



# Council Meeting Minutes

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April 22, 2022

**Council Members Present:**

Roddey Coe\*  
Jennifer Coleman\*  
Kezia Cox\*  
Sarah Cripps\*  
Ryan Durham\*  
Will Edwards\*  
Diamond Grigsby\*  
Lesley Guilaran\*  
Alicia Hall\*  
Chrissy Hood\*  
Lisa Johnson\*  
Tecia Puckett Pryor\*  
Brent Wiles\*  
Alison Gauld, Dept. Special Education  
Carrie Brna, Dept. of Intellectual and  
Developmental Disabilities  
Bruce Keisling, UT Center for  
Developmental Disabilities (UTCDD)  
Julie Johnson, Voc. Rehab. Services  
Laurie Fleming Vanderbilt Kennedy Center  
Ryan Ramsey, Tennessee Commission on  
Aging and Disabilities  
Shannon Nehus, TennCare

**Staff Present:**

Lauren Percy  
Lynette Porter  
Alicia Cone  
Cathlyn Smith  
Brian Keller  
Jolene Sharp  
Emma Shouse Garton  
JoEllen Fowler  
Mildred Sparkman

**Guests Present:**

Selina Kirkland, Vocational  
Rehabilitation Services

**Visitors Present:**

Elliott Pinsky, Behavioral  
Health Foundation

**Council Members Absent:**

Shontie Brown\*  
Allison Bynum\*  
Jody Cheek\*  
Clancey Hopper\*  
Edward Mitchell\*  
Brigham Scallion\*  
Jacqueline Johnson, Dept.  
of Health  
Martez Williams\*  
Lisa Primm, Disability  
Rights TN  
Mark Liverman, Dept.  
Mental Health & Substance  
Abuse  
Rusette Marcum-Embry,  
Tenn. Commission on  
Children & Youth  
Don Watt, THDA

*\*denotes Governor appointed citizens*

## **9:00 a.m. Opening, Introductions & Agenda Review**

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Council Chair, Tecia Puckett Pryor, called the meeting to order after ascertaining there was a quorum at 9:07 a.m. Tecia welcomed everyone and facilitated introductions.

Tecia then reviewed the agenda.

## **9:10 a.m. Business Items**

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### **Approval of February 2022 Minutes and April Meeting Agenda**

The February 2022 Council meeting minutes were emailed to all the Council members prior to the April 22, 2022 Council meeting to give members an opportunity to review before the meeting. Tecia asked if there were any questions or amendments to the agenda or February 2022 minutes. Tecia called for a motion to accept the agenda and the minutes, as edited, from the members present at the February meeting.

**Roddey Coe moved to accept the April 22, 2022 agenda and February 2022 minutes and Sarah Cripps seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion carried unanimously.**

### **Executive Committee Report**

Following the approval of the agenda and minutes, Tecia provided an overview of the role and work of the Executive Committee. The committee meets monthly via virtual means and continues to discuss some council member processes and roles with the goal of helping members understand the internal processes. Additionally, the committee has worked to plan our first in-person meeting and filling upcoming vacancies to council seats.

Tecia then recognized two council members whose terms will end this year.

- Lesley Guilaran, Public Policy Chair and Southwest Development District Member, has served on the council from 2016-2022. Of her time on the council, Lesley said, "The amount of growth I've had as a person because of my role as a council member... I don't know that you can measure it."
- Jennifer Coleman, Northwest Development District Member, has served on the council from 2016-2022. Jennifer said, "I'll never forget my time on the Council; It's changed who I am."

### **Executive Director Report**

Lauren Percy, Executive Director, reminded council members to read their Executive Director Report found in their folders for highlights about the happenings of the council since the last council meeting.

Highlighting the work of council members in their communities, Lauren shared the following updates:

- **Inclusive Higher Education:** Today, Brigham Scallion is at Dyersburg State with the DIDD leadership team, celebrating the launch of the first IHE program at a community college. Brigham is interested in helping other community colleges across the state adopt the same model. If members have connections in their area or are interested in supporting a program at their local community college, please let us know.

- **Access 2030:** Council members Will Edwards and Roddey Coe are both planning to visit state parks. Other members are invited to contribute to helping the Department of Environment and Conservation as they look to make state parks more inclusive.
- **Legislative advocacy:** Several members participated in the Disability Coalition’s events around “Disability Day on the Hill” and the Disability Policy Seminar. This is a key way for council members to connect with legislators at the state and federal level.

Lauren mentioned a few key operational updates from council staff. Last Fall, Councils on Developmental Disabilities across the country were required to propose a new 5-year State Plan for approval from the federal government. We are proud that Tennessee’s new 5 Year State Plan was approved without any concerns – a rare and significant accomplishment. Kudos to Dr. Alicia Cone, Director of Program Operations, for leading the creation and submission of our newest plan. More operational updates can be found in the Executive Director Report.

The Council is asking its members to reach out to strategic counties in their development districts who have not yet been connected to TN Disability Pathfinder this year. Council members can send an email to local organizations, make a call, deliver materials, or host a training in their communities. If members need help, staff are poised to support.

### **Budget/Operations Report**

Deputy Director Lynette Porter provided a brief update on the federal allotment. The FY20 and FY21 allotment have been fully obligated. This means the money Tennessee receives from the federal budget has been planned for. These dollars will be spent by September 30, 2022.

Congress very recently passed the federal appropriations bill. To date, the Tennessee Council has received and obligated about \$500,000 from several continuing resolutions of its assumed \$1.4 million appropriation. Staff will update members of any changes or updates to the budget if there are any.

### **Audit Committee Report**

Audit Committee Chair, Alicia Hall, shared that annually the audit committee reviews the agency process for staff Code of Conduct acknowledgements. The annual staff Code of Conduct process is primarily facilitated by the Department of Human Resources. The committee conducted its annual review of the process in April. There were no questions or concerns. This was the last required audit committee task for fiscal year 2022 and Alicia thanked the members for their work.

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**9:40 a.m. Adjournment to Committee Meetings & Break**

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## 11:10 a.m. Committee Report Outs

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*Minutes from committees are attached to these minutes.*

- Leadership Development Committee (Lisa Johnson, Chair)
- Public Policy Committee (Lesley Guilaran, Chair)
- Communications Committee (Edward Mitchell, Chair)

## 11:30 a.m. Group Photo & Lunch Break

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## 12:45 p.m. Legislative Report

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Brian Keller, General Counsel and Policy Director, gave a brief presentation on important policy issues. He covered the Council's role in public policy as dictated by the Developmental Disabilities Act (DD Act). Brian reminded members of the three bills the council prioritized this year:

**SB2101/HB1934** adds teachers to the list of first responders who are protected by a criminal sentencing enhancement for assault. Legislative sponsors made clear that it was intended as a form of discipline for students with disabilities. The public policy committee took lead on educating the bill's sponsors and committee members about the negative long-term impacts of criminalizing behavior that is tied to a disability. We recommended instead using evidence-based behavior interventions to protect teachers. Council member correspondence was instrumental in helping to educate legislators about the implications of this bill on students with disability. The bill was taken off notice this year.

**SB602/HB905** increases access to adult size changing tables. With staff support, Council members drafted legislation; educated legislators; provided testimony during hearings; coordinated with other state agencies. Developed and implemented communications strategies including videos, Op Eds, and billboards that had a direct impact on public awareness and educating policymakers. Meanwhile, several have worked with localities and businesses to install tables without legislation. Personal testimony from Chrissy Hood and her family were crucial to the success of this bill.

**SB2650/HB2801** permanently transitions Tennessee Rehabilitation Centers (TRC) services from a segregated, facility-based model to an integrated, community-based model in line with current laws and best practices. The Council, along with the other members of the Disability Policy Alliance, educated legislators about the benefits of integrated, community-based employment services. Selina Kirkland and Julie Johnson from the Department of Human Services, Vocational Rehabilitation provided further background on the move to community-based centers and transformation VR has undergone in the last several years.

## 1:30 p.m. Reflections

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Council members spent some time at their tables discussing two reflection questions:

1. What stands out from what you learned today?
2. What do you still want to know more about?

Key items that stood out to members included council legislative work, the power of collaboration and real experience and stories to make systems change, and the work still needed to be done to reach all 95 counties with TN Disability Pathfinder.

Members reported that they would like to know more about inclusive higher education and connecting with local and community colleges, more discussion about respite as a systematic issue, how to reach under served communities (those we are not currently connected with), and how to get involved with the work of ACCESS 2030 (inclusion in state parks). Staff took note for future council meetings of these topics.

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### **2:00 p.m.    Wrap Up**

Tecia reminded members to complete the evaluation and travel forms before leaving today, which are in member folders. The next Council meeting will take place on Friday, September 16, 2022, hopefully at the Embassy Suites Nashville Airport.

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### **2:00 p.m.    Public Comment**

There were no visitors to the Council meeting so there was no public comment.

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### **2:07 p.m.    Adjournment**

**A motion for adjournment was made by Roddey Coe and seconded by Lesley Guilaran. The motion carried and the Council meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.**

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## **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

### **2022 Council Meeting Dates**

- Council Meeting: **Friday, September 16, 2022**
- Council Retreat: **Thursday & Friday, November 3-4, 2022**



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Respectfully submitted by: Ashley Edwards, Assistant to the Executive Director



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Approved by: Lauren Pearcy, Executive Director

# Help us connect!

TN Disability Pathfinder is a statewide program that connects people with disabilities and their family members with important resources in their communities. This year, Pathfinder is hoping to increase contacts with counties unserved this year. "Unserved" means no one in the counties below has contacted Pathfinder's helpline in the past year.

## Northwest Development District

- Lake County
- Obion County
- Carroll County
- Benton County

## Mid-Cumberland Development District

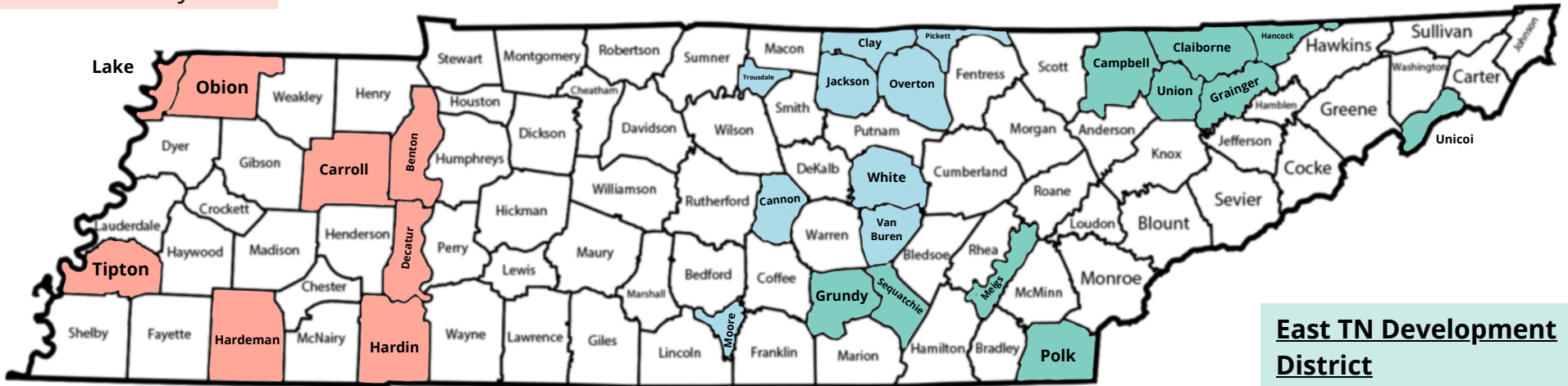
- Trousdale

## Upper Cumberland Development District

- Cannon County
- Clay County
- Jackson County
- Overton County
- Pickett County
- Van Buren County

## First TN Development District

- Hancock County
- Unicoi County



## Memphis-Delta Development District

- Tipton County

## Southwest Development District

- Hardeman County
- Hardin County
- Decatur County

## South Central Development District

- Moore County

## Southeast Development District

- Grundy County
- Meigs County
- Polk County
- Sequatchie County

## East TN Development District

- Campbell County
- Claiborne County
- Grainger County
- Union County



Council on Developmental Disabilities



TENNESSEE  
DISABILITY PATHFINDER

# Ideas for Connecting



## Send an Email

Send local businesses, government leaders, or community organizations information about TN Disability Pathfinder to share with their networks.



## Make a Call

Call on offices that might make referrals to TN Disability Pathfinder like pediatrician offices, hospitals, community centers, or local faith communities to tell them about Pathfinder.



## Deliver Materials

Share Pathfinder fliers and bookmarks with offices that might have people waiting, like doctors' offices and libraries. Share information with local school administration to have in their front offices or as resources for teachers.



## Host a Training

Collaborate with a community group or center to host a training on how to use TN Disability Pathfinder. Reach out to Pathfinder staff for help planning a training.

# Executive Director's Report

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*Highlights of Council work since our last Council meeting, followed by comprehensive infographic reports for each goal area.*

## **Council Member Highlights**

### **Citizen and Agency Members Celebrate Inclusive Higher Education at Dyersburg State Community College**

Today, April 22, Council member Brigham Scallion is hosting DIDD Commissioner Brad Turner at Dyersburg State to celebrate the launch of the state's first Inclusive Higher Education program at a community college. This celebration reflects over a decade of work by Council members including Dr. Scallion, DIDD, and the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center.

### **Council Members Invited to State Park Visits to Inform ACCESS 2030**

The Council is proud to support an initiative of the Department of Environment and Conservation, ACCESS 2030, to make every state park fully accessible by 2030. Council members Alison Bynum (Mid-Cumberland), Roddey Coe (Southeast), and Will Edwards (East) are working directly with TDEC to provide onsite feedback to inform these efforts. Please contact us if you are interested in attending a visit in your area.

### **Council Members Lead Disability Advocacy**

This legislative session, Council members have been leading an effort to increase access to adult size changing tables: HB905/SB602. Nearly half of our members have actively contacted legislators about this bill and other key legislative priorities (see public policy report). We are proud that Council members helped lead sessions during the Tennessee Disability Coalition's Disability Day on the Hill events. Members were also featured in the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's legislative advocacy training event, Educate to Advocate.



## ***Council Staff Highlights***

### **State Plan Updates**

Last Fall, Councils on Developmental Disabilities across the country were required to propose a new 5-year State Plan for approval from the federal government. We are proud that Tennessee's new 5 Year State Plan was approved without any concerns – a rare and significant accomplishment. Kudos to Dr. Alicia Cone, Director of Program Operations, for leading the creation and submission of our newest plan. The updated state plan goals and objectives can be found on the Council's website. We review progress on these goals at every Council meeting; see the infographics in your folders.

### **Operational Updates**

Our team is preparing for a records audit which will review our compliance with saving and disposing of state records according to state law. Thank you to Office Resources Manager, JoEllen Fowler, for leading this process. Other small state agencies have requested to use the process she developed as a model.

We have updated a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Human Resources that reflects the support we need for our small office. The Council was established as an independent state agency (that is, not attached to a larger department) in 2015. We remain one of Tennessee's smallest agencies, without our own dedicated Human Resources (HR) staff person, which makes our HR needs unique in state government.

### **Partners in Policymaking® Scholars Graduate**

On April 7, we celebrated 23 Tennesseans as they graduated from Partners in Policymaking®. I was truly blown away by the connection this group established via Zoom. During the graduation session, I asked each scholar to share their reflections on the program. An overwhelming theme was how hopeful they felt after going through the program. They commended our Leadership Development Director, Cathlyn Smith, for creating an environment that scholars described as "safe", "calming", and "inspiring." Public Information Specialist Emma Shouse Garton also received several accolades for supporting the program, specifically in her presentations about the LifeCourse Framework. One scholar said she wrote down a question Emma asked and carries it everywhere: "What does your better reality look like?" It is the connections with each other and renewed sense of hope and inspiration that are the greatest impact of Partners.

The next pages of your packets elaborate further on the work of our team in each goal area. Enjoy!

# Goal 1: Learning & Development

Provide learning and development opportunities to Tennesseans with disabilities and their family members in order to increase their engagement in systems advocacy and systems change.

## Provide Access to Leadership Learning Opportunities

### Partners in Policymaking® Leadership Institute

*"This is the exact presentation I needed... Thank you for showing up. Again and again. For showing us the LifeCourse tools. That had the biggest impact on me, personally. I wrote down a question and have been carrying this around, "What does my better reality look like?" I carry it around with me every single day, with every interaction I have now."  
- 2022 Partners Graduate*

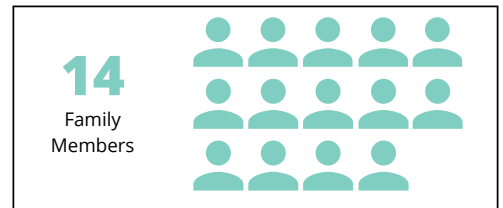
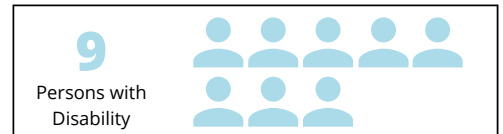
Partners in Policymaking® is the Council's free leadership and advocacy training program for adults with disabilities and family members of people with disabilities.

23

Partners Scholars

12

Virtual Sessions



### Podcast Interview

Cathlyn Smith, Director of Leadership Development, and Emma Shouse Garton, Public Information Specialist, spoke with the host of the "Raising Kellan" podcast to share information about the Partners in Policymaking program. As a result, several listeners applied for the upcoming Partners class.



Collaborate with TN Department of Human Resources to launch next LAEDS class in May 2022.



UT Health Sciences Center began long-term study of LAEDS participant outcomes. This evaluation will be completed by June 30.

### Leadership Academy for Excellence in Disability Services (LAEDS)

LAEDS is a leadership development program for state employees whose work has a direct impact on Tennesseans with disabilities and their families. The goal is to ensure that leaders who work in state government programs that serve Tennesseans with disabilities operate from a shared set of values, goals and principles.

# Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund accomplishes two outcomes. First, it helps **Tennesseans with disabilities and their families**, especially people from diverse cultural backgrounds, to attend leadership coalition meetings, disability conferences, and disability trainings held in Tennessee and across the U.S.



***"The only other way we could talk with [this expert doctor] would be to travel to Ann Arbor, Michigan which would be very expensive. Our insurance wouldn't cover all - if any - of it. Our genetic doctor at Vanderbilt said information on this condition is very limited. [Our son]... seems to be going downhill, we need to find out what we can do to help him. The cost of this conference is substantial and we needed financial help in order to attend."***

*- Scholarship Fund Recipient*

Secondly, through the Scholarship Fund, the Council invests in projects and partnerships that prepare Tennesseans with disabilities and family members to be advocates and leaders. The Council set a goal of supporting **6 organizations** this year.

Replaced medical equipment lost during flooding

Chattanooga Autism Center's 12th Annual Conference

Special Olympics TN sporting and recreational activities

Webinar speakers for TN Adult Brothers & Sisters

Photography classes for AbleVoices students

TASA Adaptive Sports Weekend to introduce adaptive sports

***"Had it not been for this fund, many children with disabilities who have been displaced from their school [due to flooding] also would be without the supports and tools they need to reach their educational goals."***

*- UCP Representative*

***"I am an adult on the spectrum and I run a life skills autism support group. I learned ways to advocate more for myself and my group. I made connections with others and services available to me and those I serve. It has allowed me to attend a conference that is accommodating and informative that I would not otherwise be able to attend without this [scholarship]."*** - Chattanooga Autism Center Conference Attendee

## People with Disabilities Supported by Scholarship Fund (Goal: 75)



**Current: 220**

## Family Members Supported by Scholarship Fund (Goal: 150)



**Current: 112**

## Total Stipends Provided (Goal: 50)

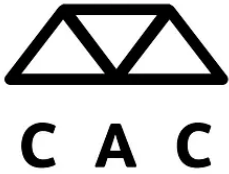


**Current: 25**

***Note: As of April 1, 2022 the Scholarship Fund is fully obligated for FY22***

# Support Grassroots Self-Advocacy in Tennessee

## Statewide Self-Advocacy Initiative



This year, the Council set out to support at least one statewide self-advocacy initiative. The Council provided support to the Adult Autism Center for the 2021 Adult Autism Symposium, with 38 Tennesseans benefiting from the conference.

## Peer-to-Peer Self-Advocacy

The Council supported the organization Advocates in Motion to provide an opportunity for people with developmental disabilities to mentor their peers to develop as leaders. 5 trainings have been conducted, with 15 people with disabilities trained, as well as 81 professionals.



## Support for Engaged Board Participation



The Council set a goal to provide leadership training that would increase engagement of people with disabilities to diverse boards and coalitions. Through Quarter 3, 9 people with disabilities have been supported along with 14 family members.

## Participants in Council Learning & Leadership programs reported:

**98%** Increased knowledge/more informed regarding information, resources and services

**94%** More connected to others with a similar life experience

**100%** Better ability to track down and access information and resources

**94%** Increased independence and self-determination

**100%** Increased ability to access services

**98%** Increased advocacy

**98%** of Tennesseans who participate in Council leadership development activities are satisfied with their experience

# Goal 2: Improving Policy and Practice

*Assure that Tennessee's disability service system is responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and promotes inclusion, self-determination, and independence.*

## Track & Give Input on Policy

The Council tracks and gives input on policies that affect Tennesseans with disabilities. Through quarter 3, the Council contributed recommendations to the policies listed below:

8

Policies tracked through Quarter 2

- Benefits Counseling (TennCare)
- Guardianship (US Congress)
- State as a Model Employer (TN Dept. of Human Resources)
- Home- and Community-Based Services funding (US Congress)
- Mental Health Block Grant (TN Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services)
- Youth Detention (TN Dept of Children Services)
- TennCare III (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services)
- TN Education Funding Reform (TN Dept. of Education)

The first in the nation TN Center for Decision Making Support **provided testimonials and recommendations to Congress** during guardianship hearings. Thanks to this Council-funded initiative, the real stories and experiences of Tennesseans are part of the national conversation about guardianship.



### Weekly Policy News

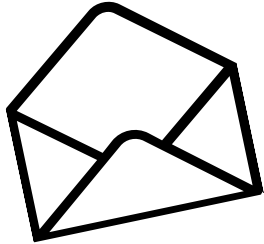


The Council's Weekly Policy News offers up-to-date information about key policies impacting Tennesseans with disabilities. Through quarter 3, the Council has published **37 weekly policy newsletters**, connecting with **1,623 subscribers**.

*Data from FY22 Reporting*

# Identify System Barriers

Citizens and policymakers call on the Council for help navigating the disability system and highlighting barriers they face in accessing these systems.



44

Inquiries from  
citizens

34

Inquiries from  
policymakers



During Q1 and Q2, citizen Council members engaged in policy by **meeting with policymakers, testifying in the legislature, and serving on workgroups** to share their lived experience. Examples of these policies include:



**Jennifer Coleman**  
Respite



**Martez Williams**  
Transportation



**Alison Bynum**  
ACCESS 2030



**Lesley Guilaran**  
Guardianship

Led by Council member **Chrissy Hood** with support from **Roddey Coe** and other Council members, access to adult-sized changing tables has become a statewide initiative. Members have presented to the TN General Assembly, local governments, and non-profits to help meet this priority need.



# Goal 3: Informing the Public

Equip Tennesseans with disabilities, their families, policy leaders, and the community with information that promotes inclusion, self-determination, and independence.

## Increase Accessible Information



**eNews - Subscribers (Goal: 2,613)**



**eNews - Open Rate (Goal: 21%)**



**Facebook - Page Follows (Goal: 6,240)**



**Facebook - Engagements (Goal: 11,000)**



**Twitter - Followers (Goal: 1,616)**



**Twitter - Engagements (Goal: 1,200)**



**Website - Unique Visits (Goal: 27,600)**



**Breaking Ground Subscribers (Goal: 6,025)**



**"Your video on Bryshawn has made it across the country and our plan president made sure to give you credit and explain the purpose of these videos. Thank you for taking on this task."**

*- Managed Care Organization Director*

## Top Performing Posts (Quarter 3)

**TN Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities**  
Feb 17 · 🌐

Most mornings, you'll find Bryshawn Jemison working out at Planet Fitness before work. In the evenings, you might find him making noodles and chicken and cleaning his apartment, with help from his assistant and friend, Tim. Bryshawn gets support for a very full life through Employment and Community First CHOICES – Tennessee's program for home and communi... See More



**TN Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities**  
Jan 10 · 🌐

"Adult changing spaces serve not only those who are born with disabilities, but our senior adult population who may develop a need for a changing space with room for a caregiver to support them as they age."

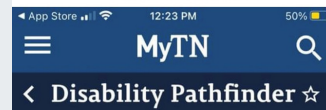
Thank you to our Council member Alison Bynum for sharing her family's experience, and how this... See More



TENNESSEAN.COM  
Adult-size changing tables can provide community access for my family and others | Opinion

**TN Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities**  
Feb 1 · 🌐

Big news! You can now find disability information on the State of TN mobile app, "MyTN". MyTN helps you access services like job listings, a child care directory, early childhood programs, and lots more. Now, Tennessee Disability Pathfinder is also featured on the app! Download from the app store on your mobile device and learn more here: <https://www.tn.gov/mytn.html>



Data from FY22, Quarter 3 Reporting

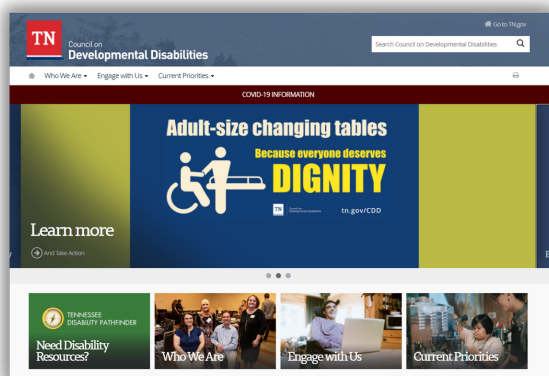
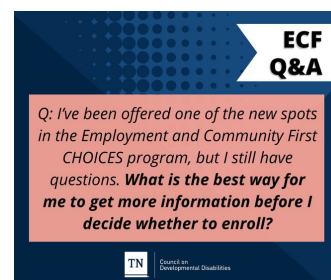
# Build Engagement in Disability Issues

## Digital Social Series



Council members and staff shared personal stories and experiences during February's Black History Month. This gave a real face to the intersectionality of race and disability.

With an emphasis on sharing plain language information, the Council answered frequently asked questions related to the Employment & Community First CHOICES program.

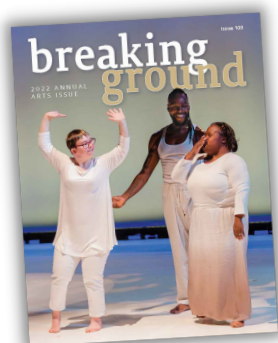


## Website Redesign

Staff reorganized the Council's website, ensuring visitors could easily navigate to resources they might need, including TN Disability Pathfinder, who we are, ways to engage, and current priorities. This update means an improved entry point for Tennesseans to engage with the work of the Council.

## Radio Spot

Current members, Partners in Policymaking graduates, and Council partners shared insights with WPLN's "This is Nashville" radio show on what it means to live with a disability in Middle TN. TN Disability Pathfinder was highlighted as a key resource for those needing to connect with services. The Council's press connections helped to amplify the voices of citizens to help engage a broader audience in disability issues.



## Breaking Ground

In April, the Council published its annual arts issue of *Breaking Ground* magazine, the first interactive version of the publication with added video features, setting the bar for meaningful, authentic, and accessible content.



# Lead Statewide Partnership: TN Disability Pathfinder

In partnership with 6 sister state agencies, the Council continues to support operation of the state's only disability information and referral service, Tennessee Disability Pathfinder. See additional handout for more information.



## Increase Engagement with Underrepresented Groups



Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Council staff met with Mt. Zion Baptist Church leadership to connect them to support for disability ministry. As a result, the church reached out to Council staff to support a disability need in their congregation. The trusted relationship now allows the Council to share disability information with people not previously connected with us.



Council staff led the first two meetings of the collaborative DD Network group to plan work on disability & LGBTQ+ health resources. DD Network partners reached out to LGBTQ+ organizations across the state and got strong commitments to provide input on this project.



The Tennessee Tribune – an African-American newspaper in Nashville – ran an article about adult-size changing tables as a result of our targeted outreach.



The Council led and produced two public service announcement videos to share information about the state's accessible in-home vaccine program. These animated videos in English and Spanish were shared widely and targeted underrepresented communities in Tennessee.



## Council Leadership Development Committee

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Location: Embassy Suites – Nashville Downtown Airport  
Date: Friday, April 22, 2022  
Time: 9:40 a.m. CDT

**Present:** Lisa Johnson, Kezia Cox, Alicia Hall, Carrie Brna, Bruce Keisling

**Absent:** Jody Cheek, Brigham Scallion, Alison Bynum, Ryan Durham (chaired the communications committee), Julie Johnson (Kevin Wright), Mark Liverman, Alison Gauld

**Staff:** Cathlyn Smith, Lauren Pearcy

**Guests:** N/A

### 1) **Call to Order – Approve Agenda**

After ascertaining there was NOT a quorum, Lisa Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

### 2) **Discuss Committee Purpose**

The leadership development committee provides input about Council leadership development programs to ensure each program achieves Council priorities and state plan goals. Director of Leadership Development, Cathlyn Smith, added that she wants insights from each members' community about the reputation of these programs and how we can reach more people.

### 3) **FY22 Outcomes Review**

Cathlyn Smith led a review of progress on the Council's leadership programs in context of the State Plan (infographics available separately). Dr. Bruce Keisling reviewed results from an evaluation of the Leadership Academy for Excellence in Disability Services. The committee members asked questions, listened to examples, and shared ideas in a rich discussion.

### 4) **Looking Ahead: Review State Plan and what's ahead for Leadership Development**

Cathlyn Smith shared plans for the upcoming LAEDS and Partners in Policymaking (PIP) academies, including trying out a hybrid model in which the first and last sessions will be in person, with all other sessions virtual. Volunteers from the leadership committee are helping review applications for PIP.

Finally, Cathlyn shared that the Council is partnering with DIDD to host a youth "Tech Camp" this summer.



5) **Adjournment**

At 10:35 a.m., Lisa Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Alicia Hall seconded.

Prepared by: Lauren Percy



## Council Public Policy Committee

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Location: Embassy Suites – Nashville Downtown Airport  
Date: Friday, April 22, 2022  
Time: 9:40 a.m. CDT

**Present:** Lesley Guilaran, Roddey Coe, Jennifer Coleman, Sarah Cripps, Brent Wiles, Jacqueline Johnson, James Dunn

**Absent:** Clancey Hopper, Martez Williams, Lisa Primm

**Staff:** Brian Keller, Alicia Cone

**Guests:** N/A

1) **Call to Order – Approve Agenda**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Lesley Guilaran, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

2) **Discuss Committee Purpose**

[Text here]

3) **FY22 Outcomes Review**

[Text here]

4) **Looking Ahead: Review State Plan and what's ahead for public policy**

[Text here]

5) **Adjournment**

At 10:40 a.m., Tecia Puckett Pryor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diamond Grigsby seconded.

Prepared by: Brian Keller



## Council Communication Committee

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Location: Embassy Suites – Nashville Downtown Airport  
Date: Friday, April 22, 2022  
Time: 9:40 a.m. CDT

**Present:** Chrissy Hood, Tecia Puckett Pryor, Shannon Nehus, Laurie Fleming (Elise McMillan), Will Edwards, Diamond Grigsby, Ryan Durham (acting chair)

**Absent:** Shontie Brown, Edward Mitchell, Don Watt

**Staff:** Jolene Sharp, Emma Shouse Garton, Lynette Porter

**Guests:** N/A

### 1) **Call to Order – Approve Agenda**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Ryan Durham, acting chair, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Chrissy Hood moved to approve the agenda; Will Edwards seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### 2) **Discuss Committee Purpose**

Chief Public Information Office Jolene Sharp reviewed with committee members the purpose of the communications committee, which is to provide input from their lived experiences on the Council's work under state plan goal 3. Jolene encouraged committee members to review goal 3, which was printed on the committee agenda. Jolene gave a brief overview of the major objectives under the goal.

### 3) **FY22 Outcomes Review**

Jolene pointed committee members to the goal 3 infographic included in their main Council folders. She briefly reviewed outcomes in the infographic, especially highlighting work that has been happening to build relationships with organizations serving underserved groups.

Laurie Fleming asked for help promoting Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's Employment Pathways study, which they are wanting to promote in underserved communities.

Jolene also pointed committee members to the Pathfinder outcomes handout, which applies under goal 3. Tecia Puckett Pryor asked about whether Pathfinder tracks faith-based resources. The Council communications team will follow up to answer this question.

Chrissy Hood praised the Council's plain language social media FAQ series on various topics. She shared the Council's COVID FAQs earlier in the pandemic with families at a regional COVID and disability roundtable. Families said most COVID information was too hard for them to understand and were grateful for the Council's simple, bite-size information.



4) **Looking Ahead: Review State Plan and what's ahead for communications**

Jolene shared that the Council communications team is interested in the committee's ideas for important issues and stories to feature in *Breaking Ground* magazine. During this discussion, every committee member suggested at least one idea from their personal experience or community. The communications team committed to tracking these ideas for *Breaking Ground* planning.

The second discussion point focused on ideas for increasing email newsletter and *Breaking Ground* subscriptions. Committee members suggested several excellent ideas for locations in their communities to contact for subscription. Committee members were encouraged to share Council materials and subscription links directly with key contacts and locations in their communities.

5) **Adjournment**

At 10:30 a.m., Will Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Chrissy Hood seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by: Jolene Sharp



Council on Developmental Disabilities

# Council Meeting

April 22, 2022

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## Welcome & Introductions




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## Business Items

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## Call to Order

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<b>Today's Agenda</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Items</li> <li>• Committee Work <i>[Break for check-out]</i></li> <li>• Committee Reports <i>[Group Photo]</i></li> <li>• Lunch</li> <li>• Legislative Report</li> <li>• Reflections</li> </ul>


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## Approval of Meeting Minutes

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## Executive Committee Report

Tecia Puckett Pryor, Council Chair

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### Council Member Recognition of Service



**Lesley Guilaran**  
Southeast Development District  
Public Policy Chair



**Jennifer Coleman**  
Northwest Development District  
District



Council on Developmental Disabilities

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## Executive Director's Report

Lauren Percy, Executive Director

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**Executive Director Report**

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**Council Members in Action**

- Inclusive Higher Education: Dyersburg State Community College
- Access 2030: State Parks
- Legislative Advocacy: Disability Day on the Hill

TN Council on Developmental Disabilities

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**Executive Director Report**

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**Office Highlights**

- State Plan Approval
- Agency Operations
  - Centralized Accounting
  - Dept of Human Resources
  - Records Audit
- Partners Graduation

TN Council on Developmental Disabilities

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**Help us connect!** TN Disability Pathfinder is a statewide program that connects people with disabilities and their family members with important resources in their communities. This year, Pathfinder is hoping to increase contacts with counties unserved this year. "Unserved" means no one in the counties below has contacted Pathfinder's helpline in the past year.

<b>Northwest Development District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake County</li> <li>• Obion County</li> <li>• Carroll County</li> <li>• Benton County</li> </ul>	<b>Mid-Cumberland Development District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trousdale</li> </ul>	<b>Upper Cumberland Development District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannon County</li> <li>• Clay County</li> <li>• Jackson County</li> <li>• Overton County</li> <li>• Pickett County</li> <li>• Van Buren County</li> </ul>	<b>First TN Development District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hancock County</li> <li>• Unicoi County</li> </ul>
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<b>Memphis-Delta Development District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tipton County</li> </ul>	<b>Southwest Development District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hardeman County</li> <li>• Hardin County</li> <li>• Decatur County</li> </ul>	<b>South Central Development District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moore County</li> </ul>	<b>Southeast Development District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grundy County</li> <li>• Meigs County</li> <li>• Polk County</li> <li>• Sequatchie County</li> </ul>	<b>East TN Development District</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campbell County</li> <li>• Claiborne County</li> <li>• Grainger County</li> <li>• Union County</li> </ul>
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TN Council on Developmental Disabilities TENNESSEE DISABILITY PATHFINDER

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### Ideas for Connecting

**Send an Email**

Send local businesses, government leaders, or community organizations information about TN Disability Pathfinder to share with their networks.

**Make a Call**

Call on offices that might make referrals to TN Disability Pathfinder like pediatrician offices, hospitals, community centers, or local faith communities to tell them about Pathfinder.

**Deliver Materials**

Share Pathfinder fliers and bookmarks with offices that might have people waiting, like doctors' offices and libraries. Share information with local school administration to have in their front offices or as resources for teachers.

**Host a Training**

Collaborate with a community group or center to host a training on how to use TN Disability Pathfinder. Reach out to Pathfinder staff for help planning a training.

Pathfinder Helpline: 1-800-640-4636    Pathfinder Website: [tnpathfinder.org](http://tnpathfinder.org)

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## Budget Update

Lynette Porter, Deputy Director

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### Federal Budget Highlights

**Federal allotment status**

- **FY20 and FY21**
  - Fully Obligated
  - Have until 9/30/22 to spend
- **FY22**
  - October 1 2021 – Sept 30, 2023
  - Congress has not passed budget
  - Under continuing resolution
  - Have received access to approx. \$500,000 of assumed \$1.4 million
  - Based on July 21 continuation contracts and operational expenses:
    - If level funded, we will have **\$58,402** remaining in the full award.

Council on Developmental Disabilities

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## Audit Committee Report

Alicia Hall, Committee Chair

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### Audit Committee - Alicia Hall, Chair

- Per the Audit Committee Charter, annually the audit committee reviews the agency process for staff Code of Conduct acknowledgements.
- The annual staff Code of Conduct process is primarily facilitated by the Department of Human Resources.
- The committee conducted its annual review of the process in April. There were no questions or concerns.
- This was the last required audit committee task for fiscal year 2022 and I want to thank the members for their work.


Council on Developmental Disabilities

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## Committee Meetings

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**Committee Locations**

- **Leadership Development**  
Embassy Boardroom
- **Public Policy**  
Georgia Ballroom
- **Communications**  
Carolinas Ballroom



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**Break & Check Out**  
*Committee Reports begin at 11:10 a.m.*

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**Committee Reports**

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<b>Leadership Committee Report</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Committee Purpose</li> <li>• State Plan Goal progress</li> <li>• Looking ahead: Review State Plan and what's ahead for Leadership Development Programs</li> </ul>


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<b>Public Policy Committee Report</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Committee Purpose</li> <li>• State Plan Goal progress</li> <li>• Looking ahead: Review State Plan and what's ahead for Public Policy programs</li> </ul>


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<b>Communications Committee Report</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Committee Purpose</li> <li>• State Plan Goal progress</li> <li>• Looking ahead: Review State Plan and what's ahead for Communication Programs</li> </ul>


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**Group Photo**

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**Lunch**  
*Policy Session to begin at 12:45 p.m.*

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**Public Policy Update**  
Brian Keller, General Counsel & Public Policy Director

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**Legislative Update**

**Reminder, State Plan Impact Statement:**  
Tennesseans with disabilities influence policy and practice through the work of the Council on Developmental Disabilities.



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**Legislative update**

**SB2101/HB1934**

**What it is** - Adds teachers to the list of first responders who are protected by a criminal sentencing enhancement for assault. Legislative sponsors made clear that it was intended as a form of discipline for students with disabilities.

**What we did** - The public policy committee took lead on educating the bill's sponsors and committee members about the negative long-term impacts of criminalizing behavior that is tied to a disability. We recommended instead using evidence-based behavior interventions to protect teachers.

**What happened** -



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**Legislative update**

**SB602/HB905**

**What it is** - Increases access to adult size changing tables.

**What we did** - With staff support, Council members drafted legislation; educated legislators; provided testimony during hearings; coordinated with other state agencies. Developed and implemented communications strategies including videos, Op Eds, and billboards that had a direct impact on public awareness and educating policymakers. Meanwhile, worked with localities and businesses to install tables without legislation.

**What happened** -



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**Legislative update**

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**SB2650/HB2801**

**What it is** - Permanently transitions Tennessee Rehabilitation Centers (TRC) services from a segregated, facility-based model to an integrated, community-based model in line with current laws and best practices.

**What we did** - The Council, along with the other members of the Disability Policy Alliance, educated legislators about the benefits of integrated, community-based employment services.

**What happened** -

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**Legislative Update**

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**Questions and discussion**

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**Reflections**

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**At your table...**

- What stands out from what you learned today?
- What do you still want to know more about?



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**Wrap Up**

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### Wrap-up

- Complete travel forms & evaluations

**3/1/19 Council Meeting Evaluation Form**

1. How would you rate the overall content of today's Council meeting?

4	3	2	1
Excellent	Good	Okay	I don't like it

2. What is the most important piece of knowledge shared at today's meeting?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the most valuable part about today's meeting?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Conflict of Interest Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to define for Council members how they may avoid any conflicts of interest while appointed to the Council on Developmental Disabilities. All Council members are encouraged to participate in Council discussions of relevant issues, as well as discussion taking place prior to those issues. However, any potential conflict of interest must be avoided as the Council performs its duties.

A conflict of interest occurs when a Council member or their family member is employed by, is on the board of directors of, or has a financial interest in an entity that applies for or is awarded Council funds. In addition, a conflict of interest occurs for an official Council member when the Council is taking a position on a bill, law, regulation, rule, or policy that directly affects the programs and services of the agency represented by the official Council member.

**Definition**  
Council members include persons who are appointed to the Council on Developmental Disabilities and all official members who serve on the Council by virtue of the office they hold or the agency they represent.

**Prohibitions**  
A. A Council member who is affiliated with an entity applying for or receiving Council funds shall refrain from voting about awarding, continuing to awarding grant funds. This also shall apply to any Council member who is a family member of another official with an entity that is applying for Council funds.  
B. A Council member shall abstain from voting on policy positions when the agency he or she represents is affiliated with that Council policy position.  
C. A Council member must disclose any potential conflict of interest and disqualify himself from voting on a given issue or policy position when those conflicts of interest occur.

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### Wrap-up

#### Upcoming 2022 Meeting Dates

Location: Nashville, TN

- Council Meeting: Friday, **September 16, 2022**
- Council Retreat: Thursday & Friday, **November 3-4, 2022**

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**Public Comment Period**

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**This time is reserved for the public to make any comments**

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**Adjournment**

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