

**West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Comfort Suites**  
**April 24, 2007**

**Members Present:** Jerri Stephens, Christy Bishop, Bob Cain, Ronald Dean, Jeannie Elkins, Kim Farley, Sandy Haberbosch, Clarice Hausch, Jeff Marr, Jane McCallister, Pat Moss, Libby Nester, Parul Shah, Julie Shelton, Zila Schemel, Christina Smith, Kevin Smith, LuAnn Summers, Jennifer Waybright, Pat Winston, Janice Holland

**Members Absent:** Christy Black, Richard Covert, Craig Curtis, Ginny Gattlieb, Frank Kirkland, Clint Martin, Karen Robinson, Karen Ruddle, John David Smith, Cheryl Vega, Mary Ann Jenkins

**Staff Present:** Steve Wiseman, Jan Lilly-Stewart, Jim Cremeans, Linda Higgs, Betsy Southall

**Guests:** Jon Sassi, DD Division of WV DHHR, Carol Newlon, Lori Risk and Melina Danko, CED at WVU

**Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Jerri Stephens.

Members of the Council introduced themselves.

Jerri reviewed the contents of the meeting packets.

Libby read the Council Mission statement.

Zila gave an overview of her experience at the Social Security Beneficiaries Summit held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jerri announced that Clint had surgery and asked Council members to sign a card for him.

**Public Comments:**

No comments offered.

**Approval of the January 30, 2007 Minutes:**

**Kevin made and Ron seconded a motion to accept the Minutes as written.**

**Motion carried.**

**Old Business**

**Budget Update**

Steve gave an update on the Council budget. He stated that the Council is well under budget and the Council is under no budgetary stress.

**FY 08 Designated Stipends Allotment**

Linda gave an overview of the Designated Stipend program. She stated that the Council set aside \$25,000 for designated stipends in FY 2007. Designated stipend funds are used by organizations holding statewide conferences to assist people with developmental disabilities and their families in attending these conferences and trainings. Linda suggested allotting the same amount for designated stipends in 2008 as only \$23,000 of the 2007 funds were allotted.

**Ron made and Kevin seconded a motion to allot \$25,000 for Designated Stipends in FY 2008.**

**Motion carried.**

**FY 08 Call for Investments Allotment**

Steve stated that it is time to send out the FY 2008 Call for Investments (CFI) Notice. He said the Council will need to decide how much money to allot for new grant projects. He said that the Council has previously offered **\$250,000** for new grant projects. He does not feel a need to offer more at

this time as the Council has not funded the full amount in previous years. He said the Council can re-evaluate the need for additional funds at a later date if organizations present other grant projects in which the Council is interested.

**Sandy made and Pat M. seconded a motion that the Council allot \$250,000 for the Call for Investments for FY 2008.**

**Motion carried.**

Kevin asked if the CFI allocation amount includes money for current grants that will roll-over into FY 2008. Steve said it did not.

### **New Business**

#### **Nomination Committee Report**

LuAnn gave an overview of the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. She said there were a total of 17 applications, 4 were reappointments. There are 5 members eligible for reappointment. Mary Ann Jenkins chose not to reapply.

The Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates for gubernatorial appointment:

- Sandy Haberbosch, a person with a developmental disability who will replace herself for a 4 year term.
- Clint Martin, a person with a developmental disability who will replace himself for a 4 year term.
- Zila Schemel, a person with a developmental disability who will replace herself for a 4 year term.
- John David Smith, Higher Education Representative who will replace himself for a 2 year term.
- Jerry Ramsey, a person with a developmental disability from Cabell County. He will replace Jerri Stephens for a 4 year term.

- Joyce Church, an immediate family member of a person(s) with a developmental disability (a sister of a person with a developmental disability) will replace Cheryl Vega for a 4 year term.
- Dr. Carlos Lucero, an At Large individual, will replace Mary Ann Jenkins for a 4 year term.

**LuAnn made and Ron seconded a motion that the Council accept the Nominating Committees recommendations of candidates to send to the Governor for appointment to the Council.**

**Motion carried.**

A discussion ensued about the need for disability diversity, geographic location, and cultural diversity were all factors in choosing candidates.

Kevin suggested sending letters to those who were well qualified but not chosen because of limited slots. Linda said that the Council keeps applications on file for any vacancies which may come up during the year. She said that qualified applicants will receive a letter encouraging them to reapply.

Christina asked if the Council could use individuals who are interested in becoming members as members on workgroups to maintain their interest in the Council. Linda said that the Council By-Laws allow individuals with expertise in a particular area to work with Council members on workgroups on an as-needed basis.

**Election of Officers**

The Nominating Committee was also charged with nominating individuals for the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair.

**LuAnn made and Ron seconded a motion that Jeannie Elkins be elected for a 2 year term as Chair and Clint be elected for a 2 year term as Vice-Chair.**

Jerri asked for nominations from the floor. Kevin nominated himself as Vice-Chair. Ron nominated himself as Vice-Chair. Sandy nominated herself as Chair.

**Paper ballots were distributed to Members. Jeannie Elkins was elected as the Chair and Clint Martin was elected as Vice-Chair.**

### **Grant Review Workgroup Charge**

Jerri gave an overview of the duties of the Grant Review Workgroup. Jerri asked Council members to review the CFI Draft announcement. She asked members to not distribute the announcement after the meeting as it is not yet complete. Steve said that Council staff will begin distribution of the CFI on April 25, 2007.

Jim gave an overview of the FY 2008 Draft Call for Investments Notice. He briefly discussed strategies that the Council has used over the years to attract quality grant applications. This year, the CFI will target the major goals in three of the four areas of emphasis identified in the Five Year Plan. He said the CFI draft provides detailed descriptions of the targeted projects.

For FY 2008, Jim said that Council is seeking new grant projects in Quality Assurance (training for families, workforce development, collaboration between major organizations, and studying the needs of un-served and underserved persons with developmental disabilities); Employment (access to career and technical education and self-employment); and Recreation (access to existing community activities and local advocacy).

Jim thanked LuAnn Summers and Karen Ruddle for their help in developing the Employment section of the CFI.

Christina asked if the Council could fund mini-grants and a discussion ensued.

Jeannie asked if the Council should re-consider use of the terms “support groups/programs” under Training and Education Programs (for families). The focus of the project idea is to develop training materials, workshops and other opportunities, not to create new support groups.

Jerri asked for volunteers for the grant review workgroup. She asked Members to make a note on the evaluation sheet if they are willing to work with the group. She said that the group will not be needed until mid June. Staff will send out a letter in several weeks asking for volunteers.

Christina began a discussion regarding whether a member could participate on the workgroup if that member had an association with an organization which had submitted an application for consideration. Members were advised not to participate if their agency submits an application.

Sandy asked if she could participate by telephone or if she needs to be present. Steve said that it would be difficult to participate by phone. In the past, there have been individuals who reviewed the grants, wrote out their comments, and sent them in ahead of time so that their input could be considered during the grant review meeting. Steve offered this as a possibility to members who want to participate but may have a hard time getting to the meeting.

Clarice stated that last year's workgroup was a much better workgroup than in previous years because there was a good cross section of member representation that enhanced the workgroup diversity.

### **Other Business**

#### **Update on Council Activities**

Jan gave an overview of the final Legislative Report (attached). She stated that, for the most part, the budgets for the programs of interest to the Council were funded at the same amounts that they were in FY 2007. The Legislature appropriated \$2,000,000 to get people off of the waiting list for the MR/DD Waiver (Please see attached).

Jan discussed the decision to close the WV Rehabilitation Center. She said that the funding used for the operation of the facility will be diverted to help provide community services and eliminate the waiting list.

LuAnn said that Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) has opened up the waiting list for those in Categories I and II. Anyone who applied for services after April 5, 2007 would go back on the waiting list. LuAnn said

that her presentation at the end of the meeting would fully address the differences in the Categories.

HB 3152, a bill that sought to eliminate mercury in childhood vaccines did not pass, but may be part of the resolution to study autism. She said that the Joint Committee on Government and Finance has been asked to study the statistical rate of autism among WV population and to study existing autism services in the State.

Steve began a discussion regarding a study resolution from last year regarding Money Follows the Person. Jan said that there was no resolution, but it is her understanding that Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Resources Accountability (LOCHHRA) would continue studying Money Follows the Person and the rebalancing of the long term care system.

Christina began a discussion regarding the funds allotted to Colin Anderson Community Placement Project. Steve gave a brief history of the fund, its current purpose, and how the funds are used today.

### **Federal Public Policy Report**

Jeannie gave an overview of her experience at the Disability Policy Seminar held in Washington, DC. She said it was a collaboration of several national disability advocacy organizations.

John Kemp was the keynote speaker for the opening session. He talked about employment and employment predictions for people with disabilities. He recommended a national employment policy for people with developmental disabilities be developed.

Bobby Silverstein gave a presentation on legislative advocacy training. Jeannie was impressed with his presentation and felt that he would be good to bring to WV for a training. He talked about the Community Choice Act (formerly called MiCASSA), amendments to Social Security Act that would make more individuals comfortable in choosing work, Money Follows the Person, and the fact that IDEA is now only funded at 12 percent.

Jeannie said she attended an autism panel presentation. Lee Grossman, President of ASA and Ann Gavaghan, staff person for Senator Hillary Clinton were on the panel. Jeannie was not impressed with the Mr. Grossman's presentation because he referred to people with autism as victims.

Jeannie said that Ms. Gavaghan discussed the Autism Support Act which was introduced by Senator Clinton. This Act will compliment the Combating Autism Act and proposes treatment and service demonstration grants for adult autism services. She said that it deals with waiting list issues and attempts to legislate the 5-year deadline. It proposes funding to eliminate the wait list all together for autism related services.

Steve attended a session on DD Act Reauthorization. It was a panel of UCEDD, ARC, NACDD, NDRN, and SABE. Steve said it was a good discussion, and each group had representatives who gave their organization's specific position on the reauthorization. The NACDD was adamant about keeping the term "developmental" in the definition.

There was an urgency among all of the groups to fund family support. There was also a consensus that the budgets of the Councils, UCEDDs and P&As not be reduced to fund family support.

UCEDD representatives wanted to see funding allotted to provide services to young people with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and military veterans returning from active duty who have TBI.

Jerri began a discussion regarding the role of the Veteran's Administration in the treatment of military veterans. Steve said that some Executive Directors of State Councils felt that including veterans was a way to cost shift. A discussion ensued regarding the concerns that this would cause the needs of people with developmental disabilities to be pushed further back.

## **Waivers, Family Support, SRV Training, PIP**

### **MR/DD and AD Waiver Discussion**

Steve stated that the Council staff continues to be heavily involved on issues regarding the MR/DD Waiver. He said that the Council currently does not

have representation on the group that advises on the A/D Waiver, but that may be something the Council would want to consider.

Julie Shelton, BOSS, said that the new Personal Options program of the A/D Waiver is set to start on May 1, 2007. There has been a great public response to the program. Julie said that she has been invited to Washington, DC to meet with WV's federal elected officials to discuss the Personal Options program.

Pat W. said that it is the intention of BMS to mirror the Personal Options program on the MR/DD Waiver in the future.

Steve said that he anticipates the Council bringing in Mike Head who is a consultant on Self Determination and Money Follows the Person to discuss these issues with the Legislature and DHHR officials.

Steve said that Patrick Flood will be coming in to meet with Secretary Walker, representatives from the Governor's Office, and Sandy Vanin, Commissioner for the Bureau of Senior Services, and her staff. Patrick is a consultant from Vermont and will be discussing transition to independent living and long-term care. He will also be meeting with LOCHHRA and other interested legislators.

Clarice supports legislation requiring certification in the direct support profession. She commented on the abuse and neglect issues that have been surfacing with increased frequency throughout WV and her belief that providers are fraudulently billing Medicaid. A discussion ensued.

Libby shared a story about her daughter who was locked in an agency van by agency staff. Libby said she was unable to find out if it was considered substantiated abuse even though she is legal guardian for her daughter. Jane and Pat W. both agreed to look into the matter.

Pat W. asked Clarice to make her aware of any abuse and neglect issues that come up. Clarice stated that her agency has already sent all relevant information to the Bureau for Medical Services.

Kim commented on the fear people with developmental disabilities and their family members feel when they report problems with services. They are

afraid if they report problems with one service, they will lose another service.

Jerri suggested the Council form a workgroup to study the problem. She asked Jim to put the workgroup together and provide staff support. The workgroup would report back to the Council at a later date.

Steve said that the Council has pulled together representatives from the paid advocacy organizations in the State. They have had meetings regarding how persons with developmental disabilities and families can be better informed on how to lodge complaints and appeals.

### **Family Support**

Steve said that Council staffed helped revamp the brochure for the Family Support program.

### **SRV Training**

The Council sponsored Social Role Valorization (SRV) training in March. 34 individuals participated, and the program was very successful. There were 3 individuals who attended from out-of-state.

Steve said that there will be a PASSING Workshop coming up in the fall or next Spring.

Linda suggested members talk to someone who has been to the training and encouraged all members to attend a future training.

### **Partners In Policymaking**

Steve announced that the current class of Partners in Policymaking (PIP) will be graduating in May. Jan said she would be sending information on graduation to members in the near future.

### **Other Workshops and Trainings**

Steve announced that Jeannie, Cheryl, and Jan attended the Employment and Law Institute training in Morgantown. Vicki Smith organized the event that

was geared towards the needs of lawyers and advocates. It was very successful and there are already plans to do one again next year on Education.

Clarice asked how many attorneys actually participated in the training. Steve said approximately seven. Jeannie added that the attorneys that did participate were very interested and engaged.

Linda said that the College of Law expressed interest in the training. They said that if attorneys could count on this event as an annual occurrence, there would be more participation as attorneys have continuing education requirements.

Christina said that Arc of the Mid-Ohio Valley has been contacted by Interagency Coordination for Special Needs Planning for an Emergency Response to provide a course on emergency response training which will be held in Parkersburg, WV. Christina said that VMC/Homeland Security Programs of WVU has asked the Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley to coordinate interested individuals for a pilot of the course and to provide input on disability issues.

## **Presentations**

Janice Holland gave a presentation on a program entitled "Gateways to Employment" administered by the UCED at WVU on behalf of the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). The intent is to use the Federal (CMS) grant to plan, improve and coordinate efforts for the employment of people with disabilities.

LuAnn Summers gave a presentation on DRS services. She focused primarily on the aspect of supported employment. She also spoke briefly about school transition, DRS system change grants, and partnerships with the Council and others.

Jon Sassi gave a presentation on the OBHS Supported Employment Initiative. National consultants provided findings about the current system and advice on areas on which to focus. Jon reported that 433 persons served through the MR/DD Waiver receive supported employment services. This

initiative is attempting to address the needs of the many persons who are not eligible for the MR/DD Waiver.

Lori Risk gave a presentation on the UCED at WVU's National Service Inclusion Project on Emergency Planning and Response. Persons with developmental disabilities will assist in local training through this project. They will be supported by stipends. The intent is to increase the number of volunteers in emergency preparedness.

### **Adjournment**

**Christy made and Kevin seconded a motion to adjourn.**

**Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM

DRAFT