



Council Executive Committee

Location: Conference Call - WebEx
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2020
Time: 11:00 a.m. CDT/12:00 p.m. EDT

Present: Tecia Puckett-Pryor, Lesley Guilaran, Tatum Fowler, Ryan Durham, Lisa Johnson

Absent:

Staff: Wanda Willis, Ashley Edwards, Lynette Porter

1) **Call to Order**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Tecia Puckett-Pryor, Chair, called the meeting to order at **11:16 a.m.**

2) **Consent Agenda: Approve today's Executive Committee Agenda and March 10, 2020 Executive Committee Minutes**

No discussion.

Ryan Durham moved for approval; Lisa Johnson seconded. Approved.

3) **Staff & Office Update**

Wanda Willis, Executive Director, updated the Executive Committee on the status of the Council staff during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Council staff are working remotely and completing tasks and projects from home. Staff have been especially encouraged to practice social distancing in accordance with the Governor's directives. Executive committee members shared personal experience with impact of COVID-19 on their own work and added notes of gratitude for continued communication from Council staff.

4) **Public Policy Updates related to COVID-19**

Wanda encouraged Executive Committee members to read the weekly Public Policy Newsletter. The publication for this publication may move to Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning, in order to fully capture weekend updates. The focus for the Council Public Policy Newsletter is plain language information that connect policy updates with Tennesseans impacted by disability. Questions can be sent directly to Public Policy Director, Lauren Pearcy, who manages this Newsletter.

5) **Office of Civil Rights Complaint**

Wanda highlighted an article that was published in the Public Policy Newsletter this week. Several states, including Tennessee, have filed civil rights complaints about emergency hospital policies that prioritize "healthy" people over people with disabilities and other pre-existing conditions. In response, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services issued a bulletin and new



guidance to hospitals. This new information emphasizes that laws and regulations prohibit discrimination, including based on age or disability. The guidance outlines what hospitals and healthcare workers must do to make sure they can communicate well with people who need accommodations to communicate.

6) **Project Review (Tier 1 + 2)**

Deputy Director Lynette Porter shared that all Tier 1 projects are in the contract phase of the funding cycle, with a goal to begin work July 1, 2020. She noted that the Council anticipates updated guidance for obligation and liquidation from the Administration on Community Living in the coming weeks. This could impact the spending timeline for those grants, potentially giving sub recipients more time to complete their work plan.

7) **May 1 Council Meeting Agenda Review**

In keeping with current guidance to 'stay apart', the May 1 meeting will occur by conference call. We will not meet in Nashville as originally scheduled. Our meeting will begin at 9 a.m. CST (10 a.m. EST) and end at 10:30 a.m. CST (11:30 a.m. EST). Members will hear updates from staff on projects, responses to COVID-19, and progress related to the new five-year state plan and Public Interest Survey.

8) **Motion to Adjourn**

At 12:08 p.m. Tatum Fowler moved to adjourn. Lesley Guilaran seconded. Approved.

Next call: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. CDT/4:30 p.m. EDT

Prepared by: Ashley Edwards, Executive Assistant

Approved by: Wanda Willis, Executive Director