

WV Developmental Disabilities Council  
Quarterly Meeting  
Country Inn and Suites, Beckley, WV  
July 22, 2014

MINUTES

**Members present:** Brent Bush, Jonathan Chaffin, Joyce Church, Deborah Davis, Clarice Hausch, Amber Hinkle, Janice Holland, Betty Holliday, Rickey Meade, Beth Morrison, Pat Moss, Pat Nisbet, Sheila Paitsel, Wanda Proffitt, Clark Queen, Jerry Ramsey, Tara Roush, Jon Sassi, LuAnn Summers, Jenni Sutherland, and Tina Tanner

**Members absent:** Greg Bilonick, Sarah Brown, Stefanie Caldwell, Pat Elliott, Ann Hubbs, Mary Etta Jones, Jane McCallister, Kelly Miller, Christina Mullins, Stacey Thomas, and Melvin West

**Staff present:** Christy Black, Jim Cremeans, Linda Higgs, and Steve Wiseman

**Guests:** Taniua Hardy, I/DD Waiver program manager, and Angela Walker, DRS Transition Coordinator

**Call to Order, Welcome:** Deborah Davis, Council Chair, called the meeting to order.

**Introductions and Announcements:** Deborah invited everyone to introduce themselves and then asked for any announcements Members would like to make.

Clark announced that his father recently opened a pizza shop in Beckley and invited everyone to visit.

Tina announced that the People First Chapter in Parkersburg would be holding a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-6:30 p.m. and invited everyone to attend.

Betty announced that a new autism support chapter has formed in the Beckley area, Autism Spectrum Embassy, and will be holding a craft fair on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Beaver Fire Department. They have a Facebook page: [ASEmonthlymeetings@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/ASEmonthlymeetings@groups.facebook.com).

LuAnn informed Members that DRS had recently been invited to Germany, where she presented information on the School Transition to Employment Project (STEP) at a symposium which included representatives from several European countries. (STEP began as a Council funded grant project.)

Steve reminded Members that July 26<sup>th</sup> will be the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA is now a model for the UN Treaty for people with disabilities, which the United States has not yet agreed to sign.

Janice announced the University Center for Excellence in Disabilities (UCED) was awarded a federal Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) grant from the U. S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and will soon be recruiting for positions to be filled.

Clarice thanked the Council, and Jim in particular, for participating in the work to develop the WV Advocates' annual Priorities and Objectives, which are now complete. She also announced that WVA will sponsor Wrightslaw training in 2016.

**Mission Statement Reminder:** Jenni Sutherland read the Council's Mission Statement.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of April 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Brent moved and Tara seconded the motion to approve the *Minutes* as written. **Motion passed.**

**ACA Video:** The video on the Affordable Care Act and its implications for people with developmental disabilities, a product of a grant the Council had with West Virginians for Affordable Health Care, was recently completed and was played for Members. The video has also been placed on the Council's webpage. Following the viewing of the video, inquiries were made about how to obtain copies for distribution and showing in places where people would not have internet access (to view it from the website). Council staff agreed to follow up with Motion Masters to determine how agencies could purchase the DVD in volume.

## **New Business**

**Approval of FFY 2015 Budget:** Steve reviewed the proposed budget for the next federal fiscal year with Members. (A copy of the proposal is attached.) Tara moved and Wanda seconded the motion to accept the budget as presented. **Motion passed.**

**Approval of Designated Stipends:** Clarice presented the recommendations of the Designated Stipends Workgroup to Members for approval. Members of the Designated Stipends Workgroup were Deborah Davis, Clarice Hausch, Jane McCallister, and Pat Moss. The recommendations were as follows: Arc-WV, **Youth Self Advocacy Conference - \$2500**; Arc-WV **People First Conference - \$9000**; Autism Society – WV Chapter, **Annual Autism Society Conference - \$5000**; Fair Shake Network, **Training Day and Disability Advocacy Day - \$3500**, WV SenseAbilities Project, **1, 2, 3 Read to Me! - \$2200**; WV SenseAbilities Project, **Family Learning Weekend - \$2200**; and WV Statewide Independent Living Council (WVSILC), **Disability Caucus - \$3000**. All organizations were funded at the amounts they requested with the exception of the WVSILC, which requested \$5000 to include a Youth Disability Caucus and a Disability Caucus. The Workgroup recommended, and the Council agreed, funds would not be provided for the Youth Disability Caucus since the Council funds a grant project which includes a youth advocacy component and also allots stipend funds for a youth self-advocacy conference. Tara moved and Clark seconded the motion to fund the organizations as recommended by the Workgroup. **Motion passed.**

## **Approval of Grants**

**Renewal Grants:** Amber presented the recommendations of the Grant Review Workgroup to Members for approval. Members of the Grant Review Workgroup were Deborah Davis, Clarice Hausch, Amber Hinkle, Janice Holland, Jane McCallister, Pat Moss, Clark Queen, and Jon Sassi. Amber made the motions for funding were as follows:

**The Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley, Self-Protection Initiative - \$40,201.** Pat M. seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

**The Arc of WV, People First of WV - \$104,516.** Tara seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

**Fair Shake Network, Cross-Disability Advocacy - \$21,000.** Tara seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

**Job Squad, Inc., Community Guide “Ties to Employment” - \$0.** Pat N. seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

**New Grants:** Pat Moss presented the recommendations of the Grant Review Workgroup to Members for approval. She made the motions for funding as follows:

**Fair Shake Network**, Inclusive Education Advocacy - **\$0**. Brent seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

**Mountaineer Music Therapy Services**, Music Therapy as an Early Intervention Strategy for Autistic Children - **\$0**. Clark seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

**WVPTI Center**, Morgan County Transition Collaborative - **\$0**. Betty seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

**Vocational Services, Inc.**, The Work Exploration Project - **\$49,021**. Jon seconded the motion. There was much discussion about the role and obligation of the education system in providing work exploration as a part of transition services. Sheila commented that the Office of Special Programs favors work-based experiences for students but counties are not required to develop work exploration programs. She also reported that each district receives Federal and State funds to address transition, and that it is a local decision on how it will be addressed. She believes this project will be a good way to call attention to the idea. Clarice pointed out that with the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) the responsibilities of the Department of Education and the Division of Rehabilitation Services will change in this regard. During the discussion about how some counties manage to do work exploration while others do not, Rickey offered that this grantee came to his county to meet with school and business leaders and helped them get started. Beth questioned whether the suggestion by the workgroup for a group of multiple stakeholder representatives to be formed was a requirement for funding the grant. Janice clarified the workgroup was making the suggestion that the Council, not the grantee, form such a group to address this issue. **Motion passed.**

**State Plan Update:** Jim provided Members an update on the Council's *Five Year State Plan*, reminding them the Council is about to begin year four of the *Plan*. He informed Members that, besides Goals and Objectives, the *Plan* includes a Comprehensive Review and Analysis (of state services) section, a section on Unmet Needs, and an Evaluation Plan.

He advised Members that although states can make changes to their plans each year if needed, the Council will not be proposing any changes to the *Plan* for the upcoming year.

The Council's *Plan* includes seven major goal areas and the Council has made progress in addressing four of the seven. All Councils are required to support self-advocacy and cross-disability coalitions in some manner. The Council is meeting or exceeding its goals in the area of Self Advocacy. It is also meeting its goals in the area of Family Support and Training and is continuing work in the areas of Protection Against Abuse, Assuring Safety, and Rights Protection, and Competitive and Valued Employment.

The Council has not been successful in the areas of Direct Support Personnel Development and Training, Inclusive Education, and Accessibility and Accountability in Public Services. At this point, the Council has managed to accomplish about 50% of what was planned to do in the current five years.

**Employment Workgroup Update:** Jon reported on behalf of the Workgroup. The group last met on May 27<sup>th</sup> and heard from Margaret Van Gelder, Statewide Director, Employment and Family Supports, with the central office of the MA Department of Developmental Services. She provided an overview of MA's recent Employment First focused initiatives, as well as policies and plans. The Workgroup intends to draft an Executive Order for Employment First for the Governor's signature. (A complete workgroup report was in Members' packets.)

**Introduction of New I/DD Waiver Program Manager (Taniua Hardy), and Waiver Updates on Transition Plan and Timeline for Waiver Submissions:** Pat N. introduced the recently hired I/DD Waiver Program Manager, Taniua Hardy. She then reported that 135,811 West Virginians have been insured to date in the Medicaid expansion and that there are a total of 489,026 West Virginians on Medicaid.

One hundred ninety-one (191) I/DD Waiver slots were released on July 1<sup>st</sup> (91 rollover slots and the last 100 *Benjamin H.* lawsuit slots). The total I/DD Waiver slots currently stands at 4,634. Pat anticipates 15 more roll-over slots becoming available on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The current waitlist number is 817.

The A/D Waiver had 500 slots released on July 1<sup>st</sup> and has a total of 6,199 slots.

Pat also reported that the State's Transition Plan for the A/D Waiver will be going out Friday (7/25) for comment, and will basically say "we don't need a transition plan" since the A/D Waiver doesn't provide services in congregate settings, etc.

The Transition Plan for the I/DD Waiver will be posted sometime between September, 2014 and January, 2015. The Bureau has contracted with a nationally known group to write the State's Transition Plan. WV currently does not have independent service coordination and does provide services in congregate settings. The State will have five years to make those needed transitions.

Pat provided Members a handout with the Timeline for the Aged and Disabled Waiver, the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver, and the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Waiver applications. It is as follows:

Dec 1-31, 2014 – post draft applications for public comment.

Jan 1 – 15, 2015 – consider comments.

Jan 16, 2015 – submit applications to CMS for approval, which starts a 90 day clock for CMS approval (1/16/15 – 4/16/15)

Apr 17-May 17, 2015 – post draft manuals for public comment

May 18 – 31, 2015 – consider comments

June 1 – 30, 2015 – train on new manual

**Introduction of DRS' new Transition Coordinator (Angela Walker):** LuAnn Summers informed the Council that Angela had been hired and will take over the School Transition Program. LuAnn also reported a new Rehabilitation Program Specialist, Mike Lucas, was recently hired for Districts 1, 4, and 5. Doug Auten covers Districts 2, 6, and 3.

Angela spoke briefly about her role when she arrived. She was previously a school rehabilitation counselor. She told Members that DRS likes to begin working with students around 11<sup>th</sup> grade to help them develop a plan for after graduation.

**Members' Concerns:** No comments were offered.

**NACDD Conference and TA Update** – Deborah, Greg, Jon, Linda, and Steve attended the NACDD Conference in Washington, DC, on July 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Deborah, Jim, and Steve attended the Technical Assistance Institute following the Conference on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Jon reported that he felt all the presenters in the sessions he attended used the same language, terminology, People First direction, etc., and that it was good to see everyone “on the same page.”

Deborah reported that it seemed everyone had the same goals and go about them a bit differently. She saw good creative, innovative ways to collaborate. She informed Members that Senator Harkin, a long-time advocate on disability-related issues, was the lunch time speaker on July 8<sup>th</sup>. She reported that the new AIDD Commissioner, Aaron Bishop, has a collaborative ideology. She feels we all think we collaborate, but we need to be reminded of it and to be respectful of differing perspectives. She felt the TA session for new Council Chairs was very helpful, and that it was nice to see how well respected the WV Council is on the national level.

Jim was reminded of how important it is for us to be able to obtain data to show the impact of Council activities. He also reported that if Councils have big Plans, they must also have a lot of stakeholders and partners to help with implementation.

Steve reported that he met briefly with RSA Commissioner Janet LaBreck again. She is still very excited about STEP and mentioned she would like to get it implemented in RI (partly in response to the DOJ decision in that state). He reported that Commissioner Bishop expressed concern that some State Councils were overreaching their capacities with their Plans. The Commissioner also questioned Councils regarding their activities around the Department of Labor ruling on the 40 hour work week.

**Staff Updates:** Steve brought up his frustration with the lack of support several of the Council's Members receive to attend and participate in meetings, as evidenced by the number of Members missing on this day.

Christy reported on the activities she was involved in over the past quarter, including the Family Leadership First conference, the Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (EIICC) retreat, and Camp Gizmo. She also participated on the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Public Policy Committee, attended Interim Committee meetings of the WV Legislature, attended a public hearing on the WV Department of Education Policy 2419 proposed changes. Partners in Policymaking (PIP) graduation was held, and Esme Grant, the NACDD Public Policy Director, delivered the graduation address.

Linda also reported on a variety of activities, including participation in the Disability Rights Leadership Institute on Bioethics, meetings to finalize Rules for the recently passed AMAP legislation, filming and finalization of the ACA video

project, four grant reviews, and orientation for the newest representative to the Council. She also reported that the Council's SRV-10 training was held in May, and that she and Steve participated in the Guardianship/Conservatorship Roundtable meeting. This group has since been designated the official Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) network for WV, recognized by the American Bar Association and the National Guardianship Network.

Jim reported that, besides attending the NACDD Technical Assistance Institute earlier in DC, he is participating in the "No Wrong Door" workgroup at the Bureau of Senior Services (BoSS). They have received a 12 month planning grant from the Administration on Community Living (ACL) to develop a three year plan to implement "no wrong door" for applicants applying to receive long term care services.

Steve advised Members he has been working with the UCED to re-constitute their Advisory Group. They are currently looking for members, and he is the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Ann Hubbs is the Chair of the Advisory Group.

Sheila then reported that the revised Policy 2419 will likely go into effect on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Completion of Feedback forms:** Deborah asked that Members complete the Feedback forms in their packets prior to leaving.

**Adjournment:** Tara moved and Jonathan seconded the motion to adjourn.