



Council Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2019

Council Members Present:

Roddey Coe*
Jennifer Coleman*
Ryan Durham*
Evan Espey*
Tatum Fowler*
Dawn Fry*
Lesley Guilaran*
Alicia Hall*
Clancey Hopper*
Lisa Johnson*
William Lovell*
Tecia Puckett Pryor*
Steve Sheegog*
Gina Summer*
Martez Williams*
Bruce Keisling, UT Boling Center
Mandy Johnson, Voc. Rehab. Services
Jeremy Norden-Paul, DIDD
Allison Gauld, Dept. Special Education
Mark Liverman, Dept. Mental Health &
Substance Abuse
Shannon Nehus, TennCare
Elise McMillan, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
Anna Lea Cothron, TCAD
Lisa Primm, Disability Rights TN
Bettie Teasley, THDA
Sara Kassas, Non Gov't Agency

Staff Present:

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

Council Members Absent:

Amy Allen*
Jody Cheek*
Jean-Marie Lawrence*
Craig Lemak*
Karen West*
Rose Naccarato, Tenn.
Commission on Children &
Youth
Jacqueline Johnson, Dept.
of Health

Speakers/Invited Guests:

Chris Burger, Dept. of Health
Jade Cooper, Office of the
Governor
Zach DeBerry, UT Boling Center
Ryan Jolley, Voc. Rehab.
Services
Deborah Poirier, DIDD
Karen Wills, DIDD

Visitors:

Jake King

**denotes Governor appointed citizen*

9:00 a.m. Opening & Introductions

Council Chair, Tecia Puckett Pryor, opened the meeting at 9 a.m. Tecia welcomed everyone, introduced guests, and facilitated introductions.

Tecia recognized council members whose terms have expired. Evan Espey, member at large, has served the Council since 2012. Evan has chaired the Public Policy Committee and represented the Council in that capacity at the national Disability Policy Seminars in 2017 and 2019. Dawn Fry, representing the Upper Cumberland Development area, has served the Council since 2013. Dawn is the most recent chairperson of the Audit Committee. William Lovell, representing the South Central Development Area, has served since 2013. William played an instrumental role in the state's People Planning Together program. Steve Sheegog, representing the Memphis Delta Development Area, has served the Council for multiple terms, most recently beginning in 2013. Steve was a member of the Executive Committee, chairperson of the Communications Committee, and served as a member of the Audit Committee. The Council is grateful for the years of service provided by these citizens.

9:15 a.m. Business Items

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

Approval of November 2 Minutes and Agenda Review

The March 1, 2019 Council meeting minutes were emailed to all the Council members prior to the May 3, 2019 Council meeting to give members an opportunity to review before the meeting. 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 March 1, 2019 minutes as written and Ryan Durham seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Tecia reviewed the agenda for the Council meeting.

Executive Committee Report

Tecia reported that the Executive Committee met on Thursday, May 2nd. The Committee approved an additional FY20 grant, to fund a communications project targeting rural outreach. Tecia reminded Council members that in July of this year, several seats on the Council will be vacant and Council staff will present nominees for the Governor's consideration. She encouraged Council members to share with staff anyone they think might be interested in being nominated as a Council member.

Executive Director Report

Wanda Willis, Executive Director, encouraged members to read the staff report included in their folders. Wanda reported that staff presented the proposed Council budget to the Tennessee House Finance, Ways, and Means subcommittee and the House Mental Health and Substance Abuse Subcommittee in March. Additionally, Council staff has met with several newly appointed commissioners and Governor's Staff since

the March Council Meeting. Wanda introduced Jolene Sharp, Chief Information Officer for the Council, who shared a Case for Support publication produced by Stone + Steele. This publication is designed to educate stakeholders about the Council, its history and current initiatives. Council members each received two copies at the meeting, but can request more from staff at any time.

Budget/Operations Report

Lynette Porter, Deputy Director, reported that the available federal funds balance is \$25,918, which is unchanged from the March Council Meeting. The agency continues to work with the Department of Finance and Administration on preparations for implementation of new federal spending rules which will take affect with the FY20 award.

The President's FY20 budget reflects a proposed cut to all disability programs under the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Councils on DD reflect a proposed 26% cut to funding, which would reduce the Council funding nationally from \$76 million to \$56 million. The President's budget is not a bill that can be made into law. It is described as a starting point for congress. Our appropriations are part of a bill created and passed by Congress. The relationships built with legislators are critical. From this, we know that Congress sees the value of the Councils and their feedback on the appropriations bill is positive.

Operationally, the state FY20 agency budget has been passed by the state legislature and is waiting to go to the Governor in the legislative packet. This is the document that gives the Council the authority in the state to spend its federal dollars.

Agency grants for July 1, 2019 startup are well on track thanks to Alicia Cone and the work she has done.

Audit Committee Report

Dawn Fry, Audit Committee Chair reported that since the Council last met, the Audit Committee has conducted the following activities:

- Developed and communicated a written code of conduct for members of the Council. Council members were directed to review the copy of the code of conduct in their meeting packets and initial/sign where indicated.
- Reviewed and approved the agency process for obtaining code of conduct acknowledgement by staff of the Council.

This was the last required task in the Charter for the establishment of the Audit Committee work. The next staff focus will be creation of tools that will guide the Audit Committee on a timeline and ongoing required tasks.

9:55 a.m. Adjourn to Council Committee Meetings

10:55 a.m. Break & Check Out

11:30 a.m. Committee Reports

Minutes from committees are attached to these minutes.

- Evaluation Committee (Lisa Johnson, Chair)
- Public Policy Committee (Evan Espey, Chair)
- Communications Committee (Ryan Durham, Chair)

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:50 p.m. Partners in Policymaking™ Longitudinal Study

Zach DeBerry, Training Director for the UT Boling University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, presented findings from the longitudinal study that sought to survey the Partners in Policymaking™ graduates and their engagement with their communities. The full presentation will be sent to Council members with the minutes.

1:00 p.m. Seating & Positioning Clinic Information Presentation

A presentation was given by two staff from the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD): Karen Wills, Director of Therapeutic Services and Deborah Poirier, Director of Seating and Positioning Services. The presentation explained the services provided by DIDD Seating and Positioning Clinics. The website for the clinics also has informative videos on maintenance of durable medical equipment. More information can be found at www.tn.gov/didd/seating. The full presentation will be sent to Council members with the minutes.

1:30 p.m. Public Policy Wrap-up

Lauren Percy, Public Policy Director, reviewed key legislation from the Tennessee General Assembly and opened the floor for questions. The Council has tracked approximately 50 bills pertaining to disability and has reported on it weekly in the Policy eNews. Of note, Council Member from the Southeast Development District, Roddey Coe, helped create legislation with his representative, Mike Carter. The Take Me Home Bill was passed this session, which will remove liability from the city of Chattanooga and provide avenues to duplicate this successful program across the state. Lauren highlighted key federal policy updates, including an upcoming visit from the Commissioner of the Administration on Disability, Julie Hocker, to the Council offices in May. Evan Espey, Chair of the Public Policy Committee, shared his experience meeting with Tennessee's congressional delegation during the 2019 Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C.

Lauren challenged Council members to meet with their legislators' offices in person before the September Council meeting. She reminded Council members to utilize Council publications like the Case for Support to begin the conversation, but encouraged each member to tell their own story as well. The Council staff are always available to provide support before, during, or after legislative visits.

2:00 p.m. Adjournment & Reminders

Tecia encouraged members to turn in their travel claims and Council meeting evaluations. A motion for adjournment was made by Steve Sheegog and seconded by Lisa Johnson. The motion carried and the Council meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The next Council meeting will take place at the Embassy Suites Nashville Airport on September 13, 2019.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

2019 Council Meetings - Location: Embassy Suites Nashville Airport

- Quarterly Council Meeting: Friday, September 13, 2019
- Council Retreat: Thursday & Friday, November 14 & 15, 2018

2020 Council Meetings - Location: Embassy Suites Nashville Airport

- Quarterly Council Meeting: Friday, February 28, 2020
- Quarterly Council Meeting: Friday, May 2, 2020
- Quarterly Council Meeting: Friday, September 18, 2020
- Council Retreat: Thursday & Friday, November 5 & 6, 2020



Respectfully submitted by: Ashley Edwards, Executive Assistant



Approved by: Wanda Willis, Executive Director