Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities

**Quarterly Council Meeting**

**April 20-21, 2016**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**M I N U T E S**

Present: Marcey Alter, Becky Brightwell, Katie Chandler, Tom Connelly, Suki Glick, Dorothy Harris, Trace Haythorne, Teresa Heard, Debbie Hibben, Nandi Issac, Frank Kirkland, Geneice McCoy, Heidi Moore, Brenda Munoz, Marcia Singson, Nick Perry, Ron Pound, Mitzi Proffitt, Debbie Reagin, Jody Wren

Staff: Dottie Adams, Dawn Alford, Caitlin Childs, Eric Foss, Eric Jacobson, James Jhai, Sumaya Karimi, Gabby Melnick, Kim Person, Valerie Suber

1. **Announcements**

* July Council meeting is July 14-15. We will be meeting at the Loudermilk Center.
  + GCDD will receive the Community Inclusion Award for its work on Real Communities at the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
  + Caitlin Childs is leaving her position as Community Organizing Director and Sumaya Karimi is replacing her at that position.
  + Council members will elect the Executive Committee at its July meeting.
  + DCA is hosting an Affirmative Housing Fair on May 3
  + GAPSE and GVRA are hosting a conference on going to work and SSI
  + DCH will be accepting comments on the HCBS Setting Rules
  + Project Search is now up to 18 sites with discussions happening in Grady County, Muscogee County and Advantage Behavioral Health in Athens
  + Applications are available for Destination Dawgs, the post secondary program that will begin at UGA in spring 2017.
  + Geneice McCoy reported that In Augusta they have only spent $3 million of a larger funding source on creating a more accessible community.
  + The DOE IDEAS conference is June 6 to 10
  + Jody Wren attended the Autism Conference sponsored by the Center for Leadership and Disability
  + Nandi Issac participated on the GCDD Real Communities Tour

1. **Legislative Update**

Dawn Alford reported on the legislative session and its impact on people with developmental disabilities. See her power point presentation.

1. **Strategic Planning**

Eric Jacobson introduced Herb Merlowe who reviewed the GCDD public input materials and compared this to current trends that are happening in society. See his power point presentation.

Members spent the rest of the afternoon discussing the proposed goals and objectives for the strategic plan. They created additional activities, outputs and outcomes. Among the recommendations made were:

* Self Advocacy: add collaboration with the Centers for Independent Living
* Real Communities: add working to include the principles of Real Communities throughout the work of GCDD. Disseminate information about Real Communities to more broad communities.
* Employment: GCDD should increase the number of Project Search sites to 30 by the end of the planning period. The first two years should be focused on middle Georgia. There will be a fidelity scale at DBHDD by year 2 of the plan. It was suggested that the objective around financial literacy be a part of Real Communities. In addition, the GCDD does not need to include resources for benefits navigators because they have received federal funding.

Friday April 22, 2016

1. Old Business

Nandi Issac made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda which included Minutes from the January meeting and the Budget Report. Tom Connelly seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously to adopt the consent agenda.

1. **My Voice, My Participation, My Board**

Ryan Johnson from the Center for Leadership and Disability presented on the My Voice, My Participation, My Board that is working with self advocates to be better prepared to participate on boards such as GCDD. Dorothy Harris, Madeline Petrone and Nandi Issac have participated.

1. Member Discussions

Mitzi Proffitt led a discussion among those in attendance to get to know each member better. Members were asked to talk about who influenced them to get involved in GCDD and disability advocacy.

1. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.