

WV DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
April 22, 2008

MINUTES

Members Present: Christy Black, Robert Cain, Joyce Church, Richard Covert, Ronald Dean, Jeannie Elkins, Sandy Haberbosch, Jeff Marr, Clint Martin, Jerry Ramsey, Karen Robinson, Christina Smith, Kevin Smith, Jennifer Waybright, Carlos Lucero, John David Smith, Jane McCallister, and Janice Holland (for morning session).

Members Absent: Kim Farley, Ginny Gattlieb, Libby Nester, Zila Schemel, Parul Shah, Craig Curtis, Julie Shelton, Pat Moss, Pat Winston, LuAnn Summers, Karen Ruddle, and Clarice Hausch.

Guests: Cassandra Toliver for the DD Division, OBHS.

Staff: Steve Wiseman, Jim Cremeans, and Linda Higgs.

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements: Jeannie opened the meeting by having everyone introduce themselves. She also made the following announcements: An advanced advocacy training for Partners in Policymaking (PIP) graduates was held April 11-12 in Charleston. Bobby Silverstein was the speaker on April 12, which was open to all Council Members; The Council purchased and distributed the DVD “Realistic Job Preview” to 40 developmental disabilities service providers around the State plus the DD Division of OBHS; Jan Lilly-Stewart’s last day was April 15; The Council is participating with several disability services organizations in planning for a space at the Multi-Fest held in Charleston during August – the focus is to be on Human Rights/Disability Rights; the Council’s retreat will be July 22-23rd at Stonewall Jackson Resort and the theme will be inclusion; the National Association’s Annual Meeting, Technical Assistance Institute, and Policy Seminar (including hill visits) is scheduled for June 8-12 in Washington, DC. Representing the Council will be Jeannie, Clint, Christy, Richard, Steve and Jim; the Council’s fourth SRV-10 is scheduled for June 16-19 in Charleston. Nine people have registered so far; The National Association’s fall conference is scheduled for Oct. 5-7. The WV and CT Council, along with SRVIP, have submitted a proposal for a presentation on Social Role Valorization (SRV) and Councils; Get well cards were passed around for Members to sign for Ginny Gattlieb and Libby Nester, both of whom are recovering from recent surgeries and not able to attend the meeting.

Cassandra brought flyers for the WV Families Conference and encouraged Members to share them with others. It is being held Nov. 14-16 at Stonewall Jackson Resort.

Christina announced that at the WV Commission for National and Community Service's Annual Volunteer Conference, the Arc of the MOV will conduct a Pre-Conference session. It is being held at the Charleston Civic Center, July 15, 8:30-11:30am. The topic is engaging people with disabilities in volunteer service, specifically during emergency or disaster situations.

Mission Statement Reminder: Jennifer read the Mission statement. Following the reading of the Mission statement, Jeannie reviewed the meeting packet contents.

Public Comments: None.

Approval of January 22, 2008 Minutes: Jeannie requested a correction be made to the January Minutes on page 5. The words "Transition Coordinator" should be replaced with "Autism Itinerant Teacher."

Kevin made the motion to accept the Minutes with the correction and Jennifer seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

New Business:

- **Budget Update:** Steve advised the Council they are well below the projected budget at the midway point of the Federal Fiscal Year.
There has been one staff vacancy the entire fiscal year, and Jan has worked part time during the first half of the fiscal year.
Additionally, two grants did not spend any of their allotted funds. The grant project with MOVTI (\$33,000) was never able to begin, and the staff for the self-advocacy grant with DAT2A (\$49,000) moved out of State so that grant was discontinued.
At least one other grant has under spent allotted funds to date. The Director of the Fair Shake Network resigned so funds for personnel were not spent.
This all means the Council could allot more funds to be available for the upcoming round of grant funding.
The Council's tentative federal allotment should be similar to the amount received last year.
- **Grants Discussion:** The Executive Committee met and approved a change to the grant the Council has with the Fair Shake Network (FSN). The FSN proposed to change the staffing for their grant by

hiring Jan Lilly-Stewart part time as the Director, and hiring another part time staff to carry out the day-to-day operations of the FSN.

Steve advised the Members that the Council has received the grant proposal it requested from the UCED to look at direct support staff issues for those who work with people with developmental disabilities, specifically those on the MR/DD Waiver and in ICFs/MR.

The UCED did a similar study for Medicaid funded personal assistance services in WV a few years back and the Council has been trying to fund such a study for MR/DD services for some time.

The UCED proposes a 9 month study and report, the bulk of which will be done by a graduate student under the direction of Dr. Sherry Shuman. The cost will be \$19,444 Council funds and \$2828 in matching funds for a total proposal of \$22,272.

Ron made the motion to fund the proposal in the amount of \$19,444 and Jennifer seconded it. **Motion carried.** Janice Holland, UCED representative, was out of the room and did not participate in the discussion or vote.

- **Designated Stipends Allotment:** Linda advised the Members that the allotments for the previous several years have been \$25,000, and that has been a sufficient amount. She recommended the Council allot the same amount for the upcoming fiscal year.

Jennifer moved and Kevin seconded the motion to allot \$25,000 to be advertised for designated stipend funding. **Motion carried.**

- **Call for Investments Allotment:** Steve recommended the Council allot \$325,000 to be available for the upcoming CFI based on the earlier information provided about the Council's budget.

Clint moved and Ron seconded the motion to allot \$325,000 to be available for the funding of new grants for the next fiscal year.

Motion carried.

- **Nominating Committee Report:** Clint and Jane reported to the Members on the recommendations the Nominating Committee is making for new and renewing Members. The chart (attached) is in Members' packets.

Kevin moved and Joyce seconded a motion to approve the Nominating Committee's recommendations. **Motion carried.** Members abstaining because they were nominated were Christy Black, Richard Covert, Ron Dean, Jeannie Elkins, Jeff Marr, Karen Robinson and Christina Smith. Those names will be sent to the Governor's office for approval and appointment.

Other Business:

- **Update on Council activities:**

Final State Legislative Report – Steve reviewed the report in Members’ packets that was prepared by Jan prior to retiring. There was a discussion about the current funding issues facing the Birth to Three program.

Family Support grants, SRV Training, PIP – Linda reported that six of 14 Family Support Councils have applied for the funding the Council set aside this year to assist them in providing training on issues of importance to families in their areas.

Cassandra reported that each Family Support agency will get a \$3,214 increase in funding next state fiscal year because the Bureau is now funding her position and a half-time support person, rather than using Family Support funds for these personnel.

Steve suggests writing a letter of appreciation for freeing up more funds to the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of the BHHF. Members agreed with his suggestion.

Cassandra also reported the Family Support Council will assume the publication costs for the *Parent Connection* magazine.

SRV Training and the PIP reunion with Bobby Silverstein were discussed earlier.

National Disability Policy Seminar – Jeannie reported that she, Clint, Libby, Karen, and Steve attended the Seminar in DC in March and made hill visits. She reminded Members the issues discussed are in their packets for their information and use. Clint and Karen also spoke about their experiences at the Seminar.

Other Business – Council Members – Dr. Lucero spoke about the things he has learned that are useful when working with legislators to pass legislation and the value of grass roots coalitions.

He also informed the Members about his recent work in Washington, DC with the Academy of Pediatrics, Hispanic-American Conference on health care issues. He provided Members with some websites with information on nutritional issues. www.pcrm.org has a listing of school lunch report cards, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has free information available, and at varying levels, on obesity and nutrition at www.wecan.nhlbi.nih.gov. The phone number is 1-866-35WECAN.

Christina Smith brought several matters related to education to the Members' attention. She wanted to be sure Members know that, at the State level, the IQ numbers being used to determine if children are eligible for special education services and/or gifted program services are being changed, causing some children to no longer qualify for special education services.

She also expressed concern and wondered if other counties were now handling immunizations in the same manner the county she resides in is. Although some children with developmental disabilities are not able to adhere to a strict timeline on getting immunizations due to illness, chronic conditions, lowered immunity, etc., the Director of the Health Department in her county is overruling childrens' physicians and requiring them to be immunized according to the CDC guidelines or be removed from school.

Her third concern was about the apparent lack of enforcement by and accountability to the State Department of Education and Office of Special Education she has seen examples of recently. She shared an example of a phone call to the State DOE/OSE that she sat in on with a parent whose child was expelled, in which the parent was told in answer to her questions and concerns that accountability rests solely with the school principal. Other Council Members emphasized this situation is not unique to her county and shared that they also receive numerous phone calls from families regarding education issues and lack of action taken to resolve them.

Kevin moved and Christina seconded a motion directing the Council staff to write a letter to Dr. Boyer requesting to meet with her regarding the systemic issues Council Members have been repeatedly reporting. **Motion passed.**

Work Plan Update: Jim reported that Susan Given will begin working with the Council in mid-May to develop a special education tool kit for parents.

He also reported to Members that despite shortages, the staff are still making progress as expected on the Work Plan.

Call for Investments (CFI) and Grant Review Process: Steve gave the presentation the staff gave in four areas around the State in preparation for the release of the upcoming CFI and explained the process the Council has used for the past few years in reviewing proposals.

Completion of Meeting Evaluation Forms: Jeannie asked that those Members who attended the meeting to discuss the Agenda on the previous evening to comment on its usefulness to them on their evaluation forms.

Adjournment: By acclamation.