



Council Executive Committee

Location: Conference Call - WebEx
Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021
Time: 11:00 a.m. CDT/12:00 p.m. EDT

Present: Ryan Durham, Tatum Fowler, Lesley Guilaran, Lisa Johnson

Absent: Tecia Puckett-Pryor

Staff: Wanda Willis, Ashley Edwards, Lynette Porter

1) **Call to Order**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Ryan Durham, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at **11:09 a.m.**

2) **Consent Agenda: Approve today's Executive Committee Agenda and October 2020 Executive Committee Minutes**

Prior to the meeting, Tatum Fowler submitted a correction for agenda item 4 in the October 2020 minutes. The minutes were revised and sent to committee member prior to this meeting. ***Tatum Fowler moved for approval; Lesley Guilaran seconded. Approved.***

3) **January Council Meeting**

Wanda Willis, Executive Director, provided an overview of the called council meeting, scheduled for January 22 at 11 a.m. CST / 12 p.m. CST. The purpose of this special meeting is to consider a proposal for allocating \$300,000 in Council grant funds that we were unable to liquidate this year due to the pandemic. With key Council programs (Partners in Policymaking and other learning events) unable to meet in person this year, we saw expenditures change significantly from month to month, not knowing if our programs could resume in person. We were disappointed to learn last month that the federal government decided not to extend our spending period this year, meaning we will lose access to funds not spent by September 2021. We have 9 months to redirect the funds, follow required administrative procedures to obligate and then spend the funds. For that reason, this decision cannot wait until our regular Council meeting at the end of February.

Executive Committee members expressed support for and encouragement by the Council's intent to support families impacted by disability in this way.

The committee also discussed the process for the January meeting. The Executive Committee Chair will facilitate the meeting and invite council staff to share information about the proposal. The Chair will then call for a motion from the floor to begin discussion. The committee agreed that Executive Committee members would share comments and feedback about the proposal, but that the motion should be generated from the full council floor to



open discussion.

4) **Budget Updates**

Lynette Porter, Deputy Director, provided an update on the federal budget timeline. The Council received word that all programs under the Administration for Community Living (including councils) will receive level funding for the coming fiscal year. We have not received a formal notice of award yet but expect to see it in the coming weeks.

Wanda Willis shared that the Council was asked to attend a House Finance Ways and Means Committee budget hearing at the Tennessee General Assembly on January 26 at 11 a.m. CST / 12 p.m. EST. Staff is waiting on guidance from the committee chair about what materials to provide and whether attending virtually is an option.

Lynette also shared that the state has removed restrictions related to hiring and purchasing equipment which had been in effect since April 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

5) **New Council Member Orientation**

In the fall, the Governor appointed three new council members:

- Ernie Roark (representing East Tennessee Development District, replaces Craig Lemak)
- Edward Mitchell (representing Southwest TN Development District, replaces Gina Summer)
- Shontie Brown (representing Memphis Delta Development District, finishes the term started by Linda Monterosso, who moved out of state this summer)

These members will attend a virtual orientation, scheduled for February 12. Staff is working to create virtual “modules” of information for new council members. Executive Committee members are invited to present as they are available. Staff will reach out in the coming weeks with more information.

6) **Motion to Adjourn**

At 11:45 a.m. CST / 12:45 p.m. EST Ryan Durham adjourned the meeting.

Next call: February 9, 2021

Prepared by: Ashley Edwards, Executive Assistant

Approved by: Wanda Willis, Executive Director