



TN Council on Developmental Disabilities Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2017

Members Present: Roddey Coe, Jennifer Coleman, Evan Espey, Serina Gilbert, Lesley Guilaran, Doug Hall, Clancey Hopper, Lisa Johnson, Tommy Lee Kidd, Jean-Marie Lawrence, William Lovell, Deborah McBride, Tecia Puckett Pryor, Steve Sheegog, Karen West.

Members Absent: Amy Allen, Jody Cheek, Stephanie Brewer Cook, Tatum Fowler, Dawn Fry.

Agency Representatives Present: Jackie Bruce (Commission on Aging and Disability), Ruth Brock (Vocational Rehabilitation), Michelle Morse Jernigan (TennCare), Jeremy Norden-Paul (Dept. of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities), Lisa Primm (Disability Rights TN), Elise McMillan (Vanderbilt Kennedy Center), Bruce Keisling (Univ. of TN Health Science Center, Boling Center), Katie Lee (Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Svcs.), Jacqueline Johnson (Dept. of Health/Maternal Child Health), Bettie Teasley (TN Housing Development Agency).

Agency Representatives Absent: Alison Gauld (Dept. of Education), Richard Kennedy (Commission on Children and Youth).

Staff Present: Alicia Cone, JoEllen Fowler, Lauren Percy, Lynette Porter, Emma Shouse, Ned Andrew Solomon, Mildred Sparkman, Wanda Willis.

Visitors: Tonya Copeland & Tracy Grimes (United Healthcare Community Plan), Paul Choquette & Mandy Johnson (TennCare).

9:00 A.M.	OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS
<p>Council Chair, Tommy Lee Kidd, opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. Mr. Kidd welcomed everyone, introduced visitors, and facilitated introductions.</p> <p>Emma Shouse, Communications Director, gave an overview of the PollEverywhere activity that took place throughout the day.</p> <p>Mr. Kidd then took a moment to remember Council member Rick Davis and Tennessee Disability Pathfinder staff member Kimmie Jones who both recently passed away.</p>	

Mr. Kidd and Wanda Willis, Executive Director, wrapped up the opening by recognizing Council member Michelle Morse Jernigan who has been representing TennCare on the Council for at least the past 5 years. She has been a faithful attender of meetings and has always done a great job of educating and informing the Council about TennCare programs.

9:15 A.M.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Approval of February 17 Minutes and Agenda Review

The February 17, 2017 Council meeting minutes were emailed to all the Council members prior to the April 28, 2017 Council meeting to give members an opportunity to review before the meeting. Mr. Kidd called for a motion to accept the minutes as written from the members present at the last meeting. **Mr. Steve Sheegog moved to accept the February 17, 2017 minutes as written and Ms. Lisa Primm seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Kidd reviewed the agenda for the Council meeting.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Willis encouraged members to read the staff report included in their folders. Then she presented the Executive Director's report:

- In March, the Council hosted a visit from Jonathan Martinis to present at the Partners in Policymaking™ Reunion and consult with various statewide groups on Supported Decision-Making. We convened three groups he presented to: the Employment Roundtable, Managed Care Organizations Support Coordinators, and members of the legal community, bankers and conservators. He did a great job of informing and educating about this option for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The Council facilitated a meeting with the Hospitality Director for State Parks and the Dept. of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Employment Director to discuss an employment pilot to hire jobseekers with disabilities at Paris Landing State Park with the hope that it can be replicated at many other State Parks.
- Ms. Willis met with Middle TN State University and Columbia State Community College staff about inclusive higher education programs both schools plan to launch in the near future.
- Council staff helped facilitate an internship for Jason Rogers, Lipscomb IDEAL student, with Constituent Services in Governor Haslam's Office. On April 24, Jason was recognized with a proclamation on the House floor.
- Every year we evaluate each goal of the State Plan. The survey about Member Leadership and Public Policy Activities is part of the evaluation of Goal 4, "Supporting Council Administration and Activities". This is a performance measure required by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The evaluation seeks information about how being an active Council member results in specific outcomes. Ms. Willis also asked members to review the submissions from Council members about events going on in their communities.
- Ms. Willis issued a Summer Challenge: Find an opportunity to connect a person or persons with a

disability to something going on in your community. Before the Council meets again on September 15, we will give everyone an opportunity to report back by collecting the stories into one document that will be included in your folder at the Council meeting.

Budget/Administrative Report

Lynette Porter, Deputy Director, gave a Federal budget update. The current planning budget balance is \$230,637. Councils have still not received their FY2017 allotments which were to be effective October 1, 2016. We are under a continuing resolution through today. This means Congress has passed temporary funding to keep government operating at last year's level to give the executive and legislative branches time to finalize a budget. Final budget increases or decreases will be retroactive to October 1, 2016. The Tennessee Council will need to start spending the FY17 dollars on July 1, 2017. We are watching the situation very carefully.

Executive Committee Report

Mr. Kidd reported that the Executive Committee met on Thursday, April 27th. He then reviewed the Support Development Associates (SDA) proposal to provide People Planning Together training for Tennessee's Managed Care Organizations. Council members received a summary of the proposal in advance. **Mr. Evan Espey, Public Policy Committee Chair, brought a motion from the Executive Committee to approve funding the proposal for the full amount of \$29,220. There was no need for a second. There was discussion, and then Mr. Kidd called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

9:50 A.M.	ADJOURN TO COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
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10:50 A.M.	BREAK & CHECK OUT
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11:20 A.M.	COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS
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Evaluation Committee

Lisa Johnson, Evaluation Committee Chair, opened the meeting with introductions. Alicia Cone, Grant Program Director, reviewed the purpose of the Committee and the 5-year Summary Logic Model, which focuses on three primary goal areas: developing leaders; impacting policy and practice; and informing and educating stakeholders. Dr. Cone also reviewed the types of evaluations we would be using: "formative" (ongoing look throughout the 'life' of a program) and "summative" (looks at overall effectiveness of the program). The overarching question we are trying to answer is, "Are we achieving the goals of our State Plan?" A new quarterly report form will evaluate all programs "formatively", "summatively", and "fiscally". At subsequent Council meetings, the members of this committee will review actual information from our programs, utilizing these tools.

Public Policy Committee

Evan Espey, Public Policy Committee Chair, reported three priority bills were discussed: **SB264/HB941** "Supported Decision-Making" creates an option for people who need some support with making decisions but choose to retain the authority to be the ultimate decision maker; **SB 199/HB 384** creates the Tennessee Autism Council, and the Council on Developmental Disabilities would be a member; **SB 1226/HB 1276** adds "businesses owned by persons with disabilities" to the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise, which provides businesses with greater exposure to opportunities with the State of Tennessee and access to technical assistance.

Additionally, the Committee provided feedback about interests and priorities from everyone's respective areas.

For example, the [bill](#) assigning foreign language class credit for students taking American Sign Language (ASL) classes was a big deal in Jackson, TN. We also discussed the fact that the waiver programs are confusing for families, since enrollment into the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) waivers has closed. Families are confused about who qualifies for DIDD vs. Employment and Community First (ECF) CHOICES vs. CHOICES waiver programs.

Communications Committee

Tecia Puckett Pryor, Communications Committee Chair, opened the Committee meeting by asking members to introduce themselves and answer an ice-breaker question related to emails, and then reviewed the committee purpose and agenda. The Communications Committee’s role is to provide input about Council communications efforts and propose strategies for using communications activities to achieve State Plan goals.

Emma Shouse, Communications Director, discussed a handout summarizing purposes and goals of Council communications efforts. Council communications focus on two areas: promoting public awareness of the Council and its role, activities, and impact; and informing stakeholders about disability policies, practices, programs and issues. Short-term and long-term goals in the State Plan that communications activities are working towards include (but are not limited to):

- More Tennesseans being informed about disability issues
- More Tennesseans getting connected to Council activities
- Increasing Tennesseans’ knowledge of disability resources
- Increasing Tennesseans’ advocacy efforts
- Increasing Tennesseans’ ability to impact public policy through communications efforts

Ms. Shouse reported briefly about communications activities and data from the first quarter of 2017. Ms. Pryor and Serina Gilbert, Vice-Chair, shared how they recently used press releases from the Council to connect with local media outlets, including their local newspapers and radio stations. The Committee discussed how Council staff can support members in preparing talking points, press releases or other materials to share with local media sources in their community to work towards informing more Tennesseans about the Council, our work, and disability issues.

11:50 A.M.	LUNCH
12:50 P.M.	PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

Evan Espey, at-large Council member and Public Policy Committee chair, briefed the group on his recent trip to Washington, DC to attend the annual Disability Policy Seminar as a representative for the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities. Evan reported holding meetings with staff and members of Tennessee’s Congressional delegation to inform them about the Council and discuss pertinent issues, namely the pending healthcare vote (back in March).

Lauren Percy, Public Policy Director for the Council, gave an overview of Tennessee’s legislative activities including 3 priority bills: The Autism Council was signed into law; the Supported Decision-Making Act was deferred to summer study; and the bill supporting business owners with disabilities is likely to pass before the General Assembly adjourns. Ms. Percy also noted that direct support professionals who work in the DIDD waiver system received an approx. \$1 wage increase through an \$8 million appropriation from the General Assembly.

Ms. Percy concluded her report by discussing a federal policy update: there is a second pending healthcare vote (which occurred on 5/4/2017), which repeals and replaces the Affordable Care Act and caps Medicaid funding. Additionally, on the day of the Council meeting (4/28/2017) Congress passed a short-term spending bill to keep the federal government operating for one week. It has since been extended through September.

1:20 P.M.

POLLEVERYWHERE GROUP ACTIVITY & ANSWERS

Ms. Percy led this session and provided answers to questions about Council history that had been asked via Poll Everywhere throughout the day. The questions and answers are below:

1. What is the law that establishes the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities?
 - a. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - b. Developmental Disabilities Act (DD Act)
 - c. TN Executive Order No. 50
 - d. Both A and C
 - e. **Both B and C – The DD Act established Councils in federal law; TN Executive Order #50, signed by Gov. Haslam in 2015 (updating the original Executive Order from 1975) establishes the Council as an independent agency within Tennessee State government.**
2. True or false: every state and territory in the U.S. has a Council on Developmental Disabilities
 - a. **True – Every state and territory has a Council.**
 - b. False
3. How many Executive Directors has the Tennessee Council had since its establishment in 1975?
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. **3 – Wanda Willis was preceded by two former Executive Directors, Polly Roddy and Pat Oates, but has been ED of the Council since 1989.**
 - d. 4
4. Which of these was NOT a past initiative of the Council?
 - a. Launching inclusive community book clubs for people with I/DD
 - i. Learn more about the [Council's support of Next Chapter Book Clubs](#)
 - b. Introducing a statewide "visitability" initiative to build homes accessible to people with disabilities
 - i. Learn more about [EasyLiving Homes, now called Flexible Home Concepts & run by TN Housing Development Agency](#)
 - c. **Funding a series of TV public service announcements (PSAs) about employment for people with I/DD**
 - i. *...While the Council is funding a news program about employment in partnership with the Dept. of Labor and News Ch. 5+ in Oct. 2017, as we did in March 2016, we've never funded PSAs*
 - d. Training dentists in best practices in treating patients with I/DD
 - i. Learn more about [Project Open Wide](#)
 - e. Offering funding and support to launch other organizations including TN Disability Coalition, People First of TN & TN Disability Pathfinder
 - i. Learn more about the Council's role in supporting the launch of [TN Disability Coalition](#), [People First of TN](#) and [TN Disability Pathfinder](#)

1:40 P.M.	WRAP UP & MOTION TO ADJOURN
<p>Serina Gilbert, Vice-Chair, encouraged members to turn in their travel claims and Council meeting evaluations. A motion for adjournment was made by Ms. Lisa Primm and seconded by Ms. Clancy Hopper. The motion carried and the Council meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m. The next Council meeting will take place at the Embassy Suites Nashville Airport on September 15, 2017.</p>	

2017 COUNCIL MEETING DATES
<p>2017 Council Meetings - Location: Embassy Suites Nashville Airport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, September 15, 2017 <p>Annual Planning Retreat - Location: Embassy Suites Nashville Airport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday & Friday, November 2 & 3, 2017

Respectfully submitted by:



JoEllen Fowler, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:



Wanda Willis, Executive Director