**Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities**

**Quarterly Meeting**

**July 13-14, 2016**

**M I N U T E S**

Present: Tom Connelly, Dan Crimmins. Pam Hunter Dempsey, Teresa Heard, Debbie Hibben, Nandi Isaac, Frank Kirkland, Heidi Moore, Ruby Moore, Brenda Munoz, Evan Nodvin, Nick Perry, Ron Pound, Mitzi Proffitt, Marcia Singson, Zo Stoneman, Lynn Walker

Staff: Dottie Adams, Dawn Alford, Lisa Eaves, Eric Foss, Eric Jacobson, Jhai James, Kim Person, Valerie Suber

1. **Announcements**
   1. GCDD has hired Hannah Rosenfeld as the new Public Policy Specialist. Hannah is a graduate of University of Pittsburgh. She will be working with Dawn Alford on developing and supporting our public policy efforts. She begins her work on August 16.
   2. During the next quarter we will be recruiting new advisory members. Staff will have an application ready in the next couple of weeks, individuals can either send their names to Eric Jacobson or Kim Person and they will send the application or it will be on the website

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1. **Election of Executive Committee**

Pam Hunter Dempsey reported that the following people had submitted their names for consideration to be members of the Executive Committee:

* 1. Mitzi Proffitt (Chairperson)
  2. Tom Connelly (Vice-Chairperson)
  3. Nandi Isaac (At Large Member)
  4. Heidi Moore (At Large Member)
  5. Brenda Munoz (At Large Member)

The Council voted by ballot and elected the following:

* 1. Mitzi Proffitt (Chairperson)
  2. Tom Connelly (Vice-Chairperson)
  3. Heidi Moore (At Large Member)
  4. Brenda Munoz (At Large Member)

1. **Budget Report**

Eric Jacobson presented the proposed budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2016-2017. He noted that GCDD will receive a one time allocation from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities of $44,000. In addition, GCDD’s annual allocation has not been determined because the Administration on Community Living’s Secretary has decided to rescind a 1% cut off the top from all Councils to pay for ACL staff and support. They are still determining the final allotment amount. There is also a 3% increase for staff.

Mr. Jacobson reviewed each section of the budget. The program budget reflects the proposed new strategic plan. There are new projects that have not been funded in the past and the exact expenditures have not yet been determined.

1. **Plan**

Eric Jacobson reviewed the public comment received on the proposed plan and presented the following changes based the comment:

* + 1. Education
       1. The Goal is changed to read: GCDD will support and advocacy will result in significant and measureable increases in the number of children with intellectual/developmental disabilities who are fully included in classrooms with supports and actively involved in their local school communities.
       2. Objective 2: By 2021, GCDD will work with the Georgia Inclusive Post Secondary Inclusive Education Consortium to provide assistance to current colleges and universities and expand to 15 the number of colleges and universities that support students with intellectual/developmental disabilities to live, study and participate in student activities.
       3. Objective 3” By 2021, GCDD will leverage partnerships with organizations to increase knowledge of parents, educators, employers, and students with intellectual/developmental disabilities about transition options to include employment opportunities and post-secondary educational opportunities and resources to support their involvement in life after school
    2. Employment
       1. Change goal to read: GCDD will work with individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, family members and community stakeholders to develop and implement strategic action steps that will result in significant improvements in the lives of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities acquiring meaningful jobs, livable wages and career advancement opportunities
       2. For both Project Search and Employment First, we should make the objectives more measureable based on the number of people who get jobs or a percentage decrease in the number of unemployed people with intellectual/developmental disabilities
       3. For objective 3 change to read: GCDD will collaborate with other agencies to strengthen financial inclusion and asset development efforts
    3. Publicly Funded System
       1. Change the goal to read: GCDD will support efforts to increase access to quality long term supports and services provided in the most integrated setting through both demonstration of new practices and public policy advocacy efforts.
       2. Objective 2 should be split into two objectives: one that is focused on advocacy efforts such as the waiting list, employment first increased wages for direct support professionals and one that supports individuals and families by promoting increased access to self direct services and supporting families.
    4. Real Communities
       1. Change Goal to read: GCDD will enhance the capacity of communities to build relationships among people with and without disabilities by supporting efforts to work on local priorities that result in a sustainable quality of life for everyone and support the 4 Commitments: ***Action focuses on making the community better for everyone; People with developmental disabilities are active members the initiative builds up local capacity for collective action; and, Participants take responsibility for sharing what they are learning***.
       2. Change Objective 1 to read: By 2021 current Real Community sites in Clarkston, Macon, Savannah, and LaGrange will be self-sustaining.
       3. Change Objective 2 to read: By 2021, GCDD will provide financial and technical assistance to 10 additional communities using practices such as Asset Based Community Development that support the values of GCDD, encourage collective action and engage in purposeful learning to create change in communities.
       4. Eliminate Objective 3.
    5. Self Advocacy
       1. Change Objective 1 to read: By 2021, GCDD will provide financial support to self-advocacy organizations that provide information and training to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities about supported decision making.
       2. Change Objective 2 to read: By 2021, GCDD will support efforts that result in individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities increasing their participation in systems change advocacy and the political process.
       3. Change Objective 3 to read: By 2021, GCDD will support a program, led by people with intellectual/developmental disabilities that result in leadership development for those who desire to become leaders.

There was discussion about the need to address preK – 12 grade education and the impact of the Every Student Succeed Act. It was agreed that more information about the Act and its impact is needed and should be provided to parents.

**Zo Stoneman made a motion to provide members with information about the Every Child Succeeds Act and at the October meeting decide if an ad hoc committee needs to be formed. Ron Pound seconded the motion. The Council members unanimously approved the motion.**

**Council members agreed by consensus to adopt the proposed changes to the Strategic Plan.**

Council members discussed what they would like to see during the next five years to assist them in being better members and the committee structure to support the work. What do we need as Council members to do our job better?

1. Cultural Competency – a more diverse membership
2. Translate materials into other languages
3. Have a more detailed orientation that
   1. Explains the “acronyms”
   2. Peer mentors for new members
   3. “what are Council’s about?”
   4. Make sure it is presented so that those with different learning styles can participate
4. Increased opportunities for self advocates in leadership positions and Include self advocates on learning journeys. Provide a time members to preview what will take place at Council meeting
5. Better communication
   1. Accessible, frequent communications about best practices around the 5 Year Plan goals
   2. A place on the GCDD website where members can share and communicate with each other
   3. Start each meeting with success stories and lessons
   4. Practice renewal mechanisms so we can stay positive and don’t get stale
   5. Get materials sooner
   6. Better use of technology
6. Bring the “national” agenda to Georgia and learn from other states
7. Visit projects that we fund and that members report on travel
8. Engage alumni members
9. Create a mechanism to recognize and celebrate work
10. More icebreakers and opportunities to bond as members

What structure should the GCDD have to implement work?

* Three options:
  + Have a standing committee for each goal. This requires better communication and needs to be task oriented. Members and staff could use technology to meet between Council meetings and then report at each quarterly meeting
  + Current structure where the Council operates as a committee of the whole and establishes ad hoc committees when necessary to study issues and create recommendations.
  + A hybrid of the two structures

**Council members decided by consensus that the current structure works best for members and staff.**

1. Supporting Families

Teresa Heard attended the Supporting Families put on by the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services and the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. She presented the Life Course materials that were presented at the conference.

Friday, July 15, 2016

1. Dan Howell

Dan Howell joined the meeting via conference call to discuss the contract extension agreed upon by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and the United States Department of Justice. The contract extension gives the State two more years to complete the transition of those living in state run institutions into home and community based settings.

1. Alison Barkoff

Alison Barkoff from the Bazelon Center spoke via Skype to discuss the current status of the Department of Justice case, the GNETs case and the status of the home and community based settings rule. She spoke about how GCDD and other advocates can get involved in all three issues. The following are highlights of her presentation:

1. Department of Justice extension of suit. Elizabeth Jones, the Court Monitor needs to hear from self advocates about why it is better to live in the community instead of institutions. The State needs to invest in what people need in the community and how we transition people. This includes health care and behavioral supports and other supports for those with high risk factors
2. The findings letter sent by the Department of Justice to the State of Georgia about the number of children in segregated GNET system is ground breaking. The decision with GNETs was that having the separate system was a violation of ADA and not IDEA because it created segregation and limited opportunities for equal opportunity. With IDEA you can show that an individual child is been hurt but it is hard to do reform. The IEP is about what the school already has to offer. With the ADA it is more systems based and the question is about whether there is integration. The IDEA standard is the right to a free and appropriate education while the ADA standard is about equal access. The Georgia Coalition for Equity and Education has been the entity in the forefront of this effort. They have asked the Department of Justice to either reach a settlement or proceed with a law suit against the State. Families need to know what good inclusion looks like.
3. Home and Community Based Settings Rule: Medicaid has never said what we mean by community. In many cases community based settings looked a lot like institutions. The presumptive institutional settings isolate people from broader communities States have 5 years to implement and comply with the Settings Rul. The goal is for people to have real lives by
   1. Integration and accessing the greater community
   2. Having real jobs that are competitive and integrated employment
   3. Live and be a part of non-disability specific settings through rental subsidies, shared living and employment
   4. GCDD’s role can be to make sure people participate in the public comment period. Tennessee is the only state that has had their plan approved. Georgia will have to resubmit their plan this fall and it must have public comment.

VII. Old Business

**Nandi Isaac moves that the Council adopt the Consent Agenda. Ruby Moore seconds the motion. The Council unanimously approved the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda.**

1. Evaluation

Possible issues for next Council meeting:

* Reorganization of vocational rehabilitation
* Update on HCBS Settings Rule
* ESSA
* Legislative agenda
* Board development