



Council Executive Committee

Location: Conference Call - Zoom
Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021
Time: 11:00 am CDT / 12:00 pm EDT

Present: Tecia Puckett Pryor, Ryan Durham, Tatum Fowler

Absent: Lisa Johnson, Lesley Guilaran

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 June 2021 Executive Committee Minutes**

There was no discussion.

Tatum Fowler moved for approval; Ryan Durham seconded. Approved.

3) **Review of September Council Meeting Logistics & Agenda**

Wanda Willis, Executive Director, reviewed the drafted agenda for the in-person September Council meeting. During this meeting, Council members will report on determination of progress toward state plan goals for Fiscal Year 21 and review key work of members over the summer. Additionally, the Council will remember Jean-Marie Lawrence and the impact Jean-Marie has had on her local community, the state of Tennessee, and disability advocacy nationally.

4) **COVID Grants Update – Collaborations**

The Council has continued partnering with the other Administration on Community Living (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.

The Council has provided key connection to partners with health officials who are able to provide access to information and vaccinations when requested. The Tennessee Council was chosen to present on its initial work with other ACL national organizations later in July. Staff hope that our example of working collaboratively with sister agencies will provide opportunity for other states to do the same.



5) **Center for Decision-Making Support**

Tennessee is the first state in the nation to offer one place to learn about decision-making options for people with disabilities. The new [TN Center for Decision-Making Support](#) launched last month.

The Center is a shared effort of The Arc Tennessee, the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Disability Rights Tennessee.

In addition to the Council's role in launching the Center, staff have led efforts on creating personal narrative videos related to supported decision making:

- [Will McMillan's story](#) features a young man who lives on his own and is employed after graduating from an inclusive higher education program.
- [The Browns'](#) story chronicles a family learning to support their young adult son as he works and lives on his own.

These stories are individual examples of the broad impact the Council's work has in the lives of Tennesseans. Telling these stories allows us to reshape expectations and illustrate what is possible.

6) **Budget Update**

State Councils received notice from the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities, that the US House of Representatives approved the President's requested increase for Councils in the coming fiscal year. The senate will discuss and vote on this in the coming weeks. We anticipate level or increased funding for the 2022 fiscal year.

State Councils also received notice of additional dollars coming for the 2021 fiscal year, as the US Department of Health and Human Services redistributes the Puerto Rico Council award. Councils should receive the award notice containing the amounts in August or September.

6) **Other Business**

The Executive Committee discussed the format for the November 2021 Retreat, highlighting multiple in-person and virtual options available.

Tatum Fowler moved to secure hotel space for the Retreat in person, in Nashville: a full day on November 4 and half day on November 5. Ryan Durham seconded. Approved.



- 7) **Motion to Adjourn**
At 11:41 a.m. CDT / 12:13 p.m. EDT Ryan Durham moved to adjourn the meeting. Tatum Fowler seconded. Approved.

Next call: August 10, 2021 11 a.m. CDT / 12 p.m. EDT

Prepared by: Ashley Edwards, Executive Assistant

Approved by: Wanda Willis, Executive Director