



## Council Executive Committee

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Location: Embassy Suites Nashville Airport  
Embassy Boardroom  
10 Century Blvd., Nashville, TN 37214  
Date: Thursday, September 14, 2017  
Time: 3:00 P.M. CDT/4:00 P.M. EDT

**Present:** Tommy Lee Kidd, Serina Gilbert, Evan Espey, Lisa Johnson, Tecia Puckett Pryor  
**Staff:** Wanda Willis, Lynette Porter, JoEllen Fowler

Tommy Lee Kidd, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:14 p.m.

- 1) **Review Executive Committee Agenda; Approve Minutes**  
Tommy Lee reviewed the Executive Committee agenda.

*Evan moved to approve the August 3, 2017 Executive Committee minutes as written. Serina seconded. Approved unanimously.*

- 2) **State & Federal Budget**

Wanda reported on the federal budget. We received a note today to expect a continuing resolution to be passed that takes us in to our new federal fiscal year. The House came out with a budget proposal that has Councils written back in and fully funded. Senator Alexander's legislative director gave us a heads-up that the Senate Budget Committee also rejected the proposal to do away with the Councils. Staff are also watching new proposals to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

Lynette reminded everyone that last year Puerto Rico lost their allotment and the funds were divided among the remaining states and territories. They have lost their funding again this year so the Council received notice that Tennessee would get an additional one-time award of \$39,403 from the recoupment of the Puerto Rico DD Council funding. We do not have to spend the dollars immediately.

The state budget instructions have been released which means staff are working on the Council Spending Plan, which is our legislatively approved state budget. We do not anticipate significant changes to our base budget request. The Governor asked all agencies to submit a proposed a 2.5% cut. The state is in good fiscal shape but it is good practice to plan for potential reductions. The



Governor did not require the Council to enact last year's budget reduction, and we are hopeful that this year's will not be required as well.

3) **Support Development Associates Update**

Wanda reminded the Committee this is the contract we recently wrote with Michael Smull of Support Development Associates for the People Planning Together Project. The project was set to start Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> but it was decided to postpone the launch until spring because the MCOs need time to prepare, hire staff and find trainers; plus a new MCO, United Healthcare, comes on in December and this way they will be able to participate as well.

4) **Supported Decision Making (SDM) Activities**

We had an amazing week with Jonathan Martinis, national SDM legal expert, in town to meet with various stakeholders. It was launched with the Senate Judiciary Committee's summer study on SDM. We want to amend the conservatorship law in TN to include this new best practice, SDM, as an option.

Staff worked with The Arc TN and other disability advocacy groups on a SDM bill last year. It failed in the legislature and instead they called for a summer study. The Council brought in national expert Jonathan Martinis to testify, along with advocate and parent Tonya Bowman, and self advocate Clancey Hopper, who blew them away. We have a bill that should pass in the upcoming legislative session.

Educating everyone is so important. Jonathan presented to four other groups of stakeholders: 1) Employment Roundtable, 2) Dept. of Education staff-more conservatorships happen with children who are turning 18, 3) Judiciary-Administrative Offices of the Court, Washington & Davidson Co. judges, veteran & mental health court staff, and 4) Grassroots group of almost 100. Jonathan Martinis will return in February for the Special Ed Conference. TN is far head of other states and is well positioned for a good law and moving us forward.

***When staff get SDM materials Evan can share with his judicial connections.***

***It was suggested that we have a session on SDM at a council meeting.***

***Tecia asked if SDM includes a guardian ad litem?***

Wanda mentioned the Council hosted another News Channel 5 taping on employment this year. Serina represented the Council well and was an excellent spokesperson. ***Staff will share the link when it is available.***

5) **New Member Orientation (10 mins.)**

Lynette reported that today's New Member Orientation went smoothly. She reviewed all of the new members and the state representatives who attended. Evan, Tecia and Clancey all presented. ***Next***



*year, we will make sure staff slides come up before staff join for lunch.*

6) **Review Agenda for September Council Meeting**

Tommy Lee reviewed the September Council meeting agenda. During tomorrow's Executive Committee Report, Tommy Lee will ask the Council to join the Executive Committee in recommending Tecia Puckett Pryor for the Governor's consideration as Council Chair.

7) **Motion to Adjourn**

*At 5:05 p.m. Lisa moved for adjournment. Tecia seconded. Approved unanimously.*

**Next call:** Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 11 a.m. Central/12 noon Eastern

**Next meeting:** TBA

Prepared by: JoEllen Fowler, Administrative Assistant

Approved by: Wanda Willis, Executive Director