Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities

**Quarterly Council Meeting**

**April 20-21, 2017**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**M I N U T E S**

Present: Christine Clark, Tom Connelly, Zell Smith-Dixon, Viviana Fernandez, Parker Glick, Dorothy Harris, Theresa Heard, Debbie Hibben, Nandi Issac, Hamida Jinnah, Heidi Moore, Madeline Petrone, Mitzi Proffitt, Joe Sara, Lynn Walker

1. Announcements
   * July Council meeting is July 20-21 in Macon.
   * The celebration of Dottie Adams will take place on Saturday May 6 at 1:00 p.m. at Centenary United Methodist Church in Macon.
   * Lynn Walker and Heidi Moore reported on participating in the Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. Over 900 people attended and the focus was on proposed changes in healthcare and Medicaid. Members were reminded that this debate was not over and they should be prepared for advocacy efforts.
2. O’Neill Communications
   * Gordon O’Neill and Devika Rao presented on changes that will be taking place related to *Making a Difference* and social media. Attached is their power point presentation.
3. Board Development

Sheryl Matney from the National Association of Developmental Disability Councils engaged members and staff in better understanding the DD Act and the role of members and staff.

1. Consent Agenda Issues

Dorothy Harris made a motion to adopt the consent agenda which included minutes from the January meeting, the quarterly program report, and changes to the Travel Reimbursement Policy. Nandi Issac seconded the motion. **GCDD members unanimously adopted the consent agenda.**

1. Dr. Zell Smith Dixon

Dr. Zell Smith-Dixon, Director of Special Education Services and Supports presented to Council members. She discussed the following pieces:

* There are over 200,000 children in special education services
* There is perception data (what people think, feel and say) and it means that children, families and communities are tied together. There needs to be a change to provide supports to families and communities, not just the students.
* The Department will be offering advocacy training through organizations such as Parent to Parent, Parent Mentors, and Family Connections
* June 6-9 is the IDEAS conference

1. Legislative Update

Dawn Alford provided an overview of the accomplishments of the legislative session. Attached is the power point that she used.