Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities

**Quarterly Council Meeting**

**July 16-17, 2015**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**M I N U T E S**

Present: Kate Brady, Tom Connelly, Pam Dempsey\*, Trace Haythorne\*, Theresa Heard, Debbie Hibben, Darlene Meador, Geneice McCoy, Ruby Moore, Brenda Munoz\*, Erin Neiderhoffer\*, Evan Nodvin, Mitzi Proffitt, Debbie Reagin, Marcia Singson\*, Zo Stoneman, Lyn Walker, Jodi Wren\*

Guest: D’Arcy Robb

Staff: Dawn Alford, Caitlin Childs, Gary Childers, Lisa Eaves, Kim Hudson, Eric Jacobson, Jhai James, Gabby Melnick, Nick Perry, Valerie Suber

1. Mitzi Proffitt welcomed Council members and guess. She made the following announcements.
   * The next Council meeting will be October 14-16 at Callaway Gardens. The Executive Committee decided that the October meeting will be a 2 and half day planning retreat once we have collected all the data. We will be meeting at Callaway Gardens.
   * Josette Akhras has resigned from the Executive Committee due to health issues. Theresa Heard was appointed to serve out the remainder of Ms. Akhras’s term.,
   * Members will receive a survey monkey asking for input into Eric Jacobson’s performance.
2. Strategic Planning Process Highlights

Members discussed the mission and vision of the organization. They reviewed the current mission and made the following comments:

* We promote opportunities where people with intellectual/developmental disabilities are thriving
* Advocacy is how we do our “purpose”

Members agreed to change the mission statement to read: The mission of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities is to advance social and policy changes that promote opportunities for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and families to thrive where they live, learn, work, play, and worship in Georgia communities.

The vision is the ultimate goal and the following issues were discussed

* Instead of encouraged, the vision should be “supported to realize their full potential”

The members agreed to change the vision statement to: In Georgia all people are valued and fully included in our communities and supported to realize their fullest potential.

Staff made presentations on the accomplishments of each goal: Real Communities, Public Awareness, Transition, Public Policy, Self Advocacy, and Changing the Publicly Funded System. Questions:

* On Real Communities Objective 1.4 “How are we doing with other Councils?”
* On Real Communities Goal: Would like to hear from community builders
* On Real Communities Goal: How are people with disabilities involved, their roles and the number of people with disabilities participating?
* On Public Awareness Goal: What is the return on investment and costs for the Making a Difference Magazine and Disability Day?
* On Public Awareness Goal: Who are the subscribers to the magazine and how do we get feedback from them? How do we decide which stories go into the magazine?
* On Public Awareness Goal: How can we increase language access?
* On Public Awareness Goal: The objective may need to be more targeted to create a more consistent message.
* On Public Awareness Goal: How can we collaborate more and blend resources when it comes to public awareness?
* On Public Awareness Goal: Who are the audiences and benchmarks?
* On Transition Goal: Need to continue post secondary and increase by scale.
* On Transition Goal: What does inclusion really mean as it appears some post secondary programs look more like enclaves.
* On Transition Goal: Use Real Communities as a model for campus life.
* On Overall Council: What is the return on investment of adding staff?
* On Public Policy Goal: We should think about developing a policy network
* On Public Policy Goal: How do we communicate with the Legislative Study Committee?
* On Public Policy Goal: Early Engagement Strategy could be a perfect goal to focus on kids in schools and build in Real Communities and connect kids around other commonalities.
* On Public Policy Goal: How many kids are in nursing homes? What are their ages and assessment of needs? The goal should be to move and keep children out of nursing facilities
* On Public Policy Goal: The new waivers should cover the cost in the community.
* On Publicly Funded Goal: What is the success and progress of the microboards?
* On Public Policy Goal: How can we support provider capacity building?
* On Public Policy Goal: The systems goal is a cross system and should comprehensively address by convening all agencies.

Diane Schlochter and Eric Jacobson presented the public input process including the E Survey and Public Forums. It was suggested there be a targeted mailing to organizations such as the centers for independent living. There will be a webinar to prepare members for the public forums probably the last week of August.

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| Site | Date | Council Member |
| Albany | 9/9 | Tom  Theresa |
| Columbus | 9/10 | Tom |
| Macon | 9/8 | Evan |
| Savannah | 9/28 | Mitzi |
| Athens | 9/24 | Marcia |
| Augusta | 9/29 | Geneice |
| Atlanta | 9/2  9/30 | Erin  Debbie Hibben |
| Gainesville | 9/1 | Marcia |
| Dalton | 8/31 | Pam |

Friday July 17, 2015

1. Old Business
   1. Consent Agenda Issues: Council members were unable to vote because there was not a quorum.
   2. Roles and Responsibility Matrix: Council members were unable to vote because there was not a quorum
2. Adjourn

\*Do not count toward a quorum