



# Council Meeting Minutes

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November 5, 2020

**Council Members Present:**

Allison Bynum\*  
Jody Cheek\*  
Roddey Coe\*  
Jennifer Coleman\*  
Sarah Cripps\*  
Ryan Durham\*  
Tatum Fowler\*  
Lesley Guilaran\*  
Alicia Hall\*  
Chrissy Hood\*  
Clancey Hopper\*  
Lisa Johnson\*  
Jean-Marie Lawrence\*  
Tecia Puckett Pryor\*  
Brigham Scallion\*  
Martez Williams\*  
Bruce Keisling, UT Center  
Robin Wilmoth, Dept of Intellectual and  
Developmental Disabilities  
Alison Gauld, Dept. Education  
Mandy Johnson, Voc. Rehab. Services  
Lisa Primm, Disability Rights TN  
Don Watt, Tennessee Housing  
Development Authority  
Elise McMillan, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center

**Staff Present:**

Wanda Willis  
Lynette Porter  
Alicia Cone  
Lauren Percy  
Jolene Sharp  
Emma Shouse-Garton  
Cathlyn Smith  
Ashley Edwards  
JoEllen Fowler  
Mildred Sparkman

**Guests**

Dr. Alex Vohs, UT Center for  
Developmental Disabilities  
Georganne Martin, General  
Assembly Budget Office

**Council Members Absent:**

Karen West\*  
Brent Wiles\*  
Mark Liverman, Dept.  
Mental Health & Substance  
Abuse  
Rose Naccarato, Tenn.  
Commission on Children &  
Youth  
Jacqueline Johnson, Dept.  
of Health  
Anna Lea Cothron, TCAD  
Shannon Nehus, TennCare

*\*denotes Governor appointed citizen*

## **2:00 p.m. Opening & Introductions**

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Council Chair, Tecia Puckett Pryor, called the meeting to order after ascertaining there was a quorum at 2:00 p.m. Tecia welcomed everyone and facilitated introductions. Dr. Alex Vohs from the UT Center for Developmental Disabilities and Georgann Martin from the General Assembly Budget Office attended the meeting as guests.

Tecia then reviewed the meeting agenda.

### **Approval of September 18 Minutes**

The September 18, 2020 Council meeting minutes were emailed to all the Council members prior to the November 5, 2020 Council meeting to give members an opportunity to review before the meeting. One correction was submitted via e-mail prior to the meeting and minutes were edited to reflect an update to the attendance list. Tecia called for a motion to accept the minutes as written from the members present at the November meeting. **Clancey Hopper moved to accept the September 18, 2020 minutes with edits and Tatum Fowler seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.**

## **2:10 p.m. Purpose**

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Wanda Willis, executive director, thanked Council members for being present and explained the purpose of the retreat. She reminded members that Councils exist to bring the only objective, birds-eye-view of the entire system. To do this work, we need a plan; Council members play an integral part in drafting that plan.

During the retreat, members will complete a year-end review of council activities and objectives to determine whether the council has made adequate progress toward our state plan goals. Then, members will review results of the public input survey and suggested goals and objectives for the next five-year state plan.

## **2:15 p.m. Where We've Been – Year End Review**

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Tecia Puckett Pryor dismissed council members into committee to review fiscal year 2020 activities and outcomes under the current state plan goal. While reviewing materials, members were asked four questions:

- What worked?
- Where are the opportunities for improvement?
- Do you feel like you have enough information to gauge our progress
- Did we make progress on the goal this year?

## **2:50 p.m. Committee Report Outs**

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Lisa Johnson reported on behalf of the Evaluation Committee. **The committee determined that the Council made adequate progress toward Goal 1: Developing Leaders.** Outreach and reallocation of scholarship funds to ensure funds continued to directly impact leadership activities for Tennesseans was named as one example of how the council pivoted in light of the pandemic. Additionally, Partners in Policymaking® moved to an online platform this fall, ensuring the 2020-2021 class could happen on time despite in-person meeting limitations. One area the committee named as an area for improvement was in the evaluation mechanism for the goal activities, including an emphasis on under-represented populations. The council should take this into consideration for future state plan goal planning. There were eight council members present in this committee meeting.

Lesley Guilaran reported on behalf of the Public Policy Committee. **The committee determined that the Council made adequate progress toward Goal 2: Impacting Policy & Practice.** Council staff and members participated in varied work groups and in partnership with other organizations throughout the state to ensure the voices of Tennesseans with developmental disabilities were present at important conversations. Additionally, the Council positions itself as a key resource for policymakers statewide, especially with the weekly Council Policy News. Other successes included work toward supporting the creation of the Office of Accessible Transportation with the TN Department of Transportation – the first of its kind – and collaboration with the American Job Centers in updating training for its staff related to disability employment. There were eight council members present in this committee meeting.

Tatum Fowler reported on behalf of the Communication Committee. **The committee determined that the Council made adequate progress toward Goal 3: Informing & Educating Stakeholders.** The Council saw a 40% increase in its Facebook presence over the last year; the highest engagement was seen on videos produced in connection with the N+R newspaper insert project. After the first six publications saw success in rural counties, the Council was able to provide additional funding for this communication outlet to run in several other counties in FY21. The Council should leverage this success to produce more stories using video media. Additionally, the committee named outreach to libraries and public access television stations as opportunities to increase information sharing throughout the state. There were six council members present in this committee meeting.

## **3:15 p.m. Break**

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## **3:30 p.m. State Plan Overview: The Basics**

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Alicia Cone, Director of Program Operations, reminded Council members that councils are required to submit a state plan every five years. To do this, councils identify areas of need across Tennessee from the comprehensive review and analysis of services provided by state agencies and using a mechanism to capture the needs of individuals and families impacted by disability across the state. The mechanism the

Council used this year was the public input survey, which was approved by council members in May 2020 and published for responses from July 2020-September 2020.

### **3:45 p.m. Needs Assessment Data Review**

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Alicia Cone, Director of Program Operations, provided an introduction and overview of the results of the public input survey. The council received 855 responses from Tennesseans impacted by disability, more than twice as many as the previous public input survey in 2015. Outreach included council publications, council member outreach, partner agency outreach, targeted outreach to under-represented communities, and policymaker outreach.

*Data presented during the Needs Assessment Review can be found at the end of these minutes.*

Lynette Porter, Deputy Director, presented the demographic data reflecting respondents to the survey. Key takeaways included an increased response from the Latino/a community as a direct response to staff outreach to under-represented groups and a partnership with TN Disability Pathfinder to translate the survey and responses into Spanish. When compared to the demographics of Tennessee, African American populations were under-represented in survey responses. Council members named this community as an important voice and emphasized the need to provide intentional and authentic outreach to ensure the experience of this group is included in our next state plan.

Alicia Cone presented the responses submitted by persons with disabilities related to improving quality of life. Council members discussed potential correlations to geographic location with outcomes (services available in rural communities).

Jolene Sharp, Chief Communication Officer, presented the systems and services data. Council members appreciated the breakdown between council members and non-council members related to these metrics. Next time, the council should consider including mental health as its own service area to identify whether it is a priority for Tennesseans.

Lauren Percy, Director of Public Policy, presented the qualitative data related to barriers to accessing services. Council members identified end of life as an interesting theme of responses and agreed that many of the barriers listed in the data set were aligned to their experience in their communities.

### **5:00 p.m. Adjournment**

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**A motion for adjournment was made by Tatum Fowler and seconded by Sarah Cripps. The motion carried and the Council meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.**



# Council Meeting Minutes

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November 6, 2020

**Council Members Present:**

Allison Bynum\*  
Jody Cheek\*  
Jennifer Coleman\*  
Sarah Cripps\*  
Ryan Durham\*  
Tatum Fowler\*  
Lesley Guilaran\*  
Alicia Hall\*  
Chrissy Hood\*  
Clancey Hopper\*  
Lisa Johnson\*  
Jean-Marie Lawrence\*  
Tecia Puckett Pryor\*  
Brigham Scallion\*  
Brent Wiles\*  
Martez Williams\*  
Anna Lea Cothron, TCAD  
Shannon Nehus, TennCare  
Bruce Keisling, UT Center  
Robin Wilmoth, Dept of Intellectual and  
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Alison Gauld, Dept. Education  
Mandy Johnson, Voc. Rehab. Services  
Lisa Primm, Disability Rights TN  
Don Watt, Tennessee Housing  
Development Authority  
Elise McMillan, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center

**Staff Present:**

Wanda Willis  
Lynette Porter  
Alicia Cone  
Lauren Pearcy  
Jolene Sharp  
Emma Shouse-Garton  
Cathlyn Smith  
Ashley Edwards  
JoEllen Fowler  
Mildred Sparkman

**Guests**

Dr. Nemetria Wilson, UT Center  
for Developmental Disabilities  
Georganne Martin, General  
Assembly Budget Office

**Council Members Absent:**

Roddey Coe\*  
Karen West\*  
Mark Liverman, Dept.  
Mental Health & Substance  
Abuse  
Rose Naccarato, Tenn.  
Commission on Children &  
Youth  
Jacqueline Johnson, Dept.  
of Health

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## **8:30 a.m. Coffee & Chat**

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Council members gathered for a brief social time as the meeting was set up.

## **9:00 a.m. Welcome Back**

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Council Chair, Tecia Puckett Pryor, called the meeting to order after ascertaining there was a quorum at 9:00 a.m. Tecia welcomed everyone and facilitated introductions. Dr. Nemetria Wilson from the UT Center for Developmental Disabilities and Georgann Martin from the General Assembly Budget Office attended the meeting as guests.

Tecia reviewed the agenda, noting that Council members will review drafted goals and objectives for the next five year state plan. Members are encouraged to discuss and provide recommendations for the next draft. Following the review, members will be asked to approve publishing the draft for public comment.

## **9:15 a.m. Review of Proposed Five-Year State Plan Goals**

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Alicia Cone, Director of Program Development, reviewed the components of the Council's five-year state plan. The state plan is made of a few goals divided into two to three objectives. Activities are designed below each objective to accomplish the work of the state plan. The Council determines goals based on the needs assessment, which members reviewed yesterday. In addition, the DD Act and the US Department of Health and Human Services (Office of Intellectual and Development Disabilities) requires components of all Council state plans across the country. These required components include self-advocacy, targeted disparity, and collaboration with other DD Network partners (University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and Protection & Advocacy organizations). Staff have also considered opportunities for new partnerships and collaborations that will advance the Council mission and values when drafting the proposed state plan goals.

## **9:30 a.m. Proposed Goal 1: Developing Engaged Leaders**

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Cathlyn Smith, Director of Leadership Development, provided an overview of proposed state plan Goal 1: Developing Engaging Leaders. This goal tasks the Council to provide learning and development opportunities to Tennesseans with disabilities and their family members to increase their engagement in advocacy and systems change. Tennesseans with disabilities and their family members will be more engaged leaders. This means developing more informed and resource leaders. The ability to better access information and resources means one is better able to make choices that affect their lives and exercise control of their lives.

Proposed objectives under this goal include:

1. Yearly, the Council will provide at least two leadership learning and development programs to increase advocacy skills and engagement in systems change.

2. Yearly, the Council will support grass roots self-advocacy in Tennessee through training and program development to increase advocacy skills and engagement in systems change. **This objective meets a required component of the state plan (self-advocacy).**

After small group discussion, Council members emphasized the need to intentionally pursue relationships with communities that were underrepresented in the needs assessment data to ensure equitable access to leadership development opportunities for all Tennesseans. The Council should continue to build on its success with Partners in Policymaking® and self-advocacy efforts.

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**9:50 a.m. Proposed Goal 2: Improving Policy & Practice**

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Lauren Percy, Director of Public Policy, provided an overview of proposed state plan Goal 2: Improving Policy & Practice. This goal tasks the Council to assure that Tennessee's disability service system is responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and promotes inclusion, self-determination, and independence. Tennesseans with disabilities will influence policy and practice through the work of the Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Proposed objectives under this goal include:

1. At least weekly, track, summarize in plain language, and share information with Tennesseans about policies that impact people with disabilities to position the Council as a top resource for Tennesseans to learn about policy affecting disability.
2. Yearly, solicit and study the perspectives of people with disabilities to identify system barriers and increase their influence on the design of policy change.
3. By 2026, measure progress toward increased inclusion, self-determination and independent among people receiving services.

After small group discussion, Council members agreed that the feedback loop created by Goal 2 is essential for the improvement of policy in Tennessee. Council members also emphasized the need for engagement of Tennesseans with lived experience and policymakers.

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**10:15 a.m. Break**

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**10:30 a.m. Proposed Goal 3: Informing the Public**

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Jolene Sharp, Chief Public Information Officer, provided an overview of proposed state plan Goal 3: Informing the Public. This goal tasks the Council to equip Tennesseans with disabilities and their families with information that promotes inclusion, self-determination, and independence. Tennesseans with disabilities and their family members will be equipped with clear, objective, trusted disability information. Clear information creates understanding, which leads to engagement and action toward core DD Act principles.

Proposed objectives under this goal include:

1. At least monthly, reach new Tennesseans through planning and sharing information using a wide range of resources.
2. During FY 2022, work together with the DD Network communications team to increase healthcare information for LGBTQ+ Tennesseans with disabilities. **This objective meets two required components of the state plan (DD Network collaboration and targeted disparity).**

After small group discussion, Council members agreed that while the objectives target one subsection of Tennesseans identified as underrepresented, it is essential that the work of the Council intentionally call attention to other groups who are also underrepresented.

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### **11:00 a.m. Next Steps**

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Wanda Willis, Executive Director, outlined the timeline for submitting the next five-year state plan by August 15, 2021. After approval by the Council, staff will create a draft of the state plan to post for public comment in the spring of 2021. During the May 7, 2021 council meeting, members will review feedback from this period of public comment and approve edits for a final draft of the state plan for submission.

**Tatum Fowler moved to publish the current draft of the state plan goals and objectives for public comment. Ryan Durham seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.**

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### **11:00 a.m. Wrap-Up Activities & Adjournment**

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Tecia Puckett Pryor, Chair, reminded Council members to complete the online survey to provide feedback about the meeting to staff. The next meeting will take place February 26, 2021. The meeting originally scheduled for April 30, 2021 has been rescheduled for May 7, 2021.

**A motion for adjournment was made by Alison Bynum and seconded by Martez Williams. The motion carried and the Council meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.**

## Upcoming Meeting Dates

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### 2021 Council Meetings

- Quarterly Council Meeting: Friday, February 26, 2021
- Quarterly Council Meeting: Friday, May 7, 2021
- Quarterly Council Meeting: September 17, 2021
- Council Retreat: Thursday & Friday, November 4 & 5, 2020

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Respectfully submitted by:  Ashley Edwards, Executive Assistant

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Approved by:  Wanda Willis, Executive Director