Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities

**Quarterly Council Meeting**

**October 24-25, 2013**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**MINUTES**

1. Present: Josette Akhras, Becky Brightwell, Tom Connelly, Teresa Heard, Renorta Heard, Debbie Hibben, Geinece McCoy, Kylie Moore, Lisa Newbern, Evan Nodvin, Colleen Pirkle, Mitzi Proffitt, Debbie Reagin, Zo Stoneman

Guest: Allisa Carlson

1. **Announcements:**

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* + January Council meeting is the 16th and 17th.
  + Staff will send out core gift information to those Council members who were unable to attend the July meeting with directions for submitting gifts. Staff will then update member gift chart.
  + Staff will modify the Program Update report to only include those programs that have experienced a change during the quarter.
  + Council members discussed where quarterly meetings should be held either in Atlanta or other parts of the state. It was agreed that this would be on the agenda for the January meeting and that staff would provide information about cost of meetings.

1. Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda

* Minutes from the July meeting,
* Program Update Report,
* Budget Report,
* Recommendations for new Real Communities sites

**Teresa Heard made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Josette Akhras seconded the motion. The Council unanimously adopted the motion to accept the consent agenda.**

1. Appreciative Inquiry

Eric Jacobson presented on appreciative inquiry and members participated in exercises to better understand this process. Members will visit Real Community Sites and undertake appreciative inquiry with participants. Staff will arrange a time and coordinate visits.

Clarkston: Geneice McCoy, Josette Akhras, Kylie Moore, Alyssa Carlson

Savannah: Mitzin Proffitt, Zo Stoneman, Becky Brightwell, Colleen Pirkle

Macon: Teresa Heard, Evan Nodvin, Josette Akhras, Lisa Newbern, Debbie Hibben

1. Legislative Agenda and Advocacy Training

D’Arcy Robb and Dawn Alford presented the proposed legislative agenda and conducted a training on how to discuss legislative issues with legislators. D’Arcy Robb presented on the federal Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities treaty that will be voted upon in the US Senate. Members asked that telephone numbers and information be sent to contact US Senators Isackson and Chambliss about this legislation.

Members asked that staff provide information about how to write op-eds and information about legislators who are working on disability related issues.

Members then went on a tour of the State Capitol.

Friday October 25,2013

1. Old Business
   1. Vote on Legislative Agenda

Geneice McCoy made a motion to adopt the legislative agenda as presented by staff. Debbie Hibben seconded the motion.

**The Council unanimously adopted the motion to accept the legislative agenda.**

1. Transition

D’Arcy Robb, Dawn Alford and Sharon Strandberg presented on the projects that GCDD supports related to transition of children. These included Partnerships for Success, Project Search, the Transition Steering Committee and Post Secondary Options. Eric Jacobson reported that as soon as the new schools for post secondary options were decided he would let members know.

1. Engaging Members

Mitzi Proffitt lead a discussion about wht it means to be a Council member and what members want to accomplish during the next year. Good members:

* Know enough about GCDD supported programs to discuss them with others
* Find want works for them
* Make a commitment to participate and be knowledgeable
* Bring back information from their community
* Come to all meetings
* Assist staff
* Think differently about what is happening related to disability policy and services
* Tell others where to find resources

Members want to focus during the next year on:

* Becoming aware of the options available to individuals after high school and finding ways to make the average parent more knowledgeable
* How information is dispersed about what GCDD supports.
* Creating relationships with legislators and supporting a more robust network of advocates

1. Advocacy

Eric Jacobson presented a pictorial representation of GCDD and its relationship to the federal DD Network, other advocacy and support organizations, state agencies and providers. He will continue to amend this illustration and present it again at the January meeting. .

1. Meeting Evaluation
2. Adjourn