

WV Developmental Disabilities Council

Meeting Minutes

Comfort Suites

April 26, 2005

Members Present: Jerri Stephens, Laura Helems, Jeff Marr, Sandy Haberbosch, Clint Martin, Jennifer Waybright, James Qualls, Jane McCallister, Ronald Dean, John Hunneshagen, Christy Bishop, Cheryl Vega, Christina Smith, Karen Robinson, Pat Winston, Clarice Hausch, John David Smith, Mary Nunn, Jeannie Elkins, Pat Moss, Luann Summers, Craig Curtis, Mary Ellen Zeppuhar, Mary Ann Jenkins, and Frank Kirkland

Members Absent: Ulissa Dowell, Julie Shelton, Ginny Gattlieb, Terri Rodighiero, and Kim Farley

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

Guest: Cecilia Brown

Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 am by Laura Helems.

Laura welcomed Mary Nunn as the representative of the Office of Special Education and introduced guest, Cecilia Brown, of the Bureau of Medical Services.

Mary Nunn reviewed brochures on Special Education which are included in the Council packets. She said that changes are forthcoming on all of the brochures except for the one on the complaint process. The rest will be revised in light of reauthorization of IDEA.

Laura asked Members to consider attending a conference entitled "Alliance for Full Participation" which will be held in Washington, DC in September. The intent of the conference is to set a national agenda for public policy affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families. She said that Members wishing to attend should call the Council office.

Laura presented Jeff Marr with a framed poster which featured pictures of Jeff at work. The caption on the poster reads: "It's Choice – Not Change – That Determines Your Destiny" (Jean Nidetch). The poster was released at the 2005 Social Work Conference.

Laura read the Mission statement of the Council.

MR/DD Waiver Update: Pat Winston gave an update on the Waiver Renewal Application process. She stated that, because of the number of comments they received from the advocacy community, the Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) has asked the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for an extension for the current waiver. She said that the current waiver has been extended until September 30, 2005.

Pat W. stated that the feedback received by BMS indicated that people were either not getting the services they need or were being forced to receive services that they do not need. She said that the eligibility criteria and process will remain the same, but in the future, APS Healthcare (the DHHR's administrative services contractor) will be performing an individual assessment to determine what services individuals actually need. She said that they will be looking at making changes around the level of need of services and giving people more choices in the services they receive.

Craig Curtis asked how APS would get the initial information to perform the individual assessment. Pat W. said that APS would go into the community and talk to the individual and family members. A discussion ensued on the role of providers in this process.

Jeannie asked how much control the family would have over the services provided and what recourse individuals and families would have if they did not agree with the assessment. Pat W. said that the appeal process would remain the same.

Steve stated that he, Jan and Linda had been involved in a few meetings with BMS personnel over the last several weeks. He said that the collaboration has been very productive and extended his appreciation to BMS and DHHR for their willingness to make the Waiver more useable for individuals and families.

Pat W. stated that the concept paper to CMS is due on Monday, May 2, 2005. BMS plans to have the application on the BMS website on or around May 16, 2005. Comment period is until June 13, 2005. Final submission is due on June 30, 2005. BMS plans to hold public forums during the comment period.

Laura began a discussion regarding the waiting list. Pat W. said that waiting list would be taken under advisement during the Manual revision. Frank said that the wait list was approximately 140 the last time he looked, and over half of the people on the list have been there longer than 90 days. A discussion ensued.

Steve stated that the Lewin Report (an independent assessment of the MR/DD Waiver program) is on the BMS website.

Public Comments:

No comments offered.

Approval of the January 25, 2005 Minutes:

Jennifer made and James seconded a motion to accept the Minutes as written.

Motion Carried.

New Business:

Budget Update: Steve stated that the Council is still running under budget. He stated that the Council is in good shape and that there will be several larger expenditures in the second half of the fiscal year.

Steve updated the Council on a \$9,000 grant given to the Council by the Department of Education for the 2005-2006 Partners in Policymaking (PIP) training. Dr. Boyer, Director of the Office of Special Education, has arranged for the Council to have those funds to support the participation of parents of students whose disabilities do not fit the "DD" definition.

Designated Stipend Allotments – Steve stated that the Stipend Allotments are set aside for persons with developmental disabilities and their families to attend WV conferences and trainings. He said that staff is recommending the fund be increased (from \$17,500) to \$18,000 for Fiscal Year 2006 to accommodate additional conference opportunities for individuals and families.

Cheryl made and Sandy seconded a motion to establish the stipend fund at \$18,000 for fiscal year 2006.

Motion Carried.

Call for Investments (CFI) – Steve stated that staff is recommending setting aside \$200,000 to be advertised for grant projects with the next CFI.

Craig made and Frank seconded a motion to advertise \$200,000 with the next Call for Investments.

Motion Carried.

Steve reviewed the draft letter for the Call for Investments which will go out in the next week. He reported that the committees have brought their ideas to the table, and the Executive Committee will make the final decision as to which proposals will be advertised. The next CFI will be more open to projects and proposals not specifically targeted. He reviewed the application process and deadlines.

He reviewed some of the ideas for proposals which have originated in the committees. See Attached.

After lunch, Clint Martin reviewed the recommendations of the Employment Committee. They suggested developing an employment alliance to deal with work related issues all over the State. They would also like to see someone develop hands-on training opportunities for parents and people with developmental disabilities regarding work incentives. The Committee also suggested developing training for employers so that they would know what

people with developmental disabilities have to offer employers and what supported employment is.

Nominating Committee Report – Jeannie Elkins gave the Nominating Committee report. She stated that they were charged with finding four new gubernatorial appointees. The Committee recommended Christy Bishop and John David Smith be renewed for 2nd terms. They recommend Christy Black parent of a child with a developmental disability, Robert Cain a person with a developmental disability, Richard Covert parent of a child with a developmental disability, and Parul Shah, parent of a child with a developmental disability to be new appointees. They also recommend Kevin Smith, a person with a developmental disability and Libby Nester, parent of a child with a developmental disability, both of whom are former Council members, be appointed.

Jeannie made and Christina seconded a motion to submit the names of recommended individuals to the Governor for appointment.

Election of Officers – Jeannie presented the Council the Nominating Committee's slate of nominations for officers. The committee recommended Jerri Stephens as Chairperson and Clint Martin as Vice-Chairperson.

Laura asked for additional nominations for Chairperson from the floor. There were no additional nominations

Jerri Stephens was elected Chairperson by acclamation.

Laura asked for additional nominations for Vice - Chairperson from the floor. There were no additional nominations

Clint Martin was elected Vice - Chairperson by acclamation.

Other Business

Legislative Report – Jan gave a report on legislative activities. She stated that she is still reviewing the budget bill. She reported that the

Legislature decided not to use any of the budget surplus to alleviate any of the cuts anticipated in Medicaid. Further decisions regarding the budget surplus will be made later in the year when legislators have more information about the Federal Budget.

Jan also reported on line items in the Division of Rehabilitation Services budget that are important to the Council. There is a line item to assist with independent living services. It was level funded at \$24,000. The Supported Employment line item was decreased from \$119,032 to \$112,485. Jan encouraged Members to advocate more strongly for supported employment programs. The Ron Yost Personal Assistance Fund was level funded at \$340,000. The Employment Attendant Program was increased \$6,547 to \$185,547 to help alleviate the current waiting list for that program.

Bills Passed During The Session - **HB 2950** is a voting bill requiring a paper copy of a voter's vote when using an electronic voting machine. It will provide a paper trail if a vote is challenged.

HB 2381 allows patients of health care facilities to appoint non-relatives to be designees to speak for them and also allows the designee to visit them while the patient is hospitalized. Jan said she would check on the process of designating a non-family member.

Jan thanked Jeff Marr who works in the House Clerk's Office. She said that he was a great help to her during the legislative session.

Steve announced that Jeff volunteered to monitor the budget process and keep Council staff informed.

Update on Plan and Reporting – Jim C. gave an overview of the reporting process the Council undertakes every year. He reported that the last feedback received from the ADD said that the Council's plan is very ambitious, and the Council is having problems meeting target goals. He stated staff members have been reviewing the plan to form recommendations on how to reduce the number of goals and objectives. Staff recommended the creation of a workgroup to address how to streamline the goals and objectives and report back to the full Council with their recommendations. Jim said that he would

be getting more technical assistance from the ADD in June on how to best plan and report our activities.

Jim also reported another problem noted in the feedback from ADD was the lack of enough consumer satisfaction surveys. He said that the satisfaction survey would be incorporated into the paperwork as a requirement for grantees to receive funding.

ADD did approve the Council's annual progress report.

Direct Support Professionals Training Updates – Steve showed a video used to give a realistic job preview to those who may be thinking of a career in direct support. The video is currently used in Kansas, Ohio, and elsewhere.

Jim gave an overview of the DSP project. He reported there is now an approved curriculum online consisting of 35 hours of course work. The second portion of the curriculum is a 35 hour on-site training program. Staff members are currently working with an agency which is interested in carrying-out a pilot project. If things go well, he is hoping to have a train-the-trainer workshop in Charleston in July. Hopefully, the pilot project will begin around August or September.

July Retreat – Steve stated that one of the goals of the July retreat is to consider ways of revising the current committee structure. He said that it is important for Members to be engaged in the activities of the Council. He and the staff felt that the current arrangement is not as effective as it could be. A discussion of committee restructuring ensued.

Frank suggested that the committees always need to have something to focus on so that people could feel like they are making a real contribution.

Jerri said that she feels that the current committee structure gives individuals a sense that they have a real opportunity to make a difference in an area about which they feel passionate.

Jeannie said that she felt that the workgroups which worked on very specific projects were helpful and would like to see the Council move more in that direction.

Cheryl stated that if there are not a lot of items on the agenda for a particular month, the Systems Coordination Committee tables those items until the next month so that Members are not meeting without purpose.

Clarice stated that it would be helpful if there was an intentional focus on outcome rather than process. She stated there would be more Member energy on the committees if the meetings were more practical and outcome focused.

Mary Ellen said that it would be helpful to have some unstructured time available at the retreat so that Members could have time to get to know each other and collaborate about ideas.

Cheryl commented on the harmonious relationship between Council Members and she feels that it needs to continue to be nurtured.

Federal and State Service Systems' Issues

Steve gave an overview of the Federal budget cuts. He said that staff will keep Members informed of major issues.

Steve reported that Senator Rockefeller's office has requested personal stories from people who are on SSI or SSDI or who have family members who receive SSI or SSDI. Steve said that staff will email Members and give them specifics and deadlines for story submission. Members interested in submitting stories should send them to the Council office.

Jan said that there has been no discussion of how people with disabilities benefit from the current Social Security system. These stories will help policymakers understand how people use the benefits to live productive lives when they are considering Social Security reform.

Mary Ellen commented that people who receive benefits, such as her daughter, also work contribute into the Social Security system.

Clarice stated that there is a huge societal contribution being made by recipients of SSI and SSDI that is being overlooked by policymakers.

Update from DD Division

General Budget– Frank stated that he had not received an official copy of the budget yet. He was hopeful that the Division will receive the same amount of funding as last year. He said that the match money from the Colin Anderson closure initiative has been transferred to the Bureau for Medicaid Services to directly support those individuals. The Office of Behavioral Health Services did not lose flexible State funds. As far as he knows, funding for Supported Employment and Family Support are still in the budget.

Family Support Program – Frank gave an overview of the current state of the Family Support Program. He said that the Department is looking at ways to get services to people who are currently on the waiting list for the MR/DD Waiver. They are looking at whether or not Family Support monies are being used as effectively as possible. The Department wants to work with the Family Support Council to see if there are better ways to get money to families rather than spending so much money for administrative support of the program. The Family Support Program will be funded as usual for the first 6 months of the fiscal year. This will be a time to work with the Family Support Council to see if funds can be used more effectively.

Frank began a discussion about Medicaid/Medicare dual eligibility and medications. Frank stated that approximately 50% of individuals with dd are dually eligible. By January 2006, all “dually eligible” people who had medical and health (including prescriptions) care coverage through Medicaid would then be covered by Medicare instead. Each beneficiary will be given a choice of health plans from which to choose.

Jan stated that Robert Jefferies of the Social Security office is available to talk to groups about the changes.

Announcements

Jerri announced that Alan Elkins was awarded the Most Outstanding Person with Autism at the 2005 Autism Society of WV Conference held in Glade Springs on April 15 – 16, 2005.

Steve announced that the Council was also given an award for its continued support of the by the Autism Society of WV. He also mentioned that the WV DD Council was cited in an article about a WV artist in the latest edition of The Advocate, newsletter of the National Autism Society.

Jeannie thanked Christy for the hard work she put into the Autism Conference to make it a success. Jeannie also commended Christy for being elected as the new President of the State Society.

Laura announced that WV, Ohio, and Pennsylvania have submitted a proposal to host the 2006 NACDD conference. If the proposal is accepted, the conference would be held in Pittsburgh. She stated that if the proposal is accepted, the Council has committed \$5,000 plus staff time to assist with the conference. The Pennsylvania and Ohio DD Councils have each committed \$10,000 and staff time to the conference.

Feedback

Members were encouraged to complete the meeting feedback forms before leaving.

Adjournment

Pat made and James seconded a motion to adjourn.

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.