

Council Executive Committee

Location: Conference Call - Zoom
Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2021
Time: 3:30 pm CDT / 4:30 pm EDT

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

Absent: Tatum Fowler

Staff: Wanda Willis, Lauren Pearcy, Lynette Porter, Ashley Edwards

1) **Call to Order**

After ascertaining there was a quorum, Tecia Puckett Pryor, Chair, called the meeting to order at **3:32 p.m. CDT / 4:32 p.m. EDT**

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

There were no edits to the October 2021 minutes.

Ryan Durham moved for approval of updated agenda; Lesley Guilaran seconded. Approved.

3) **Review of Council Retreat Agenda**

Staff shared the agenda for the 2021 Council Retreat. During the first day, the Council will recognize Executive Director Wanda Willis for her contributions to the state disability services system and for her work in making Tennessee a leader in the country in advocacy and systems change. Members will also hear a presentation from two representatives from the TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services team, related to self-care and care taking. Dr. Bruce Keisling, Executive Director of the Center for Developmental Disabilities at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center will present a review of the Council's previous 5-Year State Plan. Members will then have an opportunity to discuss insights and considerations before adjourning for the day.

During the second day, members will consider the following questions as they plan their work as Council members in 2022:

- What do you as a Council member want to do to impact your community?
- How do you want to see yourself and your community next year?
- What are you worried about for next year? How can others help?
- Are there insights from what you've learned from the Council that will help you to achieve your vision for your community?
- Are there gaps between what you've learned from the Council and your lived experience that will impact the work you do in your community?

4) Update on Staffing / Positions: Director of Public Policy

Lauren Pearcy, Director of Public Policy and incoming Executive Director, shared an update with the Executive Committee related to the role of a new Director of Public Policy. The plan is to hire a candidate that could also act as general counsel to the Council. The TN Department of Human Resources has approved a reclassing of this staff position to include General Counsel as part of its responsibilities. The executive committee affirmed this change.

5) State Plan Submitted

Council staff submitted its 5-Year State Plan to the Administration on Community Living on September 24, 2021, ahead of the September 30, 2021 deadline. The plan includes the Comprehensive Review and Analysis, which gives insights to services available as well as gaps and barriers in Tennessee. The plan also includes goals set by Council members, aligned to the needs outlined in the comprehensive review and analysis. Additionally, staff submitted an evaluation plan to measure whether or not the Council is successful in the objectives it set in its 5-Year State Plan. Council members have been instrumental in crafting this new plan.

The plan took effect on October 1, 2021. It will go through a period of review by The Administration on Community Living and any suggested updates or edits will be made available to members.

6) COVID 19 Project Update

State Councils were awarded additional funding through the US Centers for Disease Control to implement programs and projects to provide access to the COVID-19 vaccine to individuals with disabilities and their family members. The Tennessee Council is partnering with multiple Developmental Disabilities Act Network partners to address vaccine hesitancy and provide support to in-home vaccines to Tennesseans wanting a vaccine. Disability Rights Tennessee (DRT) is acting as the centralized call center for the in-home vaccine project.

Since the beginning of the project this fall, DRT has received 83 calls requesting an in-home vaccine. Of those calls, 58 have been referred to a provider for a vaccine. 54 were individuals with a disability; 4 were caregivers. 39 were individuals in an urban area; 19 were in rural areas. It is apparent that for nearly all callers, travel outside of their home is limited and this project is meeting a need that would otherwise be unmet in the state.

7) Motion to Adjourn

At 4:02 p.m. CDT / 5:02 p.m. Lesley Guilaran moved to adjourn the meeting. Lisa Johnson seconded. Approved.

Next call: December 7, 2021 11:00 a.m. CST / 12:00 p.m. EST

MINUTES



Prepared by: Ashley Edwards, Executive Assistant


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Approved by: Wanda Willis, Executive Director