



## Council Executive Committee

---

Location: Conference Call - Zoom  
Date: Thursday, June 8, 2021  
Time: 11:00 am CDT / 12:00 pm EDT

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

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Wanda Willis, Lynette Porter, Ashley Edwards

1) **Call to Order**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Tecia Puckett Pryor, Chair, called the meeting to order at **11:01 a.m. CDT / 12:01 pm EDT**

2) **Consent Agenda: Approve today's Executive Committee Agenda and May 2021 Executive Committee Minutes**

There was no discussion.

***Lesley Guilaran moved for approval; Lisa Johnson seconded. Approved.***

3) **Annual report of agency public records requests**

One requirement of the Comptroller's office is to annually report the number of public record requests that the Council receives in a state fiscal year. In addition, staff is required to report the number of records requests the Council receives to the Executive Committee. Lynette Porter, Deputy Director, reported that during the past fiscal year, the Council received zero requests for public records. If one is made between now and July 1, 2021, staff will share this information with the Executive Committee during the July meeting.

4) **COVID Grants Update - Collaborations**

The Council has continued partnering with the other ACL programs in Tennessee, including Disability Rights Tennessee, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, University of Tennessee Center for Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Independent Living, Commission on Aging, and the Area Agencies on Aging and Disability. These groups meet bi-weekly to update one another on projects and coordinated needs related to vaccine hesitancy in the disability community.

Additionally, the Council has partnered with the Department of Health to advance vaccine hesitancy efforts across the state. Together, staff can provide opportunities for town hall style meetings in local communities, to answer questions about the vaccine. In addition, the Department of Health staff can deploy mobile vaccination clinics across many counties in the state. Staff will reach out to members to ensure communities have access to experts to answer questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.



## 5) **In-Person Meeting Discussion**

During the month of May, Council members completed a survey to share any concern or hesitancy about returning to in-person council meetings beginning in September. A majority of the respondents preferred to hold the September council meeting in person (16 of 19 respondents).

Staff shared a timeline and cost for reserving hotel meeting space and sleeping accommodations for members for September. The committee reviewed risks and costs associated with potential cancellation. Additionally, staff shared the projected cost of ensuring a virtual meeting option for those unable to attend in person due to health concerns.

The committee discussed a commitment to making sure all council members have access to fully participate in the September meeting. The committee also discussed an increased opportunity for advocacy and collaboration when meeting in person compared to virtual meetings. While the upcoming fall meetings should have a virtual component, the committee would like to reevaluate allowing a virtual option for future meetings.

***Tatum Fowler moved that the September Council Meeting be held in person, with a virtual option available for those unable to attend in person in. Ryan Durham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

Staff will begin securing hotel meeting space and sleeping accommodations in the coming weeks.

Ryan Durham suggested an agenda item for the September meeting: inviting an expert to share insights on the psychological aspects of getting back into the community after months of being socially isolated. This learning experience could be one that members take back to their communities to share. The committee agreed that this would be a good use of meeting time. Staff will follow up this summer.

## 6) **Leadership Development Committee Discussion**

As the Council begins its new Five-Year State Plan, the staff identified an opportunity to reimagine the current Evaluation Standing Committee to a Leadership Development Standing Committee. The purpose of the Evaluation Committee has been to review quarterly updates from Council staff on activities and projects the Council has funded each year. Staff have created a system of reporting to share updates on these activities and projects with the full Council, with the hope to do a deeper dive on topics related to each of the three goal areas with standing committees. To do this, the Council would create a Leadership Development Standing Committee to review Goal 1 topics.

Evaluation Committee Chair Lisa Johnson noted that this committee would allow a few council members to become “experts” in the programs that develop strong leaders and advocates in our state, especially Partners in Policymaking and the Leadership Academy for Excellence in Disability Services.



***Lesley Guilaran moved to replace the current Evaluation Standing Committee with a Leadership Standing Committee, to begin meeting September 2021. Ryan Durham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.***

- 6) **Motion to Adjourn**  
***At 11:53 a.m. CDT / 12:53 p.m. EDT Tacia adjourned the meeting.***

**Next call:** July 15, 2021 11 a.m. CDT / 12 p.m. EDT

*Ashley Edwards*

---

Prepared by: Ashley Edwards, Executive Assistant

*W Willis*

---

Approved by: Wanda Willis, Executive Director