

WV Developmental Disabilities Council
Quarterly Meeting
April 10, 2012
Waterfront Place Hotel, Morgantown, WV

Minutes

Members Present: Greg Bilonick, Sarah Brown, Stefanie Caldwell, Robert Cain, Joyce Church, Richard Covert, Ronald Dean, Jeannie Elkins, Betty Holliday, Ann Hubbs (morning only), Richard Perry, Clark Queen, Jerry Ramsey, Karen Robinson, Tina Tanner, Stacey Thomas, Amber Hinkle, Kathy Butler, Clarice Hausch, Janice Holland, Jane McCallister, Christina Mullins, Patricia Nisbet, Julie Shelton, and LuAnn Summers.

Members Absent: Virginia Gattlieb, Stephanie Jackson, Kelly Miller, Jim Slinn, Beth Morrison, and Karen Ruddle.

Staff present: Steve Wiseman, Christy Black, Jim Cremeans, and Linda Higgs.

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

Stacey called the meeting to order and asked that everyone introduce themselves. She began with Kathy Butler, the Council's newest Member. Kathy is now representing Higher Education on the Council, and is the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission.

Steve announced the workshop on Wills and Special Needs Trust will be held on May 1st, and will be videotaped in anticipation of placing the information on the Council's website.

Tina Tanner announced that the Parkersburg area People First will be having a spaghetti dinner fund raiser on August 3rd at the Good Shepherd Church.

Mission Statement Reminder

Richard read the Council's Mission Statement.

New Business

Budget Update

Steve reminded Members that the Council's budget year starts on October 1st. The Council is currently under budget projections in some areas. The Personnel line is

under budget due to staff vacancies, for which he has received resumes. The Grant line is under budget because some grantees have not been invoicing. There is a \$40,000 surplus in the Grant line, and two grants are in their third and final year which will make \$142,000 available for a total of \$182,000 which will be available for new grants and contracts.

Designated Stipends Allotment

Steve recommended that \$32,000 be set aside for the funding of Designated Stipends in Federal Fiscal Year 2013. Greg Bilonick made the motion that \$32,000 be set aside for Designated Stipends; Karen Robinson seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Call for Investments Allotment

Steve recommended that \$182,000 be set aside for new grants and contracts. Joyce Church made a motion that \$110,000 be set aside for a CFI and \$72,000 be set aside for other contracts; Betty Holliday seconded the motion. **Motion passed.** LuAnn Summers then asked that in the future, when money is discussed, that handouts be provided.

Minutes

Jane McCallister pointed out corrections to be made on page 4 of the draft Minutes of the January 24, 2012 quarterly Council meeting. The reference to 'Birth to Three' should read 'Braley and Thompson.' 'Special' should read 'Specialized' (Family Based Care Services). Jeannie made a motion that the Minutes be approved as corrected; Jane McCallister seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

New Business, Cont'd.

Nominating Committee Report

Approval of New Members

Jeannie Elkins chaired the Nominating Committee and gave the report. Copies were in the Members' packets. Jeannie made a motion that the Council recommend Amber Hinkle and Betty Holliday to the Governor for re-appointment to the Council with terms ending June 30, 2016. Christina Mullins seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Jeannie then made a motion that the Council recommend Brent Bush, Jonathon Chaffin, Deborah Davis, Pat Elliott, Tara Roush, Jon Sassi, Melvin West, and

Rachel Fetty to the Governor for appointment to the Council with terms ending June 30, 2016. Christina Mullins seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Steve reminded Members who have expiring terms that they are still Council Members until the Governor appoints replacements for them. Whether or not appointments are made prior to the July quarterly meeting, those Members whose terms are expiring and the individuals who are awaiting appointment are all invited to the July meeting.

Election of Executive Committee Members

Jeannie Elkins, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that there will be three vacancies on the Executive Committee to be filled. Richard Covert, Jane McCallister, and Jerry Ramsey all have expiring terms on the Committee. Richard's term on the Council also expires. Notice was sent to all Council Members to solicit interest in filling the vacancies. Greg Bilonick, Jane McCallister, and Jerry Ramsey expressed interest in having their names placed on a ballot. Since no other Members asked to be placed on a ballot, Jeannie made a motion that the Council approved Greg, Jane, and Jerry each to a two year term on the Executive Committee. Clark Queen seconded the motion. Stacey Thomas asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none and the vote was taken. **Motion passed**, with Greg, Jane, and Jerry abstaining.

Department of Education Request (COACH Training)

Jim Cremeans explained that the Council has been assisting with funds to encourage this training opportunity for several years now. COACH is a method of planning for the provision of educational services which works very well for supporting children with the most significant disabilities. The request from the Office of Special Programs is for \$3,688 to help cover payment and travel for Chigee Cloninger (author and trainer on the process), and books for each participant at the annual training meeting for employees of the Parent Educator Resource Centers (PERCs) in WV.

Greg Bilonick made the motion to provide the Office of Special Programs \$3,688 for the PERCs training on COACH; Ann Hubbs seconded the motion. Discussion followed. **Motion passed.**

Next, a discussion was held soliciting input from Members on what the best ways might be for making sure information regarding Council trainings is distributed widely, particularly to parents. Clarice Hausch suggested radio ads, and mentioned

that Special Education Departments share information with parents about the IEP trainings offered by WV Advocates. (Others suggested this route may only work if the Special Education Departments didn't feel threatened by the training being offered.) LuAnn Summers suggested asking the PERCs how they get word out to families. Ann Hubbs suggested that electronic communication is best for some people. Karen Robinson suggested hanging posters in public areas. Clarice mentioned that fewer than 50% of homes in WV have internet access. Joyce suggested that marketing specialists claim they can increase attendance. Kathy Butler suggested exploring how to go about getting flyers placed in utility bills. Karen wondered if it might be possible to send information in medical cards, which are sent out monthly. (Pat Nisbet offered to check on this.) Stacey concluded the discussion by saying it is obvious that no one approach will meet all the needs, and that multiple approaches must be used.

BREAK

Other Business – Workgroup Reports

Sexual Abuse of People with Developmental Disabilities

Ann Hubbs reported for the workgroup. The report was included in Council Members' packets.

Council Members commented on Strategy #3 – Support or fund a study of the State IMS (Incident Management System) data and statistics related to abuse reporting by I/DD and A/D Waiver providers. The study would cross-reference abuse reports from service providers and follow-up investigations/prosecutions of perpetrators by Child Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS). Pat Nisbet advised that not all allegations are substantiated. Jane McCallister advised that CPS and APS do not prosecute. Julie Shelton suggested inviting CeCe Brown of BoSS to be a part of the group since she handles abuse/neglect and the IMS System for the A/D Waiver.

Janice Holland spoke about laws that were passed in the recent Legislative session related to abuse. Jane McCallister advised that it is very hard to find licensed Social Workers to take CPS positions, and that the raise given by the Legislature for CPS caused there to be vacancies in APS and Youth Services.

Cross-Disability Advocacy

Richard Covert reported for this workgroup. The report was included in Council Members' packets.

The workgroup reported that they felt the Fair Shake Network (FSN) has shown improvement over the past year, and expressed concern that if the Call for Investments (CFI) included a request for a cross-disability advocacy group that there would not be such a group, or other organization, to apply. The workgroup recommends the Council should continue to fund the FSN, and be specific about the objectives the Council wishes to fund.

Discussion followed. Jeannie Elkins reported that the Treasurer of the FSN has a developmental disability. This person had to chair the last meeting and did a fine job. Clarice Hausch reminded Members that the DD Act requires the Council to support a cross-disability advocacy group and questioned who else exists that would apply. LuAnn Summers commented that the Council could put out the CFI and see who applies. Richard reminded Members of the workgroup's feeling that the FSN has a great deal of clout at the Legislature that others do not have.

Further discussion followed regarding the various methods that might be possible to be able to fund what the Council wishes to purchase. Ann Hubbs reported that some organizations are sole sources.

Janice Holland made a motion that Council staff investigate various methodologies that can be used to meet the requirements needed and report back to the Council at its July meeting. There was discussion that the CFI needs to be released and grants chosen to be funded need to be made prior to the July meeting. Janice rescinded her motion.

LuAnn Summers made a motion that Council staff investigate the various ways to meet the requirements needed to allow the Council to fund specific objectives they wish to have accomplished, and have the Executive Committee approve a method for doing so. Joyce Church seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

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Workgroup Reports, Cont'd.

Employment First Objective

Janice Holland reported for this workgroup. The workgroup report was included in Council Members' packets. Janice reported that she attended the Alliance for Full Participation (AFP) gathering with Jim Cremeans and Jeannie Elkins from the Council, and the workgroup met after they returned. She reported that the workgroup decided that legislation for Employment First should not be the first step taken, rather work should begin to make change from the bottom up – similar to the Supported Employment Initiative several years ago. She mentioned that DRS has provided a lot of training of Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) over the past four to five years, and that the UCEDD has provided training on work and Social Security benefits.

Tina Tanner related her experience of the loss of job coaches. Steve reaffirmed Janice's comment that this is not a project about "tearing down," but rather about "building up."

Janice reported that the workgroup has two recommendations for the Council to consider. Jeannie Elkins made a motion that the Council adopt the first recommendation - that the Council obtain outside technical assistance and consultation to evaluate WV's employment services and practices. Janice Holland seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

LuAnn Summers made a motion that the Council accept the second recommendation - to develop or support the development of a community building project focused on work that aims to link or connect people with developmental disabilities to non-disability related programs, organizations, and people in their community; and to support or fund training on self-determination. Stefanie Caldwell seconded the motion. Pat Nisbet suggested the Council might wait to work on this recommendation until after the first recommendation is accomplished. Janice explained they are separate issues that can be jointly addressed. **Motion passed.**

Update on Council activities

Final Legislative Report

Christy Black reported that there were 2029 bills introduced during the session and, out of those, only 214 bills were passed. She reported that she closely monitored around 50 bills, 10 of those bills passed.

The primary focus for her and other Council staff this session was on SB 109 – the AMAP bill – which passed. This was the third year of working on this piece of legislation.

Christy also reported that the conference report for SB 160 – related to the budget for State Fiscal Year 2013 – was completed. The bill outlines \$11.6 billion in state spending for the upcoming year. It shows an increase to the Centers for Independent Living and to the Aged and Disabled Waiver. Other line items monitored by the Council were relatively level funded.

Partners in Policymaking (PIP) Update

Christy also provided the update for PIP. She reported there are two sessions remaining – April 27/28 and May 25/26. The April session focuses on housing and Employment and the May session includes information on working with the media, as well as the graduation ceremony. There are 19 participants in the program. Christy reports that this has been an enthusiastic class. Three of the participants are being recommended to the Governor for appointment to the Council.

Other

Linda Higgs reported that the workshop Alternatives to Guardianship, with Dohn Hoyle from the Arc of Michigan, was held in three locations – Bridgeport, Parkersburg, and Charleston. She reported that although the number of registrants was less than expected, this workshop received the most positive feedback of all the trainings that have been offered in the past 11 or so years. She also reminded Members of the next two workshops being offered – Wills and Special Needs Trusts on May 1st, which will be video recorded for future addition to the Council's website, and Social Role Valorization on May 14-17.

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Council Members' Comments and Concerns

Janice Holland reported that the UCEDD is the contractor for DRS' Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) grant. Federal funding for the grant is ending on June 30, so the UCEDD will stop seeing clients at the beginning of May, and will wrap other work by phone in May and June.

Janice also reported that Governor Tomblin went to Morgantown to sign the autism bill passed this legislative session, which clarified insurance coverage.

Clarice Hausch announced the WV Advocates (WVA) has the DVD "People with Disabilities Vote" completed and will be distributing it.

Pat Nisbet announced that Marcus Canaday has left his current position to become the Director of the Money Follows the Person program. She also reported that the Program Manager has been hired for the new Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver program. Pat then reported the latest numbers for the I/DD Waiver program. So far there are 133 "roll over slots" to be released on July 1st, and over 517 people are currently on the waiting list.

Self Advocacy and the ADD Summit

Greg Bilonick thanked the Council for inviting him to participate in the Summit, and reported that the focus was on where self-advocacy is going in the future. Approximately 150 people attended, including the Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), Sharon Lewis.

Greg reported that the Summit allowed everyone to see what other states are doing. He said that transportation came up as one of the main barriers across the country. He continued by reporting that teams had breakout sessions where they put together a plan for their state. The main issue for the WV team was how to improve transportation. Greg presented on behalf of the WV team with Melvin West and Kevin Smith.

The challenge for the second day of the Summit was an opportunity to tell ADD what self-advocates would like to see happen. Greg reported that self-advocates said they would like to see transportation coops developed.

Steve Wiseman also attended the Summit on behalf of the Council. He reported that he got lots of good feed-back from the Commissioner on the WV team. He

also reported that the first presentation given by the WV team was on self-advocacy in WV. He stated that People First of WV will be following up on tackling the issue of transportation in WV.

Clarice Hausch attended the Summit on behalf of WVA. She reported that WV is always at the bottom of most lists; but sitting at the Summit, she was pleasantly surprised to learn that some things we just 'expect' in WV on behalf of people with developmental disabilities is not the norm in many other states.

Greg reported that he gave the Commissioner a copy of the WV Executive magazine, which featured four people with developmental disabilities in WV who are up and coming advocates.

Clarice also thanked the Council for placing information about WVA's request for public comment on next year's goals and objectives in the Council Members' packets, and encouraged Members to give their input to WVA.

Completion of Meeting Evaluation Forms

Stacey encouraged all Members to complete the Meeting Evaluation forms prior to leaving the meeting.

Adjournment

Clark Queen made the motion to adjourn. Greg Bilonick seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting
July 24, 2012
Summit Conference Center
Charleston, WV**