



TN Council on Developmental Disabilities Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2018

Members Present: Jody Cheek, Roddey Coe, Jennifer Coleman, Ryan Durham, Tatum Fowler, Dawn Fry, Serina Gilbert, Clancey Hopper, Lisa Johnson, Jean-Marie Lawrence, Craig Lemak, Tecia Puckett Pryor, Karen West, Martez Williams.

Members Absent: Amy Allen, Evan Espey, Lesley Guilaran, William Lovell, Steve Sheegog, Gina Summer.

Agency Representatives Present: Jackie Bruce (Commission on Aging and Disability), Paula Knisley (Vocational Rehabilitation), Shannon Nehus (TennCare), Jeremy Norden-Paul (Dept. of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities), Alison Gauld (Dept. of Education), Rose Naccarato (Commission on Children and Youth), Rachel Hauber (Dept. of Health/Maternal Child Health), Elise McMillan (Vanderbilt Kennedy Center), Susan Mee (Disability Rights TN), Bruce Keisling (Univ. of TN Health Science Center, Boling Center), Sarah Kassas (Non-governmental agency).

Agency Representatives Absent: Katie Lee (Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Svcs.), Bettie Teasley (TN Housing Development Agency).

Staff Present: Alicia Cone, JoEllen Fowler, Lauren Percy, Lynette Porter, Emma Shouse Garton, Ned Andrew Solomon, Mildred Sparkman, Wanda Willis.

Visitors: Jim Rogers, Caroline Rogers, Mary Cain (Comptroller of Treasury), Laurie Fleming (Vanderbilt Kennedy Center).

9:00 A.M.	OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS
<p>Council Chair, Tecia Puckett Pryor, opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Puckett Pryor welcomed everyone, introduced new Council member Craig Lemak (Knoxville; East TN Development District) and facilitated introductions.</p> <p>Ms. Puckett Pryor announced that Steve Sheegog, Memphis Delta Development District representative, has agreed to join the Executive Committee and accepted the position of Communications Committee Chair. We appreciate his willingness to serve.</p>	

Ms. Puckett Pryor and Wanda Willis, Executive Director, then recognized Emma Shouse Garton for 5 years of service with the State of Tennessee. She joined the Council staff as the new Assistant Director of Development in June 2011, after serving as a Public Policy Intern the previous summer. Since 2012 she has served as the Council's Communications Director spearheading the Council's social media and developing our Communications Plan.

Ms. Puckett Pryor then took a moment to remember Council member Douglass Hall, a representative of the Memphis Delta Development District, who recently passed away.

9:30 A.M.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Ms. Tecia Puckett Pryor called the business meeting to order after ascertaining there was a quorum.

Approval of September 15 Minutes and Agenda Review

The September 15, 2018 Council meeting minutes were emailed to all the Council members prior to the March 2, 2018 Council meeting to give members an opportunity to review before the meeting. Ms. Puckett Pryor called for a motion to accept the minutes as written from the members present at the September meeting. ***Ms. Dawn Fry moved to accept the September 15, 2018 minutes as written and Mr. Roddey Coe seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.***

Ms. Puckett Pryor reviewed the agenda for the Council meeting.

Executive Committee Report

Ms. Puckett Pryor reported that the Executive Committee met on Thursday, March 1st. The Comptroller of the Treasury's office has started the Council's first Performance Audit since becoming an independent agency in state government in 2015. Mary Cain, the Lead Auditor, attended the Executive Committee meeting yesterday afternoon and we are so glad she has joined us today as well. Ms. Cain gave a brief description of the audit process.

Executive Director Report

Ms. Willis encouraged members to read the staff report included in their folders and then provided an update on state and federal appropriations.

The President's budget proposal was released on February 12th. It is considered a *proposal* since Congress makes the final decision. The proposal is important because it indicates priorities of the administration. The impact on State Councils on Developmental Disabilities is a drastic cut in funding for Councils, with Tennessee losing almost ¼ of our budget. Staff and Council members will respond by informing & educating policymakers about the value of Council programs, contacting key TN delegates to Congress and staff. Staff will be in touch with Council members about sharing your personal story. It will be the most important thing you have to say about the value of the Council in Tennessee.

On February 28th staff presented the Council state budget request to the House Finance, Ways & Means Committee. The Committee was interested in our work and had great questions.

Budget/Administrative Report

Lynette Porter, Deputy Director, gave a federal budget update. The Council has current available federal funds

of \$179,939. This includes the one-time increase for Puerto Rico funding of \$39,403 as well as a decrease in funds for an amendment to the Scholarship Fund of \$24,750. As Wanda reported, we are watching the federal budget closely for both the final FY18 budget and the President's proposed FY19 budget.

She reported that operationally, the agency has had a busy winter since the last Council business meeting:

- The Council FY19 State budget is working its way through the approval process. We have requested level funding and anticipate no issues.
- The annual Enterprise Risk Management report was filed in December with no material weaknesses found.
- The Operations Manual for internal processes was completed in February, though process development and improvement is ongoing.
- As reported earlier, the agency is having its first performance audit which will be a major focus over the next 3 months.

10:00 A.M.	ADJOURN TO COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
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11:00 A.M.	BREAK & CHECK OUT
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11:30 A.M.	COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS
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Evaluation Committee

Lisa Johnson, Evaluation Committee Chair, reported on two aspects of the Evaluation Committee meeting. The first was the progress being made on all state plan activities. Specifically, Chairperson Johnson recounted that the committee had reviewed the 1st and 2nd quarter reports which summarized staff and grant activities from the state plan. The Chairperson highlighted three activities that were discussed during the meeting: the People Planning Together (PPT) budget being underspent, the Support Development Associates contract start date being delayed, and the desire of Council staff to increase *Breaking Ground* distribution. The PPT budget is underspent, however, this is not unusual for the mid-year budget review and Council staff is working with PPT staff to assure the allocated funds are spent by June 30, 2018. Per requests from the Employment and Community First CHOICES waiver Managed Care Organizations, the start date of the Support Development Associates contract to provide the PPT train-the-trainer curriculum to people served by the MCOs was postponed until the spring/early summer. Council staff is working with TennCare to set a new timeline for the trainings. Lastly, the Communications staff wanted to see greater increases in the *Breaking Ground* distribution, so strategies were developed to address this goal, which include increasing the number of outreach and exhibit events, developing and distributing *Breaking Ground* sign-up cards, as well as adding a *Breaking Ground* sign-up section to all Council evaluation forms so that at all trainings staff conduct participants have the opportunity to subscribe to Council newsletters and *Breaking Ground*.

Chairperson Johnson also reported to the Council on improving the quarterly summary report. Specifically, she shared three ideas generated by the Evaluation Committee members to improve the report. The first was adding a cover sheet that summarized visually which objectives were on target and which were not. The second was adding a column that showed the 2017 baseline for outputs and outcomes where appropriate. The third was to add a column that shows the progress made toward the end goal in a percentage.

Public Policy Committee

Jean-Marie Lawrence served as Acting Public Policy Committee Chair on behalf of Evan Espey. The Committee covered the following topics: Introductions, including why each member is interested in public policy; Staff updates from Lauren Percy, the Council's Public Policy Director, including:

- Bill tracking list (broader than published in the policy e-news). During this discussion, there was much interest in the Supported Decision Making (SDM) bill and the group discussed the bill's significant amendment and what it would mean for Tennesseans.
- Ongoing and new policy topics: SDM and employment remain ongoing, and staff highlighted two new topics that Ms. Percy is actively engaged with: transportation and transition from high school. Specifically, Ms. Percy is part of a small workgroup focusing on transportation that includes the Dept. of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, TennCare, Disability Rights TN and the Greater Nashville Regional Council which has jurisdiction over local transportation planning in Middle TN.
- The meeting concluded with an engaging "round robin" of updates from members about goings on in each member's local areas. Specific feedback from Council members included: interest in a bill affecting Intermediate Care Facilities in Greene County (SB1820); Supported Decision Making; and transportation.

Communications Committee

Jennifer Coleman, Acting Chair on behalf of new Communications Committee Chair Steve Sheegog, opened the meeting by asking members to introduce themselves and share why they selected the Communications Committee to join and what perspectives they brought to the table around a strategic approach to Council communications. She then reviewed the committee purpose and agenda. The Communications Committee's role is to provide input about Council communications efforts and propose strategies for using communications activities to achieve State Plan goals.

Emma Shouse Garton, Communications Director, provided an overview of trainings and presentations traditionally offered by the Council. Topics include information about the Council & Partners in Policymaking, Supported Decision-Making, Disability Awareness & Sensitivity, Learning to Speak Up for Yourself, & Supporting Families LifeCourse future planning tools. The Committee discussed groups the Council might target for outreach in doing these presentations over the coming year and ideas for strengthening how we inform the public about these training opportunities.

Ms. Garton reported that March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and the Council secured a proclamation from Gov. Haslam. She shared about the upcoming "#ServingTN – Real TN Stories" campaign and a video series about the Council's partnership with University of TN Extension that will feature personal stories about the Council's impact from Council members Jennifer Coleman, Amy Allen and Steve Sheegog. In her report out about the Committee's work, Ms. Coleman encouraged all members to find opportunities to connect their personal story to the Council's work in creative ways through Council communications over the coming year.

12:00 P.M.	COUNCIL TALKS: SUMMER ASSIGNMENT
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This session of the Council meeting was dedicated to hearing short presentations from several Council members on their advocacy activities in their local communities. Tecia Puckett Pryor, Council Chair, introduced

this session by inviting the first speaker to start. Karen West shared about her advocacy work to get an accessible park built in her community of Gallatin, TN. She shared that it had all started with an initial desire for an accessible swing, but as word spread the dream grew into an accessible park that would include an inclusive playground, an accessible baseball field, an accessible peddle park, and an outdoor fitness zone with accessible equipment. Karen created a presentation and a video about the accessible park. She reminded the Council members how important it was to get people from the non-disability world involved in her dream, because what is being created is for everyone in the community. She mentioned that she reached out to former Council Chair Tommy Lee Kidd and used him as a resource on how to advocate for the resources needed to make the park a reality.

The second presentation was from Laurie Fleming who described her efforts on behalf of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (VKC) to establish the Swaney Arts Workshop. Laurie shared that Mrs. Swaney was a talented artist and over her lifetime supported many artists and workshops at VKC, and that after her passing in 2016, Mrs. Swaney left a generous financial gift to benefit the VKC arts program. Laurie described the arts workshop collaboration that was created between VKC and Metro Parks disABILITIES Day Program, which led to nine people ages 13 to 31 with intellectual and developmental disabilities participating in a series of workshops during Spring 2017. A professional artist led the workshops that allowed the participants to use a variety of mediums, and create works with widely ranging aesthetic sensibilities on themes such as animals, transportation, geography, geology, and ecology. For some of the participants this was their first opportunity to express themselves through art. In the Summer of 2017, VKC featured an exhibition of these works entitled, "By Land, By Sea, By Air!" She shared that this was part of a larger effort to increase the participation of people with disabilities in the arts. VKC is currently planning another workshop this Spring and the artwork will be displayed at the VKC and hopefully multiple locations throughout Nashville.

The third and final presentation was by Alison Gauld of the TN Dept. of Education. Alison presented on a wonderful employment and engagement opportunity in which she participated. Specifically, she shared that the Special Populations team at the Department had been facilitating the Instructionally Appropriate IEPs "Training for Trainers" curriculum across the state, and that at the middle Tennessee training, the team invited a high school student with a disability to intern for the day and provide support. Alison relayed that the student intern was a huge help, especially with the Special Education Directors during the training. Her team hopes to continue to build a network of interns, and they have already expanded the number of interns they have!

12:15 P.M.	LUNCH
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1:15 P.M.	PUBLIC POLICY REPORT
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Ms. Percy gave a public policy report covering the following areas: a review of the Council's role in shaping public policy per the Developmental Disabilities Act, the Council's top priority areas: Supported Decision Making, Employment, and Information Dissemination, and updates on each area. Council members participated in sharing how they are involved in the public policy work of the Council. Clancey Hopper shared her work on Supported Decision Making, and Karen West, Tecia Puckett Pryor and Ryan Durham shared their experiences during Disability Day on the Hill, Feb 14, 2018. The report concluded with a high level update on the Governor's Budget (handout provided), Congressional priorities, and a reminder to stay up to date on details via the Council's weekly policy newsletter.

2:45 P.M.	WRAP UP & MOTION TO ADJOURN
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Tecia Puckett Pryor, Chair, encouraged members to turn in their travel claims and Council meeting evaluations. **A motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Tatum Fowler and seconded by Ms. Clancey Hopper. The motion carried and the Council meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.** The next Council meeting will take place at the Embassy Suites Nashville Airport on May 4, 2018.

2018 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

2018 Council Meetings - Location: Embassy Suites Nashville Airport

- Quarterly Council Meeting: Friday May 4, 2018
- Council Retreat: Thursday & Friday, September 13 & 14, 2018
- End of Year Report: Friday, November 2, 2018

Respectfully submitted by:



JoEllen Fowler, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:



Wanda Willis, Executive Director