Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities

**Quarterly Council Meeting**

**January 14-15, 2016**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**M I N U T E S**

Present: Josette Akhras, Becky Brightwell, Tom Connelly, Pam Hunter Dempsey, Suki Glick, Debbie Harbin, Dorothy Harris, Trace Haythorne, Theresa Heard, Nandi Issac, Donna Johnson, Frank Kirkland, Geneice McCoy, Susanna Miller (CLD), Heidi Moore, Ruby Moore, Evan Nodvin, Nick Perry, Madeline Petrone, Ron Pound, Mitzi Proffitt, Debbie Reagin, Marcia Singson, Joe Sera (for GAO), Lynn Walker, Jodie Wren

Staff: Dottie Adams, Dawn Alford, Caitlin Childs, Lisa Eaves, Eric Jacobson, Jhai James, Gabby Melnick, Kim Person, Valerie Suber

1. **Announcements**

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Mitzi Proffitt introduced six individuals who were recently appointed by Governor Deal to the Council. The new are Suki Glick, Dorothy Harris, Nandi Issacs, Heidi Moore, Brenda Munoz and Madeline Petrone. She also announced that Josette Akhras is rotating off the Council.

**Pam Hunter Dempsey made a motion that the Council adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Geneice McCoy seconded the motion. The Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.**

The GCDD will be recognized by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities for its Real Communities initiative on June 8, 2016.

1. **Legislative Update and Capitol Visit**

Dawn Alford reported on the Council’s legislative agenda and the efforts to educate the community and members of the General Assembly.

1. **Every Student Succeed Act**

President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act into law on December 10, largely replacing the No Child Left Behind Act . Many in Congress and on the state level have said that the new law is much more flexible related to student testing and school accountability and gives the states more responsibility for fixing under-performing schools. Debbie Reagin presented the information that is currently available about how this new law will impact students with disabilities

1. **Strategic Planning**

Eric Jacobson lead members and staff in continuing the work on the GCDD strategic plan. Members worked on activities related to proposed goals and objectives.

1. Old Business: Consent Agenda

The items on the consent agenda are:

* Minutes from the October meeting,
* Budget Report,
* 2014-2015 Program Performance Report submitted to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
* Legislative Agenda
* Public Participation and Comment Policy

1. **Sibling Coalition**

Nick Perry from the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency presented on efforts to create and support a Sibling Coalition Meeting Evaluation

1. **Adjourn**

The next Council meeting will be held on April 21-22. The new dates are because the national disability policy seminar is being held during the week of April 14-15. Mitzi Alford adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.