

**Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Quarterly Council Meeting**

**January 13-14, 2022**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

**Minutes**

Present: Kate Brady, Star Bruner, Lori Campbell, Mark Crenshaw, Sharon De Mille, Lisa Eaves, Tonya Fair, Tianna Faulkner, Wesley Ford, Eric Foss, Dorothy Harris, Rena Harris, Debbie Hibben, Nandi Isaac, Eric Jacobson, Isabel Knofczynski, Dana Lloyd, Alyssa Miller, Charlie Miller, Lisa Newbern, Evan Nodvin, Nick Perry, Kim Person, Maria Pinkelton, T'Aria Samuel, Zo Stoneman and Naomi Williams

Guests: Doug Crandell, Gabby Melnick, Ann Searcy

Day 1

I. Welcome and Introductions, Nick Perry

Nick opened the meeting and welcomed all. He read a draft "Statement Acknowledging Spaces and Land."

Announcements:

Next Council meeting will be April 14-15. Due to COVID, plans are for a virtual meeting.

Advocacy Days start this month:

Jan 26 – Addressing the Direct Support Professional Workforce day; Feb 16 – Reducing the NOW/COMP Waiver Waitlist day; March 16 – Advancing Employment First Opportunities day. All advocacy days are 10 am to 1 pm..

Election of Vice-Chairperson

At Rena Harris' request, Nick gave a summary of responsibilities.

Debbie Hibben made a Motion to select Lisa Newbern by acclamation. Evan Nodvin seconded, and the motion passed.

Executive Director Search

Nick previewed that he will ask for a motion Friday about reallocating money to hire the search firm at an estimated cost of \$65,000. He then asked each person participating in the meeting to share recommended qualities for the new executive director; responses:

transparency; progressive, innovative x 3, forward thinking; honesty x 2; strategic; understanding; inclusive x 2; equality; responsibility; relationship builder; kind x 2; good at delegating; diversity; hands on; empathetic; approachable, open minded; person with personality; problem solver; accountable; integrity, leadership; compassionate; collaborator; daring x 2, effective

II. Project Proposals, Lisa Eaves

Grant making is a main strategy to accomplish GCDD goals and objectives vs. funding organizations. The Council is putting out 21 Notice of Funds Available (NOFA) in 2022. On average, the Council

funds 55 grants per year. Grant categories include (but are not limited to): transportation, housing, direct service professionals, family advocacy, communication, support for new leaders, eliminating sub minimum wages and Inclusive Post Secondary Education.

Lisa E. thanked the committee members who reviewed the grant proposals and provided information about the committee's recommendations for which grant applications to fund and at what grant amounts. She noted there was particular attention paid to Conflict of Interest (COI) and which committee members reviewed and voted on proposals to eliminate any COI concerns. The vote will be Friday, and grantees will be notified Tuesday (given the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday Monday).

### III. Audit Report, Eric Jacobson

GCDD received results of the Tier 3 federal audit, which was triggered by a whistleblower complaint. Eric will meet with the federal representative next week to learn more about the expectations and timeframe for remedy of areas of non compliance (annual review of Executive Director and membership) and other concerns. The other concerns include (but are not limited to): hiring manual; diversity and inclusion policies; additional training opportunities between staff and executive director; conflicts of interest; training for Council chair; procedures to handle public input; lack of HR support; and member input into budget process.

### IV. Inclusive Post Secondary Education, Starr Bruner

Starr defined Inclusive Post Secondary Education (IPSE) as the opportunity for students with disabilities to go to college with their typically developing peers. The promises of good IPSE programs are: inclusive, real learning (not a day program), offer accommodations, focus on future employment and give campus life opportunities. Skills gained include: self-determination; motivation; social skills, transportation/navigation options; workplace skills; and personal finance. Nationwide, 88% of IPSE students graduate.

There are different standards for IPSE student admission, which include: had an IEP; 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade reading level; ability to work independently; very little to no behavior issues; and student wants to go to college.

There are 8 programs in Georgia, which Starr described, and another getting ready to start. GCDD gets approx. \$500,000 from the state to support IPSE education. GCDD is working with consultants to revise how we award funds to better focus on financial needs, demographic makeup, graduation rates, equity and more.

More info about Georgia's IPSE programs is available via GAIPSEC, a statewide group that helps students in Georgia who have intellectual/developmental disabilities and want to go college; [www.gaipsec.org](http://www.gaipsec.org). The national organization is Think College, [www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net).

At the end of her presentation, Starr premiered a video about the IPSE programs, and then there was some discussion about ways to share the video.

### V. Legislative Updates, Charlie Miller, Alyssa Miller and Isabel Knofczynski

The legislative session began Monday, 1/10. Charlie gave an overview of the basics of Georgia's legislative session, which is one of the shortest in the country. Alyssa provided an overview of passing a bill and the budget process.

Governor Kemp gave his State of the State presentation and released the budget today. Alyssa shared information about the Governor's presentation, and the GCDD legislative team will review the budget and provide information to Council members. Council members have an important role to play to ensure we get the money we need to fund our programs.

Isabel covered preparing for the 2022 session. Of note, all statewide offices are up for re-election, which indicates there may be "campaign-promise" bills. GCDD is especially watching four returning bills (SB208, HR272, HR290 and HR372), two prefilled bills (SB323 and SB325) and an ABLE Act amendment.

The GCDD legislative team recommends Council members engage with their elected officials by phone or email and let them know you are their constituent and interested in how they can support Georgians who have developmental disabilities. Based on a poll, 61% of Council members know who their state representative is, and 72% of members know who their state senator is. To find your legislators, go to: [openstates.org](https://openstates.org). Results of a second poll show 50% have been at the ropes inside the Capitol building, 19% have interacted by call, 38% have engaged through email, 25% have had an in-person meeting and 44% have not interacted with their elected officials.

Beyond calling, emailing and meeting in person, Charlie encourages Council members to participate in GCDD's advocacy days. Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-gcdd-advocacy-days-jan-26feb-16mar-16-from-1000-am-100-pm-registration-214782559417>.

Also, Charlie is holding Public Policy for the People Calls every Friday at noon during the legislative session. Participate: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsce2tqTgoGtHEwslGT\\_zdk\\_dhbmrNO0V7](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsce2tqTgoGtHEwslGT_zdk_dhbmrNO0V7).

To sign up for GCDD's emails: <https://gcdd.org/signup-list.html>

Alyssa ended the legislative presentation with additional updates about the COMP Waiver and Build Back Better Federal Legislation (which both Georgia Senators support).

## VI. Advancing Employment, Doug Crandell

Doug Crandell presented on the Advancing Employment Technical Assistance project and gave an update on employment for people with developmental disabilities in Georgia.

### Day 2

## VII. First day overview

Eric welcomed all and then introduced Gabby Melnick.

Gabby shared the drawings she created to represent the first day presentations and discussions.

VIII. Old Business

A. Audit Recommendations

- a. Nick noted there is no vote needed for this and reiterated he and Eric are meeting with the federal rep next week.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from October Meeting
2. Quarterly Financial Report
3. Quarterly Program Report
  - a. Passed.

C. Search Firm

- a. Eric and Lisa are meeting with search firms to discuss filling the Executive Director position; GCDD will provide RFP information with a quick submission timeline.

D. Proposals Approval

- 3 members (Mark, Rena and Zo) abstained from the vote due to having proposals under consideration. Proposals recommended by the subcommittee were approved.

II. Agency Updates

Jeff Allen, GVRA

Working with school districts, making adjustments based on COVID

Is VR right for me? Program every Wednesday at noon and 6 pm

Monthly parent forum geared to transition services, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 6 pm – 7 pm

Gvs.ga.gov

DCH

No representative at the meeting

Lori Campbell, DBHDD

COMP Waiver still pending; submitted in Dec 2020

Submitted with DCH waivers

Hope to incorporate 5% amendment for services, but can't until it's officially approved

Taking temporary measure to append Amendment K; submitted for approval for 5% provider increase

ARPA – partially approved; pending full CMS approval

Have developed temporary rate enhancements for several programs; will go into effect as soon as approved

Longer term, doing a complete rate study for all services with NOW and COMP waivers.

Will have a workforce challenge group (e.g., for nursing and direct service professionals); looking for what they can quickly implement

Supported employment pilot project with ARPA funding

Mark Crenshaw, GSU CLD

New state disability and health grant from the CDC – almost \$5 million cooperative agreement that goes across 10 states

Purpose is to lift up access to health care for those with IDD and mobility concerns

COVID work continues

Accepting applications for 2022-23 LEND program (12<sup>th</sup> year) – rolling deadline:

First deadline is for GSU-affiliated folks; community members closes in April

Council members requested to share information about the application  
Program goal is to make a difference within Georgia's system of care  
During 10 years of the program, trained 220 emerging leaders and community professionals  
(clinicians, teachers)  
Meant to be interdisciplinary  
Change in staff – Susannah Miller Raines, IPSE program, is relocating to Charlotte

Zo Stoneman, IHDD

Major news is the Bulldogs are National Champions!  
Video on Destination Dawgs website that the UGA and UA IPSE students produced.  
More than 100 students in the Disabilities studies certificate programs

Dana Lloyd, GAO

Continuing exciting state- and national-level collaborations  
Excited to see needle on 14C moving in Georgia  
COVID work – feeling like back in the beginning of the pandemic. Do have tools, but still getting calls about hospital visitation policies, access to getting vaccines, crisis to having folks show up.  
Continued work to help people transition from not great scenarios (crisis situations) into more supportive situations.  
SDM continues – website to launch Feb/March, engaging with Youth Choice, Youth Voice  
Supported decision making – adding people to the advisory council  
Former GCDD staffer Hilary Hibben and her sister will join; first sibling pair.  
Being careful about unintended consequences of moving toward legislation too quickly  
Looking for legislative champion and someone on the probate bench  
Don't want to erode Georgia's guardianship protections that are favorable.  
Want people in Georgia to have dignity, autonomy and self-determination  
New connection with GaDOE – clear that SDM exists as an accommodation under the ADA.

III. Evaluation

Comments shared included the meeting was interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile

IV. Committee Meetings

**Search**

This committee is charged with overseeing the search to find GCDD's next executive director.

The committee discussed the three firms with which Eric and Lisa N. met, and talked about the search timeline.

**Diversity Equity and Inclusion**

This committee is charged with ensuring work the organization does is consistently viewed through an equity lens. In addition to GCDD's targeted disparity work, all other funded projects must intentionally include Georgia's diverse population and the best ways to access and engage them. We will use proven Diversity Inclusion Cultural Language Capacity (DICLC) practices and resources the National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)/Information and Technical Assistance Center (ITACC) provide to perform this work.

The committee reviewed its charge and elected Dorothy Harris as the committee chair, Maria Pinkelton will assist where needed. The committee members will meet the third Friday of each month at 3 pm.

### **ACUPPI**

Members of the 2022 Advisory Committee on Urgent Public Policy Issues (ACUPPI) include: Lisa Newbern, Nandi Isaac, Wesley Ford, Rena Harris, Zo Stoneman, and Dana Lloyd. Rena Harris and Nandi Isaac volunteered to be co-chairs of the committee, and the committee voted to approve the nominations. We will call for meetings when urgent issues arise that require the Council to weigh in on to make a decision about next steps, and we will also be sending out written policy documents via email for approval. We spent most of our time discussing the ITACC presentation which provides us an overview of what the Council can and cannot do as it relates to advocacy activities and public policy. There was interest from members on learning more about the process required to represent the Council during policy-related activities.

### **State Plan Committee**

The Planning Committee met last council meeting to discuss the purpose of the group and schedule of meetings. The aim of the group is to over see adherence to both strategic and annual plans as well to provide feedback on potential changes to those plans or deviations from them. The group will also examine evaluations approaches and outcomes.

The most pressing task for the group at this April meeting is to discuss goals for the Evaluation NoFA that will soon be released for competition.

### **V. Adjourn**

Evan Nodvin motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Eric Foss seconded; the motion passed.