

## **Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities Quarterly Meeting**

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) met on Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 10 a.m., via the teleconference and webinar platform, Zoom.

### **Agenda Item I Call to Order**

Chairperson Kate Donovan called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. with a quorum present.

### **Agenda Item II Roll Call**

Chairperson Donovan conducted the roll call with the following results:

#### **Members Present:**

Kate Donovan - Chairperson  
Karan Burnette  
Joseph Baxter  
Syard Evans  
Cynthia Fong  
C.W. Gardenhire  
Mark George  
Ke'Arus Henderson  
Carrie Hollis-Anthony  
Kimberly Horton  
Tom Masseau  
Ann Price  
Heather Shrader  
Melissa Stone  
Christopher Tebbetts  
Maria Villagran  
Judy Watson

#### **Members Absent:**

Lud Kozlowski – Vice - Chair  
Kasey Hodges  
Annette Mencer  
Toni Roy  
Rhonda Saunders

#### **Staff Present:**

Jonathan Taylor, Executive Director  
Assiah Lewellen, Program & Outreach Manager  
Brittany Johnson, Finance & Operations Coordinator

Kim Gatewood, Admin. Specialist

**Others Present:**

Angela Corder, UCP Arkansas

Sara Farris, proxy for Daniel Faulkner (GCDD Legal Counsel)

Colbie Jones, Mangan Holcomb Partners (MHP)

Michael Thornton, Statewide Self Advocate Coordinator, SAND Project / DRA

Latoya Todd, Guest

Diana Varady, Parent Advocate AAROC

**Agenda Item III  
Welcome and Guest Introductions**

Chairperson Donovan welcomed attendees and acknowledged the guests that were in attendance for the meeting.

**Agenda Item IV  
Approve March 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Donovan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting on June 9, 2021. She asked if there were any additions or corrections needed to be made. With no changes requested, a motion was made by C.W. Gardenhire and seconded by Carrie Hollis-Anthony to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2021 meeting. All members present voted unanimously in favor and the motion to approve the minutes passed.

**Agenda Item V  
Council Staff Update**

Chairperson Donovan turned the Council's attention to Agenda Item V. She requested that Finance and Operations Coordinator, Brittany Johnson give an update on the Budget Report. Johnson reviewed the streamlined report, displaying a high-level overview of the budget categories on the first page, followed by a line item breakdown on the last two pages. She reviewed the active Federal awards outlined in the GCDD Arkansas Federal Funds Report, September 2021 (see attached and recording for full details). Johnson highlighted 2101 ARSCC5, funding specifically allotted for GCDD's COVID activities. Johnson asked if there were any questions. There being none, Chair Donovan then asked for a motion to approve the Budget Report. Karan Burnette made the motion to approve the budget report as presented, and Cindy Fong seconded. All members present voted unanimously in favor; none were opposed, and the Council budget report was approved.

Chair Donovan turned the floor over to the Program and Outreach Manager, Assiah Lewellen, to report on the project utilization report. She explained that the report shows the funded programs currently utilizing their funding (see attached for full details by grant program) Lewellen asked if there were any questions regarding the utilization report. There were none.

Lewellen advanced to her Funded Project Summaries report. Chairperson Donovan asked if there were any specific questions regarding the individual programs detailed in

the handout (see attached for full details). There being none, Chairperson Donovan moved to Agenda item VI.

### **Agenda Item VI Reports from Committee Chairs**

Chair Donovan advanced to agenda item VI: reports from Committee Chairs. The Executive Committee's last meeting was to finalize the hiring decision for the new executive director, Jonathan Taylor. Taylor started in position on August 9, 2021 and was present for the meeting.

Chairperson Donovan then gave an update on the Nominating Committee. She affirmed her own reappointment, as well as Maria Villagran. Judy Watson, whose term ends December 1, 2021, will not seek reappointment. Chairperson Donovan thanked Watson for her service. Maria Villagran noted a previous conversation between herself and Executive Director about increasing diversity within the Council's membership. Chairperson Donovan concurred and charged the Council to consider diversity in future nominating decisions. After Syard Evans asked about the status of the Council's membership, Chairperson Donovan presented the Nominating Committee's choice to replace Judy Watson: Mandy Sanders. Director Taylor explained that Mandy's oldest son lived in the Conway and Arkadelphia HDCs, fulfilling the requirement of a member with a family member who has, or is currently living in an HDC. Chairperson Donovan then asked for a motion to present Sanders application to the Council to the Governor's Office. Karan Burnette made the motion, seconded by Tom Masseau. The council approved the motion.

Chairperson Donovan turned the meeting over to Mark George on the Public Policy and Outreach Committee. George explained that since Congress is not in session, and the state is not in Legislative Session, activity is minimal. He briefly spoke on the Better Care, Better Job Act, and that is currently stuck in budget negotiations in Washington, D.C. George then asked Melissa Stone to give a synopsis of AR Spending 9817. Stone gave a detailed description of the plan to allocate incoming funds (see transcript and recording for full details).

Colbie Jones, Mangan Holcomb Partners (MHP) representative, then gave a recap marketing efforts and results for the past quarter. She delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the Council reviewing the previous quarter's website and social media metrics (please review the Zoom recording for the full presentation). Jones then introduced the Your Shot: Our Best Shot COVID messaging campaign. She concluded by describing the introduction process for Director Taylor to the Arkansas business community.

State Plan and Implementation Committee Chairperson, C.W. Gardenhire then gave his update to the council. Assiah Lewellen informed the Council that the State Plan has been conditionally approved by the National Association of Councils on Developmental

Disability (NACDD). She also shared that the Council Staff on just received access to the new state plan system, Verity Analytics. Lewellen also explained that as a result of the late deployment of the new system, the state plan due date has been pushed to September 30, 2021. The staff is planning to be complete on September 24, 2021, as to give the Council time for final review. Lewellen explained after the state plan is entered, the staff will invite proposals for funded projects pertaining to Goals One and Two.

### **Agenda Item VII Council Education & Training**

Director Taylor asked the Council what specific training topics they would like to focus on for the next year. Syard Evans suggested that focus could be around a values-based perspective to the DD Act. A review of Best Practices pertaining to Home and Community Based Services could also be examined as well.

Chairperson Donovan suggested she could discuss legal updates that impact the DD community. She also suggested an examination of what other DD Councils are doing successfully. A final suggestion was training about Federal funding and how it works. Chairperson Donovan then moved onto Agenda Item VIII.

### **Agenda Item VIII DD Network Update**

Karan Burnette discussed how Partners, DRA, and GCDD's strong working relationship allows each group to achieve its goals more effectively. Burnette then talked about how coordinated use of the DD Network COVID-19 grants support each agency's goals. She specifically addressed the misunderstanding around vaccine terminology: in rural Arkansas people "Don't want the vaccine. They are waiting for the shot". The "shot" description is now part of the Council's vaccine messaging campaign.

Burnette also noted she is close to finalizing her Five-Year Grant plan that is due December 1, 2021. Chairperson Donovan then moved to Agenda Item IX.

### **Agenda Item IX Self-Advocacy Update**

Michael Thornton, Coordinator for SAND, gave a quarterly update on his program. Thornton spoke about the continued progress he was having through Facebook and YouTube. Despite COVID he has also had some face to face contacts throughout the state. Thornton asked if there were any questions. A brief discussion was had regarding the work Thornton was doing. Chairperson Donovan then proceeded to Agenda Item X.

**Agenda Item X**  
**New Business and Announcements**

Chairperson Donovan then discussed New Business and Announcements. Director Taylor reviewed the Upcoming Events document (see attached). He also asked that Committee Chairs have their Third Quarter meetings in either the week before Thanksgiving (week ending November 19, 2021) or the week after (week ending December 4, 2021). Chairperson Donovan then turned the meeting over to Cindy Fong. Fong detailed four activities in September and October that she will be hosting virtually (see recording for full details).

**Agenda Item XI**  
**Adjourn**

Chairperson Donovan then requested a motion to adjourn. Mark George made the motion to adjourn. Carrie Anthony-Hollis seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

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Jonathan Taylor, Recorder

APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL 12/09/21