

**WV DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
QUARTERLY MEETING
MINUTES**

**Bridgeport Conference Center at Charles Pointe
October 23, 2007**

Members Present: Christy Black, Bob Cain, Joyce Church, Richard Covert, Ronald Dean, Jeannie Elkins (Chair), Ginny Gattlieb, Sandy Haberbosch, Clarice Hausch, Carlos Lucero, Jeff Marr, Clint Martin (Vice Chair), Jane McCallister, Jerry Ramsey, Karen Ruddle, Parul Shah, Julie Shelton (morning only), Zila Schemel, Christina Smith, Kevin Smith, and Jennifer Waybright.

Members Absent: Craig Curtis, Kim Farley, Frank Kirkland, Pat Moss, Libby Nester, Karen Robinson, John David Smith, LuAnn Summers, Pat Winston, and Janice Holland.

Staff Present: Steve Wiseman, Jim Cremeans, Jan Lilly-Stewart (afternoon only), and Linda Higgs.

Guest: Nancy Ellison, Concord University.

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

The meeting was called to order by Jeannie at 9:45 am. She welcomed everyone, including Nancy Ellison who is attending in John-David Smith's absence. All Members and staff present introduced themselves and the following announcements were made:

- Steve talked about the recent death of Ken Ervin, long time advocate and co-founder of ADAPT-WV. Members expressed their sadness at Ken's passing. He was recognized for his consistent, high profile advocacy on behalf of people with disabilities.
- Kudos were given to Pat Moss for spearheading the Governor's Proclamation making the week of Aug 13-17, 2007 Health and Wellness of Persons with Disabilities Week.
- Christina reported on the Council's recognition on the national level during her recent presentation, the Health and Wellth project. at the Arc-US' National Conference. She has received inquiries from the TX DD Council and others about how to replicate the project.
- The "Road to Freedom Tour", a cross-country bus exhibit highlighting the need to restore provisions of the ADA, will be stopping in Charleston Nov. 3-4.

- WVA has solicited volunteers to serve on a program advisory council. DDC Members were referred to Clarice if they wanted more information.

Mission Statement Reminder

The Council's Mission Statement was read by Ginny Gattlieb as a reminder of why we are here.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approval of July 24, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Kevin made and Carlos seconded a motion to approve the July Minutes with no additions or corrections. **Motion passed.**

Update on Council Staff Activities

Jim reported that the Five Year State Plan was submitted to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) on August 15, 2007. Jim said that the Council has not received feedback or formal approval of the Plan at this time.

He announced that Vanessa VanGilder, Director of the Fair Shake Network (FSN), resigned effective the end of September. Kathy Hutchinson, FSN Chair, is serving as interim director. Jim said that he and Steve will be meeting with the FSN Executive Committee soon to discuss plans to hire of a new Director.

Jim said that he will be joining the West Virginia Positive Behavior Support Network next month as a member. He said he will focus his involvement around priorities described in the State Plan, especially issues related to the workforce. The group includes representatives from the Autism Training Center, Office of Behavioral Health Services (DD Division), Department of Education, West Virginia Advocates, University Center for Excellence in Disabilities, and parents.

Carol Nolte, State Fire Marshall, met with Jim earlier this month to determine what training is already available and what is still needed to prepare fire fighters to handle fire emergencies involving people with developmental disabilities. Jim said that he has also contacted Christina

Smith, who has been involved in emergency response planning recently in order to learn more about related initiatives happening around the State. He said that Carol has agreed to consult with the Council as needed.

He is continuing to staff the Council's Abuse and Neglect workgroup. Jim said that the workgroup will meet next on November 27. Jim said that the group includes Council members Clarice Hausch, Kevin Smith, and Pat Moss.

Linda reported that she recently helped in the planning of the Syracuse Training Institute's workshop on "Crafting a Coherent Moral Stance on the Sanctity of All Human Life," and attended the workshop last month in Nazareth, KY.

She worked with the WV Supreme Court of Appeals and the Kanawha County Mental Hygiene Commissioner to bring about a training on guardianship issues which the Council recently held in Charleston. Due to the overwhelming response for this training, it has been scheduled again in November in Bridgeport.

She will be representing the Council on the newly formed advisory group to OBHS and BMS to establish a self-directed option for people who receive support through the MR/DD Waiver. There has been one meeting, and the next is scheduled for mid-November. Kevin Smith, Council Member, is also on this group.

Linda has also been asked to be a team leader for a workshop in Bowling Green, KY, entitled "Helping People Have a Meaningful Life During the Day." This is another workshop based on the principles of Social Role Valorization.

Steve let everyone know that Jan will be joining us for the afternoon and will be returning to work soon after being ill for some time now.

He has been busy dealing with new contracts through the state's grant system, our new grants, and budget issues.

He continues work on issues such as Olmstead, the waivers, and ICFs/MR with related advisory councils and otherwise.

He has worked on national legislative issues such as the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and legislation dealing

with the needs of individuals with both mental illnesses and developmental disabilities.

Steve and Jeannie will also be presenting on autism and community services at a training seminar by the Special Education Department of WVU next month.

Prior to going to *New Business*, Clarice commented that she recently attended a conference in Nashville, TN, in which she attended a session that illustrated the use of Social Role Valorization training as a strategy to reduce incidences of abuse and neglect.

New Business

Ginny Gattlieb informed the Council that some parents have been having a problem receiving a hard copy of Policy 2419 when requested. Instead, people are being advised to access it via the internet. Knowing that many families do not have access, or the ability to print the large document, she asked the Council to assist in changing this.

Ginny made a motion, which was seconded by Parul, for the Council to send a letter to the Office of Special Education requesting that they provide hard copies of Policy 2419 to families who request it. **The motion passed.** Karen Ruddle abstained because she works for the Department of Education.

Jeannie reminded Members that the Council's Executive Committee lost two members when the terms of Jerri Stephens and Cheryl Vega expired in July. Members were asked at the July meeting to let Jeannie know if they were interested in being considered for a term to the Executive Committee. Two members, Christy Black and Bob Cain, expressed interest for the two open positions. **Kevin moved and Ron seconded** a motion that the Council elect Christy and Bob to the Executive Committee. **The motion passed.**

Jeannie informed the Members that the dates and locations for 2008 Council meetings have been set by the Executive Committee. The dates and locations are: January 22 in the Charleston area, April 22 in the Beckley area, July 22-23 at Stonewall Jackson resort, and October 28 in the Charleston area. The July meeting will be a retreat.

Steve discussed the Council's Legislative Priorities and the process used to develop them. In light of recent issues, the Council hopes to strengthen language in the priorities re: stopping the development of more ICFs/MR in the state, to fully implement the Olmstead Plan, and to increase access to

oral health care for adults with developmental disabilities. He said that Jan is the lead staff person responsible for developing the priorities. He also reminded members the Council can pursue specific issues not specifically written into the Priorities document, such as the the state's helmet law.

Jeannie reminded Council Members that three members (Richard Covert, Kim Farley, and Clarice Hausch) had expressed the desire on their interests survey to participate on a Legislative Workgroup staffed by Jan. Jeannie has asked Clint to chair the workgroup, and would like two additional members to be a part of this workgroup. Parul and Carlos volunteered to participate on the workgroup.

Jeannie asked the Council's permission to have the Executive Committee approve the final recommendations from the workgroup on behalf of the Council since the legislative session will begin prior to the next quarterly meeting. **Sandy moved and Kevin seconded** a motion that the workgroup submit their recommendations for legislative priorities to the Executive Committee for approval on behalf of the Council. During discussion, members requested they also be provided talking points/fact sheets on each legislative priority for their use when meeting with legislators and others on the issues. **The motion passed.**

Informational Session

Christy, Richard, Jeannie, and Steve attended the National Association of DD Councils' Conference and Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA in early October on behalf of the Council. They each reported on particular sessions they attended, including workshops on inclusive education, self-determination, health related issues, legislative and public policy advocacy, coalition building, and developing model programs.

Jeannie reported on the recent Guardianship workshop the Council held in Charleston, particularly noting that none of the parents in attendance were aware of a yearly reporting requirement, and that the presenter was very helpful in suggesting to them a way to remedy that situation. Other Council members who attended the workshop also spoke about the benefit of the guardianship training.

Linda reminded members that the Council has been interested in offering guardianship training for some time now, and it became even more important after the DHHR proposed changes to the MR/DD Waiver program which would have disallowed family members who are guardians from providing residential habilitation services to their family member. Although

this proposed change was removed from the Waiver Manual in that instance, the Council felt it was important to be sure parents understood all the issues surrounding guardianship, including other less restrictive options.

Linda also expressed thanks on behalf of the Council to Jane McCallister for the assistance of the Bureau for Children and Families in obtaining CEUs for this and other trainings the Council offers.

Jeannie informed members about the mini-grants the Council is offering to the State Regional Family Support Councils to pay for training to families in their regions on topics which are of interest to them. Up to \$2,000 will be available to each of the 14 Councils for this purpose. She reported that the Councils' representatives expressed their excitement and appreciation when she and Linda attended the last State Family Support Council meeting to inform them and solicit their input on how to best make it work for them.

FY 2008 Work Plan Activity

After lunch, Council Members broke into groups of five and rotated to each of the Council staff to learn about staff members' roles and responsibilities for carrying goals described in the State Plan. The focus of the exercise was to learn about the FY 2008 Plan goals and strategies. Following this exercise, many Council Members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the day-to-day roles of Council staff, and who they can contact to receive or share information on specific issues.

Feedback Forms

All Council Members were given time to complete the Council feedback form for the meeting prior to adjourning.

Adjournment

Sandy moved and Parul seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. **The motion passed.**