



## Council Executive Committee

---

Location: Conference Call - Zoom  
Date: Thursday, April 30, 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 **11:05 a.m.**

2) **Consent Agenda: Approve today's Executive Committee Agenda and April 7, 2020 Executive Committee Minutes**

No discussion.

***Tatum Fowler moved for approval; Lisa Johnson seconded. Approved.***

3) **Budget Updates**

- **Federal Budget**

Wanda Willis, Executive Director, and Lynette Porter, Deputy Director, shared an overview of updated federal guidance. These updates include flexibility to spending timelines for the FY20 Council award. According to new federal guidance, Councils are required to spend their FY20 allotment by September 2022, an additional year past the original deadline.

- **State Budget**

Lynette Porter shared Tennessee state government is under a spending freeze. This includes a freeze on hiring new staff and major purchases like technology. While the legislature approved the new staffing position under the Leadership & Development state plan goal, the Council will not hire a new staff person during this spending freeze. There appears to be no major impact on Council projects and activities beyond that. Staff will keep the Executive Committee well informed of any changes or updates.

- **COVID-19 Scholarship Grants**

As a result of the cancellations of in-person leadership conferences as a result of COVID-19, the Council was able to reallocate dollars in the scholarship fund to meet the needs of Tennesseans impacted by closures. Last month, the Council distributed an application and received an overwhelming number of responses, 29 of which were funded. The grants funded technology, recreational, and educational supplies (among other items) which will assist over 83 Tennesseans across the state. More information about these grants was e-mailed to Council members and will be presented more formally to the Council during the



May 1, 2020 Council meeting.

- **Tier 2 Project Request**

Council staff presented a proposal from the University of Tennessee Center for Developmental Disabilities for a comprehensive analysis of the current Council 5 Year State Plan. To do this, the UT CDD will use the data the Council has collected (quarterly reports, performance measures, etc.) in addition to survey items the UT CDD will create and administer independently. At the end of this evaluation, UT CDD will produce a comprehensive review of what the Council has learned from current state plan activities and provide an overall assessment of the outcomes. This will help inform what projects, activities, and system change efforts we do moving forward with the new 5 Year State Plan. The budget requested for this project is \$50,000 for one year, with an anticipated start date in the fall of 2020.

The Executive Committee discussed outcomes and activities associated with this project and will recommend bringing this funding opportunity for full Council approval at the February 28, 2020 meeting. **Tatum Fowler moved for approval, Lesley Guilaran seconded. Approved unanimously.**

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

Wanda reviewed the agenda for the May 1 Council meeting, which will take place virtually. Council member Bruce Kielsing has agreed to host this meeting on behalf of the Council using the platform Zoom. Materials and discussion will be accessible to all participants. The meeting will open beginning at 8:30 a.m. CST / 9:30 a.m. EST and staff will be available to help members connect and interact with the materials.

Tatum Fowler asked a clarification question related to the Whole Child Resource mapping, mentioned in the Staff Report provided for the May 1 Council Meeting. Wanda shared clarification that the Department of Education has restructured its projects under their Whole Child Initiative, which includes a list of resources for parents and families of students receiving Special Education Services. The Council was asked to be a member of this working group.

8) **Motion to Adjourn**

**At 12:16 p.m. Lesley Guilaran moved to adjourn. Tatum Fowler 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