

Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities

Quarterly Council Meeting

October 14-15, 2021

MINUTES

Present: Jeff Allen, Lori Campbell, Mark Crenshaw, Brian Dowd, Wesley Ford, Dorothy Harris, Rena Harris, Teresa Heard, Debbie Hibben, Nandi Issac, Dana Lloyd, Lisa Newbern, Evan Nodvin, Thom Snyder, Zo Stoneman

Guests: Gabby Melnick, Devika Rao, Naomi Williams

I. Welcome and Introduction

Teresa Heard announced that Nick Perry would not be joining the meeting due to his workload and that she would be chairing the meeting

Alyssa Miller announced she had been appointed to the Project Advisory Committee for a grant from CDC on healthcare for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Thom Snyder announced that the Division of Aging Services is expanding consumer direction technical assistance grant to include the Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund.

Members were given the opportunity to chose from three standing committees: Diversity and Equity, State Planning, and Emerging Advocacy Issues. There was discussion about the role of each committee. Members who participate on the State Planning Committee and any subcommittee reviewing grants will need to complete the Conflict of Interest forms to ensure that there are no personal or business conflicts.

Eric Jacobson announced that he would retire from State government on May 1, 2022.

II. COVID

Naomi Williams presented on the work she is doing to address vaccine hesitancy among people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. She presented on a survey recently conducted that revealed that 8% of those polled are not planning to get the vaccination.

There is a meeting every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m. There is much collaboration between GCDD and the rest of the DD Network

III. Legislative Agenda

Alyssa Miller and Charlie Miller presented on possible issues for the GCDD to address in the upcoming legislative session. There was discussion about the following issues:

- Need to focus on the quality of services available to people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. GCDD needs to develop a non-legislative advocacy agenda

- More conversation is needed about how people with intellectual/developmental disabilities are addressed as younger people are more focused on identifying their disability as part of their identity.
- The following are legislative agenda issues
  - Waiver funding
  - DSP wages
  - Ending Subminimum Wage and increasing supported employment funding
  - Increase in IPSE funding by \$75,000
  - Address issues of school to prison pipeline

IV. Grantmaking

V. Consent Agenda

**Dorothy Harris made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Evan Nodvin seconded the motion. The Council members voted unanimously to adopt the Consent Agenda**

VI. Supported Decision Making

- Facebook at Georgia Advocacy Office
- Stages of Project
  - Engage and explore
  - Plan and prepare
  - Initiate and Refine
  - Sustain and Scale
- Guardianship statute – concerned because we have a good statute and afraid that legislation might impact good language

VII. Agency Updates

- UGA
  - Currently developing its five year plan for the Administration on Community Living
  - Working on a webinar with Kennesaw State University on IPSE and employment
  - Destination Dawgs is creating a fall institute
  - Working on famers with disabilities and preventing suicide
  - Working on College Transition Partnership around autistic college students
    - Pilot at Emory University
- GVRA
  - Parent Forum on October 19 from 6-7 p.m. with Parent to Parent of Georgia and Parent Mentors about accessing vocational rehabilitation services.
  - Employment First have no meetings scheduled
  - Pacing Guide
- DCH
  - There are over 2.5 million Georgians covered by Medicaid including 50% of all births. There will be a complete review of members when the COVID virus is no longer a concern. No one has been removed from Medicaid during COVID pandemic.

- The funding use through the American Recovery Plan has not been approved by the feds.
- EVV will become mandatory November 1, 2021 for community living services
  - Will expand to durable medical equipment and non-medical transportation
- Approval of COMP Waiver is still pending and the prior Waiver is still in place. There were over 25 questions submitted by CMS around service design, spousal impoverishment, and how extra funding from the feds will be used. There is a chance that services through the COMP Waiver will not be reduced
- DBHDD
  - Ron Wakefield reported on the work of DBHDD. He reported the following
    - DBHDD plans to use American Recovery Plan funds to address the crisis continuum, supported employment rates (a rate study), increasing DSP wages to \$11.27 per hour
    - Stabilization of those dually diagnosed

VIII. Evaluation

IX. Adjourn