West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council

Bridgeport Conference Center, Bridgeport, WV

October 25, 2022

Meeting Minutes

**Members present:** Kenneth Accord, Brandy Beery, Rhonda Blosser, Janice Bostic, Steve Brady, Cynthia Brockman, Lesley Cottrell, Marc Ellison, Tonya Eve, Rose Fair, Lynsay Frye, Susan Given, Tracy Hartnett, Kim Hawkins, Amber Moore, Charlotte Roth, Tonya Rutkowski, Anna Smith, Paulette Southerly, Jessica Sykes, Richard Ward

**Members absent**: Jennifer Dotson, James Gallaher, JaQue Galloway, Richard Hammons, Randy Hill, Sherill Hoffman, Susan Loudermilk, Pam Roush, Ashley Stewart

**Staff present:** Katie Arbaugh and Christy Black

**Staff absent:** Steve Wiseman

**Guests:** Kelli Caseman and Christina Smith

**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. Brandy announced the 2023 Council dates and locations.

**Charlotte Roth** read the mission statement.

**Approval of July 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Lynsay moved,** and **Charlotte** **seconded** the motion to approve the Minutes. There was no discussion. **Motion carried.**

**New Business**

**Approval of 2023 Legislative Statements** –Anna Smith reported for the Legislative Statements workgroup. Anna stated that the workgroup met on Tuesday, October 4th. In attendance were Brandy Beery, Rose Fair, Susan Given, Jessica Sykes, and Anna Smith. Christy Black staffed the workgroup. Christy sent a draft to look over. Christy discussed the topics she thought would come up during the legislative session. The workgroup made a few changes. A copy of the draft with changes is enclosed in the Council member packet. **Anna moved,**  and **Charlotte** **seconded** the motion to approve the 2023 Legislative Statements. **Motion carried.**

**Staff Updates -** Christy stated that the office finally received the office furniture to replace the old furniture. Also, the Council office is finally fully staffed. She reported Steve has delayed his retirement until the Director position is posted, and then he will come back part time to assist with training the new Director. The State Education Policy 2419 has finally been approved and will go into effect on November 14th and the Council will work with DRWV to review and update the Parent Advocacy Guides as needed. Christy discussed meetings with legislators, the State Superintendent, and other policymakers on the topic of special education. She and Christina Smith met with legislators to educate them on Supported Decision Making during August Legislative Interims. Christy informed the Council that she will start recruiting for Partners in Policymaking at the first of the year, and will need the help of the Council to get the word out.

Katie reported on the updates to the State Plan which were approved by the Council at the previous meeting. She reviewed the upcoming Program Performance Report as required by the Administration for Community Living. Katie reviewed highlights of the year with the Council, and ended her presentation by briefly reviewing the status of all grants that have been approved and funded by the Council.

Following the Staff Updates, Tonya Rutkowski gave a comment from the Department of Education regarding the statistical data found on the Special Education Fact Sheet authored by the WV Developmental Disabilities Council, Disability Rights of WV, and Astrive Advocacy. The Department of Education was

concerned that the data source used was the Annual Disability Statistics Compendium as opposed to the WV Department of Education. Discussion was held regarding the availability and accessibility of educational data on the Department of Education’s website.

**Civil Rights Conference** – Brandy Beery, Tracy Hartnett, Charlotte Roth, and Katie Arbaugh attended the conference. Brandy was impressed with the Fair Housing session. Jason Bailey and Tia Welch were the presenters, and the information will be beneficial to her and her family as her son gets older. Charlotte and Tracy discussed the need for people with mental health diagnoses to have support and the barriers they encounter. Katie detailed the panel discussion held during the training. Brandy stated that it was sponsored by the Southern district of the US Attorney’s office, and they are having another civil rights summit for the northern district.

**Presentations –** Kelli Casemen gave an update on the Think Kids: I*ncluding All Kids: Transforming Health Care Delivery Systems for Children with Special Health Care Needs in West Virginia* project sponsored by the DD Council. She discussed the components of the grant as well as the objectives and data that the project has gathered. Kelli discussed the low response rate to the surveys and strategies implemented to get the needed data. Kelli shared questions to the group that she typically presents to stakeholders and there was group discussion.

Christina Smith gave an update on the Astrive Advocacy’s Special Education and Supported Decision Making projects. Christina gave an overview of the special education training she provides to families. The topics included: Put it in writing or it didn’t happen, what to do if an IEP is not being followed, how to file a state complaint, the required staff is not attending IEP meetings, and how things should be documented in an IEP. Christina has received referrals from twenty-four counties. Christina reviewed her collected data which stated that 93% of those who turned in evaluations stated that they gained knowledge. Christina gave Council members a copy of materials used in her Supported-Decision Making course. She gave an overview of the training and stated that 94% of those who turned in evaluations stated that they have gained knowledge.

**Members’ Comments/Concerns –** There were none.

**Adjournment**: **Tonya Eve moved** to **adjourn**, and **Cindy** **seconded** the **motion**.