dotson, Tonya Eve, Rose Fair, Lynsay Frye, James Gallaher, JaQue Galloway, Susan Given, Richard Hammons, Tracy Hartnett, Kim Hawkins, Charlotte Roth, Anna Smith, Paulette Southerly, Marsha Spiker, Ashley Stewart, Jessica Sykes, Mel Woodcock

Members absent: Rhonda Blosser, Cynthia Brockman, Lesley Cottrell, Marc Ellison, Randy Hill, Susan Loudermilk, Amber Moore, Jacqueline Proctor, Tonya Rutkowski

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

Guests: Kelley Johnson, WV DoE; Rae Bates, Office of the Secretary; Mike Folio, DRWV; Doug Ibrogno, and Bobbie Lee Messer of the On the Outside Project

Call to Order, Welcome: Brandy called the meeting to order and went over the packets.

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

Lynsay read the mission statement.

Public Comment: There was no public comment given.

Old Business

Approval of January 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes: Anna moved, and Tracy seconded the motion to approve the Minutes. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

New Business

Budget Update: Steve discussed the Council's budget. Steve told the Council that the Administrative Assistant resigned to take another position. Steve discussed an extension of the current grants for an additional three months. Steve discussed extensions on current projects instead of allocating money for new projects in the current fiscal situation. Steve reminded the Council that Council sponsored grants do not have to start on October 1st as is typical and they can start on January 1st or whenever the Council decides. Steve mentioned that he has concerns about putting out a call for investments until Congress passes a budget. At this time, he recommends not advertising a call for investments at this time and revisiting in July. Steve reviewed designated stipends and previous funds the Council has designated. In 2023, the Council allotted \$32,000 for stipends. Steve recommended \$32,000 be allocated for Designated Stipends.

Designated Stipends Allotment: **Charlotte** made a motion to approve \$32,000 for Designated Stipends and **Lynsay** seconded. **Steve Brady** abstained. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

Call for Investments Allotment: **Tracy** motioned to approve moving the CFI discussion to the July meeting, **Charlotte** seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

Nominating Committee: **Jessica Sykes** chaired the Nominating Committee. Jessica reported that **Lynsay Frye** finished her first term and is eligible for a second term. **Lynsay** is the only member who submitted their name for interest in the position. **Jessica moved** by acclamation to elect **Lynsay Frye** to a second term for Vice Chair. **Char** seconded the motion. **Lynsay abstained.** There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

Discussion of Council Retreat: **Brandy** led a discussion on having a DD Council retreat. There were concerns about dates and children who are still in school who would miss a day. There was a vote of who has interest in attending a retreat from October 26-28th. The majority of Council members were in favor of having a retreat at Stonewall. **Katie** will book the retreat.

Final Legislative Report: Christy gave a report on the Legislative session with 330 bills being passed. Christy reviewed many different bills that are of concern to members of the Council. There is more funding allocated for workshop development than supported employment. The lack of access to dental care for Medicaid patients is concerning with the \$1,000 limit.

Christy reviewed HB 2890 to modify the authority of teachers and other school personnel for discipline of students. The bill gives authority to the teacher to remove a student from the classroom if the teacher feels the student obstructs the teaching or learning process of other students. The student can be sent to the principal's office up to two times a semester, then can be suspended or sent to an alternative education setting. There are no protections for students with disabilities who could be perceived as being disruptive. Therefore, it is a violation of the student's rights. The bill passed. Letters have been sent by Mountain State Justice and DRWV. DRWV has sent a letter of intent to sue.

Christy reviewed HB 2427 regarding the construction of 20-bed ICF and as well as more oversight and the provision of penalties for providers who are found with deficiencies. Steve spoke about how it was a united effort to defeat this bill as Council staff worked with OHFLAC and Disability Rights. Steve read James's testimony to the Legislature in previous years.

CDC COVID Funds Update: Katie showed videos created by Terzetto Creative for the DD Council's Covid Prevention and Immunization Campaign. She then discussed the Shared Support Maryland grant activities and their introductory training. Katie introduced a new training called "Diagnosis to Graduation:

On the Outside Project Overview: Steve reviewed the Council's "On the Outside" project and introduced the guests Bobby Lee Messer and Doug Imbrogno. Bobby Lee and Doug discussed the information gathering process for this documentary as well as interviews they will conduct for the documentary.

Katie and Christy discussed the need for more PIP applications. The Council members suggested creating an online form for completion of the application, creating a QR code, and a flyer for easier accessibility to get the information. Multiple members said they would discuss PIP with people they knew.

Disability Rights Update: Mike Folio, Legal Director gave an update on the collaboration between DHHR and stakeholders. Mike gave an overview of concerns with DHHR which is why DRWV has submitted a letter about their intentions to make a legal movement. Long term respite intervention type model will be the strategy moving forward. There are concerns about children who have aged out of the system who are then placed at Sharpe or Bateman. DRWV has recently added a Medley Advocate at the two psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric diversion hospitals. Mike discussed the economic benefit of keeping people in the community as opposed to institutionalization. Mike discussed various legislation that Disability Rights worked on this past legislative session.

Group Activity: Council members broke up into three groups to discuss preprepared questions. After 20 minutes, the group came together and shared their answers regarding the work of the Council and what members are passionate about.

Members' Comments/Concerns – There were none.

Completion of Feedback Forms

Adjournment: Tracy moved to adjourn, and Charlotte seconded the motion.
Motion carried.