

WV Developmental Disabilities Council  
Quarterly Meeting  
October 26, 2021  
Via Zoom

Minutes

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

Members absent: James Gallaher, Sheila Paitzel, and Ashley Stewart.

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

Guests: Emily Hopta (DHHR Secretary's office), Kelley Johnson (WVDE, Office of Special Education), and Christina Smith (Astrive Advocacy, Inc.).

**Call to Order, Introductions:** Brandy called the meeting to order and used a roll call to invite Members to introduce themselves. Steve introduced Troy Clagett to the Members. He is the Council's new Administrative Assistant.

**Announcements:** Brandy informed Members the quarterly meeting dates have been set for 2022 and they will continue to be the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the first month of each quarter – **January 25<sup>th</sup>, April 26<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup>, and October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

She then announced special awards recently received by two Council Members, Sheila Zickefoose and Lesley Cottrell. **Sheila Zickefoose** was recently awarded the first annual Norma Gray Award from River Valley Child Development Services. Dr. Gray was the founder of RVCDS and was a trailblazer in the field of early childhood. Sheila lives by the same values as Dr. Gray did - motivation, respect for diversity, and thinking outside the box. She has 17+ years at River Valley Child Development Services.

**Lesley Cottrell** received the American Public Health Association and the Maternal and Child Health Distinguished Service Award. The award honors excellence in

public health leadership and innovation. Lesley is being recognized for her outstanding and ongoing services to the Maternal and Child Health Section and the American Public Health Association in her role as the MCH Section's Co-Chair for program planning for nearly 10 years.

Brandy invited Members to let the Council know when they receive awards or are aware that other Council Members have received awards so they can be acknowledged.

**Cindy Brockman** then let Members know she recently received the Strathmore Worldwide Professional of the Year 2021 Award in recognition of excellence, dedication, and success in Recreation/Marketing. It will be displayed on a billboard in Times Square on November 12<sup>th</sup>. She was also named as a lifetime member of Strathmore's Worldwide Who's Who as someone who has exemplified leadership and achievement in her occupation, industry, or profession.

Steve announced that one of the Council's newest members, **Anna Smith**, has started college at WV University at Parkersburg.

**Mission Statement Reminder:** Anna read the Mission statement.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of July 27, 2021 Minutes:** No additions or corrections to the Minutes were made. **Janice moved** and **Rhonda seconded** the motion to approve the Minutes as written. **Motion carried.**

### **New Business**

**Grant Application Approval:** Think Kids submitted a renewal application for a second year of funding for the project *Including All Kids: Transforming Health Care Delivery Systems for Children with Special Health Care Needs in WV* which was reviewed by the Executive Committee and recommended to the full Council for approval. Sherill volunteered to read the details of the renewal. **Charlotte moved** and **Tracy seconded** the motion to approve funding in the amount of \$25,300. **Motion Carried.**

Following the vote, Jessica asked for clarification of why this grant was being approved now since other grants were approved at the July meeting. Steve

explained that the Council now has grants operating on cycles other than the typical October – September funding cycle. The Think Kids grant runs from January – December.

**Legislative Statements:** Christy reviewed the proposed Legislative Statements with Members and mentioned two additions – Civil Rights and Direct Support. Employment First was removed since the legislation passed during last year’s legislative session. Otherwise, the document was shortened to make it easier for policymakers to have the information in a format that meets their needs. **Lynsay moved** and **Cindy seconded** the motion to accept the Legislative Statements as written. **Motion carried.** Sheila suggested reformatting the document into an infographic for visual appeal.

**Call for Investments:** Steve reminded Members they had approved \$100,000 for new grants last quarter. The Call for Investments (CFI) generated no response for new grants. The Council approved the new *Five-Year State Plan* last quarter also, which includes some areas that need to be addressed through grants. He advised the Council also has cash available, some of which will not be able to be used and will be returned to the federal government. He is suggesting the Council add more money to a new CFI and make some changes to how the availability of funds is advertised. He stated that staff will be working to develop bullet points of some particular areas in which grants are needed to make it easier for entities to determine what the Council is looking for without needing to read the entire *Plan*. They will also work to be sure the information is getting to the right entities to generate interest.

Steve suggested setting aside \$150,000. **Lynsay moved** and **Charlotte seconded** the motion to approve \$150,000 for a new CFI. **Motion carried.** Several Members followed up with suggestions for spreading the word about funding availability.

**Presentation on Supported Decision-Making – Christina Smith, Astrive Advocacy:** Astrive Advocacy has a Council funded project to educate and promote Supported Decision-Making (SDM) as an alternative to guardianship in WV. The desire is to have supported decision-making added as a formal alternative in the WV Code section related to guardianship. Christina gave an overview of supported decision-making and showed the Council tools/products that have been developed by the project. She also provided information related to the trainings

that Astrive has offered up to this point in the project. Her PowerPoint presentation and materials developed will be shared with Council Members following the meeting. Information and educational materials on the topic can be found at [www.astrive.org](http://www.astrive.org).

Following the presentation one Member agreed that guardianship had been “sold to her” as a requirement for her child but felt her child would have needed a guardian anyway. Christina noted that due to the compressed time frame, she could not go into detail on issues and agreed that Supported Decision-Making is not going to be an alternative to guardianship for everyone. However, the training addresses how to use SDM even with a person who has a guardian. Also, information about self-determination and supported decision-making should be provided to all families and individuals with developmental disabilities for them to know there are alternatives to guardianship.

Steve encouraged agency members to consider their policies, possibly unwritten, that push guardianship and to share this information with their staff to encourage more knowledge and understanding of alternatives to guardianship.

**Council Members Comments and Concerns:** None

**Completion of Meeting Evaluation Forms:** Members completed the Zoom poll.

**Adjournment:** Jessica moved and JaQue seconded the motion to adjourn.  
**Motion carried.**