

WV Developmental Disabilities Council
Meeting Minutes
Radisson Hotel
April 25, 2006

Members Present: Jerri Stephens, Clint Martin, Christy Black, Bob Cain, Craig Curtis, Ronald Dean, Ginny Gattlieb, Mary Ann Jenkins, Jeff Marr, Jane McCallister, Libby Nester, Karen Robinson, Kevin Smith, Cheryl Vega, Jennifer Waybright, Ashok Dey

Members Absent: Christy Bishop, Richard Covert, Ulissa Dowell, Kim Farley, Sandy Haberbosch, Clarice Hausch, Frank Kirkland, Pat Moss, Mary Nunn, Terri Rodighiero, Parul Shah, Julie Shelton, Christina Smith, John David Smith, LuAnn Summers, Pat Winston

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

Guests: Vicki Smith, Ed West (WV Advocates)

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by Jerri Stephens.

Members of the Council introduced themselves.

Jane McCallister read the Mission Statement of the Council.

Jerri announced that Jan will be receiving the Woman of the Year in Public Service award from the WV Women's Commission.

Jerri announced that Janice Holland will be the new designee for the University Center for Excellence in Disabilities at WVU.

Jerri encouraged Members to help recruit individuals for Partners In Policymaking.

Jennifer Waybright announced that WV Links will be online soon.

Jerri reviewed the contents of the Council packet.

Public Comments:

No comments offered.

Approval of the January 24, 2006 Minutes:

Kevin made and Mary Ann seconded a motion to accept the Minutes as presented.

Motion Carried.

New Business:

Budget Update: Steve gave an overview of the current Council budget status. He stated that the current grants are billing under the estimated cost and he anticipates a budget surplus. He expects that some of the current grants are one time projects which will not be active in October. He recommends that the Council approve \$250,000 to make available for new grant projects in the next fiscal year.

Grants Discussion: Jan gave an overview of the purpose of the Mt. State People's Alliance project. The grant project is slated to end on April 30th unless the Council determines otherwise. She stated that the grant had continuously failed to meet its milestones and goals. Due to the lack of performance in FY 2005, the Council wrote a correction plan to assist the grantee accomplish its stated goals and milestones. The Council then awarded a 6 month project grant for the period of October 2005 through March 2006. Jan has had monthly contact with the project coordinator. She conducted a formal review again at the beginning of April 2006. The findings of that review indicated that the performance problems have continued.

Steve stated that he continued the grant for one month to permit the project to be active while the Council members took action on whether or not to grant additional funding for the project. He further stated that this is the only grant in many years that has had to be placed on a correction plan.

Staff has been required to have continual contact with the project's grant coordinator, which is highly unusual.

Cheryl made a motion not to renew the grant for the Mt. State People's Alliance through WV PTI, Inc. and allow it to expire at the end of April 2006. Clint seconded the motion.

Mary Ann asked if the lack of systems advocacy was the reason for the recommendation. Jan stated that it was the grant was consistently failing to meet its goals and objectives.

Kevin stated that he felt that the Council was not getting its money worth with this particular grant and that he supported allowing the grant to expire.

Motion carried.

Ginny Gattlieb abstained.

Designated Stipends: Linda stated that several organizations had not utilized the funds that were allotted to them last year and that the money will be re-encumbered by the Council. She stated that, over the past several years, the Council has set aside funds for statewide conferences and trainings to support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to attend. She recommends allotting a total of \$25,000 for the next fiscal year for designated stipends. The Call For Investments would be advertised for \$20,000. An extra \$5,000 would be set aside to be used to ensure that more individuals with developmental disabilities can attend conferences and trainings.

Craig made and Kevin seconded a motion to increase the designated stipends from \$18,000 to \$25,000, publicly advertise for \$20,000 with \$5,000 set aside to include more individuals with developmental disabilities in conferences and trainings.

Motion carried.

Call for Investments: Steve gave an overview of the Call for Investment (CFI) process. He said that we will solicit letters of intent and conduct a technical assistance meeting for those interested in developing grant

proposals as we have done the last few years. With the elimination of the program committees of the Council, the review will be handled by a grant review work group.

Jim said that because the new State Plan is in development, targeted grant project descriptions have not been formulated. Staff recommended that the Council issue a general CFI that describes the broad goals and outcomes in a number of areas of emphasis (the number to be determined by the Council). A new grant review work group will need to be formed and review proposals in July. The Council will act on new and renewal project proposals at the July 25th Council meeting.

Steve stated that staff is recommending that the CFI include a request for a project that specifically provides technical assistance and training for local groups that provide or support advocacy and self-advocacy.

Kevin made and Jennifer seconded a motion to authorize Council staff to prepare a CFI for new grant projects not to exceed \$250,000 for the next fiscal year.

Motion carried.

Ginny, Christy Black, Clint, Libby and Jeff volunteered to assist with the workgroup. Kevin agreed to be a back-up. Steve stated that Members would be given another opportunity to assist with this project.

Nominating Committee Report: Jennifer gave a report of the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. The committee recommended Jeannie Elkins who is a parent of an individual with a developmental disabilities, a former member of the Council, and an active member of the advocacy community; and Zila Schemel who is an individual with a developmental disability, a participant in the 2005 Youth with Disabilities Caucus, and a current member of the Partners In Policymaking class.

Steve stated that there are no expiring terms, but two individuals will be going off the Council due to their lack of participation.

Cheryl made and Ron seconded a motion to send the names of Jeannie Elkins and Zila Shemel to the Governor to be appointed as new Council Members.

Motion carried.

Special Request Stipends: Linda stated that there were a couple of organizations that had requested special consideration for designated stipends. One organization failed to submit the appropriate paperwork. The WV Autism Training Center asked for stipend funds for a conference “Strategies for Success in a Complex World” in the amount of \$3,750 with which the group anticipates being able to provide stipends for 50 participants.

Ash stated that the Autism Training Center has experienced severe funding cuts over the last several years. He stated that the stipend should be for individuals statewide and not restricted to the southern part of the state.

Libby stated that she felt that the request should not be funded. A discussion began regarding some of the stipulations that could be made if it were to be funded.

Cheryl made and Ron seconded a motion to fund the request for \$3,750 with a stipulation that Autism Training Center advertise statewide and that a portion of the allotted funds go to providing funds for travel costs for stipend recipients.

Ginny stated that this conference appears to address only individuals with Asperger’s Syndrome and a discussion ensued.

Motion carried.

Other Business:

Update On Council Activities

Final Legislative Report: Jan gave an overview of the Council’s 2006 legislative priorities and all of the bills in the legislative session that were relevant to those priorities. The *Final Legislative Report*

was distributed at the meeting and gave specific details on relevant bills.

Family Support Council: Steve stated that the Council has been very involved with the Family Support program. He said that there have been several committee meetings to try to enhance the Family Support program and that, 19 months after the prior State Program Coordinator left the position, the Division of Developmental Disabilities has not re-filled it. He has been told by DHHR that the position may be filled by July 1. A cross-cutting evaluation committee made several recommendations to DHHR in December 2005 as a means of re-focusing and re-energizing the program. Other recommendations that were made by the committee also have not been implemented.

MR/DD Waiver: Steve stated that the MR/DD Waiver has been going through a lot of turmoil in the past few years. In 2004 the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) drafted a new manual for the program. He said that the Council took exception to many items in that draft manual. The draft has undergone many revisions and those objectionable items are still in place. The Council will post its comments on the latest revision in the very near future. He said that the Council is taking a very direct approach in attempting to get the language in the manual draft changed and has been met with a great deal of resistance from DHHR. He said the review process for Council staff is very slow and tedious as there is no indication as to what has changed or been added from draft to draft. The only way for staff to review each draft (over 100 pages each) is to read every sentence each time.

Steve reviewed the Council's written Comments of the MR/DD Waiver Draft Chapter 500 Manual (the most recent version) which is in the Council packets and a discussion ensued.

SRV Training: Linda announced that the Social Role Valorization Training was held at the end of March. There were 42 individuals registered for the training and approximately 30 individuals participated in the entire training. She said that there were 9 individuals who traveled in from other states to attend (VA-6; KY-2;

OH-1). Jan attended and said that the training was a success and recommended that members attend future trainings.

Partners In Policymaking: Jan said that recruitment for next years Partners class has begun. She encouraged Members to copy and distribute the applications (in packet) to anyone who is interested. Application deadline is July 15. Eighteen individuals will graduate in this year's class. Graduation is on May 20, 2006 at the Holiday Inn on the Boulevard and all Members are invited to attend the ceremony. She said that Department of Education, the Statewide Independent Living Council, and Northern WV Centers for Independent Living all contributed scholarship funds for individuals who did not meet the developmental disabilities requirement to attend the training.

Fall Conference Update: Cheryl gave an overview of the NACDD Conference which will be held in Pittsburgh on October 8 – 10, 2006. The Committee has made selections for presentations. Two of the presenters are from WV. John David Smith, a Council Member, and Arla Ralston, the actress who portrays “Darlene” from *On The Outside*, will be presenting at the conference. She encouraged Members to consider attending as they are hopeful that there will be a large contingency from WV.

Cheryl stated that she was shocked and concerned at the continual lack of attendance by State Agency Representatives. She thanked Jane McCallister for her commitment to attending Council meetings. She suggested that a letter be drafted addressing the issue and sent to appropriate government officials.

Council 5 Year State Plan Development Activity: Jim began the activity by providing a brief overview of the results of the recently completed public forums and needs surveys (see attached draft report). He thanked several people and organizations that assisted in developing and carrying out those activities including: Karen Robinson and Kevin Smith who developed the proposal for the Plan development timeline, public forum format and changes needed in surveys; WVA and WVU CED staff who assisted in facilitating the forums, Council members who participated in forums and Vicki Smith who led forum discussions.

Jim reported that the Council is on track in the Plan development. He said that a Plan Development Workgroup has been formed and will meet May 4 to continue the work started today in identifying the major areas of emphasis for the Plan. The workgroup will develop a draft Plan that will be disseminated statewide by June 1. Jim said that it is also hoped that focus groups can be assembled to review and comment on the Plan in June. All comments about the Plan are due by July. The State Plan Workgroup includes: Clint Martin, Kevin Smith, Karen Robinson, Jeannie Elkins (ex-officio), Pat Moss, LuAnn Summers, Jane McCallister, and Council staff.

Karen said that she had concerns that the surveys didn't reach enough families. Jim stated that the Council is aware of the problem and is working on the issue.

Vicki Smith facilitated a Council activity to help narrow down the areas of emphasis for the new 5 Year Plan. Vicki provided the Council with strategies and questions to help eliminate some issues and focus on others. She then divided Council members and staff into three groups and asked that each group identify three areas of emphasis for the Plan. Prior to breaking into groups, it was agreed by Council that Quality Assurance will be an area of emphasis in the new Plan. That decision is based the strong response from the forums and surveys about issues associated with Quality Assurance (family support, staff development, accountability in government, MR/DD Waiver program).

Workgroups reported on their discussions. Two issues were agreed by all groups for consideration in the Plan along with Quality Assurance; Education and Employment. There were differences of opinion about the third issue among the groups. The recommendations will be provided to the workgroup for further discussion.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair acclamation at 3:54 p.m.