

WV Developmental Disabilities Council
Quarterly Meeting
January 25, 2022
Via Zoom

Members Present: Kenneth Accord, Doug Auten, Brandy Beery, Rhonda Blosser, Steve Brady, Cynthia Brockman, Lesley Cottrell, Delmar Davis, Julie Dial, Marc Ellison, Tonya Eve, Lynsay Frye, JaQue Galloway, Richard Hammons, Tracy Hartnett, Kim Hawkins, Randy Hill, Sherill Hoffman, Susan Loudermilk, *Amber Moore, Jacqueline Proctor, Charlotte Roth, Tonya Rutkowski, Anna Smith, Pam Roush, Ashley Stewart, and Jessica Sykes.

Members absent: Janice Bostic, James Gallaher, Susan Given, and Sheila Zickefoose.

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

Guests: Rich Ward (WV Division of Rehabilitation Services) and Kelli Caseman (Think Kids, Inc.).

Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call: Brandy called the meeting to order and invited Members to introduce themselves.

Announcements: Tonya Rutkowski introduced herself and informed Members she will be representing Sheila Paitsel from the WV Department of Education, Office of Special Education, on the Council. She is the State Systemic Improvement Coordinator and the Coordinator of Secondary Transition Services.

*NOTE: Amber Moore represents Commissioner Jeffrey Pack, Bureau for Social Services.

Doug announced his retirement from the Division of Rehabilitation Services effective January 31st and informed Members that Rich Ward will be replacing him on the Council to represent the Director.

Linda informed Members she is also retiring in mid-April.

Steve advised Members the Council will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in March.

Mission Statement Reminder: Anna read the Council's Mission statement.

Approval of October 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Lynsay moved and Jessica seconded the motion to approve the Minutes as written. Motion carried.

New Business

Election of Nominating Committee: Brandy announced a ballot would not be needed for the election since just four Members volunteered. The Members were: JaQue Galloway, Ashley Stewart, Jessica Sykes, and Sheila Zickefoose. She asked for a motion to approve these four Members as the Nominating Committee. Jacqueline moved and Rhonda seconded the motion to approve the four. Motion carried. JaQue, Ashley, and Jessica abstained. Sheila was absent.

Grant Review Workgroup Report: Sherill reported on behalf of the workgroup. The Workgroup Notes were included in Members' meeting packets. Members were Doug, Rhonda, Lesley, Marc, Lynsay, and Sherill. The Committee reviewed the three grant proposals received and is recommending the funding of one.

The Fair Shake Network submitted a proposal to develop a *Toolkit for Aging Family Caregivers*, which specifically addressed a funding target in the Council's Call for Investments.

Two employment related applications were received - one from the Arc of the Eastern Panhandle and another from the Region III Workforce Development Board. The workgroup determined neither proposal met a current funding target and neither met criteria for funding.

On behalf of the workgroup, Sherill made a motion for the Council to fund the Fair Shake Network, Toolkit for Aging Caregivers, in the amount of \$33,000. Lynsay seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council Updates

Budget, Grants, Staffing: Steve provided the Council updates. He reminded members changes in the interpretation of Federal rules for the use of Council

allotments has shortened the time frame for spending funds from three to two years. The Council continues to have a surplus in funds due to the inability to hire and keep staff for two vacant positions - the administrative assistant and the planner position. Interviews are currently being conducted for the planner position and he hopes to have someone hired in the next two to three weeks. The Council currently has \$616,000 allotted in grants. This does not include the \$33,000 just approved for the Fair Shake Network's new grant project. Current expenses are negligible. The Council is in the process of purchasing new furniture, which has been budgeted for the past three years. Grantees continue to have trouble meeting some goals due to Covid and the inability to meet with people in person.

Legislature: Christy provided a legislative update. 1,400 bills have been introduced, many of which are carryover bills from the last session, and she is currently following 122 of them. A few of those of interest include:

SB261 - related to video cameras in segregated special education classrooms;
SB275/HB3035 - organ transplants for people with physical and/or mental disabilities;

HB4023 - the budget bill; and

SB470/HB4035 - the Health Care Decisions Act, which will remove persistent vegetative state (PVS) from the Act and will spell out more clearly what people are signing (giving up the ability to receive CPR, be tube fed, etc.,).

Grantee Presentation - Think Kids, Inc. *Including All Kids* project, Kelli

Caseman, Executive Director: Kelli provided Members a review of the first year of the project and discussed plans for the current year. One thing that became clear from the first year's study is the need for a website to act as a central repository of information about primary and specialized health care providers in the state.

Although both WVU and Marshall University health systems are building capacity, families do not have a way to know needed providers exist in-state except by word of mouth. The project is exploring which entity in state government would be the logical place to house such a website. The Bureau for Medical Services may be appropriate since they are the payor of many of the services and could have provider information.

Kelli's presentation generated a lot of discussion among Members, including some ideas for future healthcare related studies.

Members' Comments and Concerns: Brandy invited Members to bring up areas of concern. None were presented.

Completion of Feedback Poll: Members were asked to complete the meeting feedback poll.

Adjournment: Brandy asked for a motion to adjourn. Jessica moved to adjourn and Cindy seconded the motion. Motion carried.