

Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities Quarterly Meeting

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) met on Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 10 a.m., at Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, 1515 West 7th St, and via the teleconference and webinar platform, Zoom.

Agenda Item I Call to Order

Chairperson Kate Donovan called the meeting to order at 10:03 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
Lud Kozlowski – Vice - Chair
Karan Burnette
Joseph Baxter
Syard Evans
Cynthia Fong
C.W. Gardenhire
Mark George
Ke'Arus Henderson
Carrie Hollis-Anthony
Tom Masseur
Annette Mencer
Ann Price
Heather Shrader
Melissa Stone
Christopher Tebbetts
Maria Villagran
Judy Watson

Regina Davenport – Representative for Melissa Stone
Kristin Watson – Representative for Rhonda Saunders

Members Absent:

Kimberly Horton
Toni Roy
Heather Shrader
Rhonda Saunders
Melissa Stone

Staff Present:

Jonathan Taylor, Executive Director
Assiah Lewellen, Deputy Director
Melissa Trostel-Hall, Program Coordinator
Kim Gatewood, Admin. Specialist

Others Present:

Fran'Sha Anderson, Arkansas State Independent Living Council (ARSILC)
Colbie Jones, Mangan Holcomb Partners (MHP)
Michael Thornton, Statewide Self-Advocate Coordinator, Self-Advocate Network
Development Project (SAND), Arkansas Alliance for Disability Advocacy (AADA)
Ally Tomlinson, AADA
Joe West, representative for Daniel Faulkner, Office of the Arkansas Attorney General

**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. She asked if there were any additions or corrections needed to be made. With no changes requested, a motion was made by Lud Kozlowski and seconded by Cindy Fong to approve the minutes of the September 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 an update on the Budget Report. Deputy Director Assiah Lewellen reviewed the report, displaying a high-level overview of the budget categories, followed by a breakdown of federal award balances (see attachment and recording for full details). Lewellen asked if there were any questions. There being none, Chair Donovan then asked for a motion to approve the Budget Report. Chris Tebbetts made the motion to approve the budget report as presented, and Karan Burnette seconded. All members present voted unanimously in favor; none were opposed, and the Council budget report was approved.

Program Coordinator Melissa Trostel-Hall reviewed the utilization report (see attached for full details by grant program). Trostel-Hall asked if there were any questions regarding the utilization report. There were none.

Deputy Director Lewellen advanced to the Programmatic Report. She then discussed the revised PPR due date of March 1st, 2022. Lewellen explained as the NACDD has moved to a new reporting platform, Verity Analytics, the due date moved from January 31st, 2022 to the new later date. 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 did not meet during the third quarter.

Vice-Chair Kozlowski then gave an update on the Nominating Committee. He informed the Council that the Nominating Committee's recommendation of Amanda Sanders had been forwarded to the Governor's Office for consideration. She would be replacing Judy Watson, whose term ended December 1, 2021. Vice-Chair Kozlowski then thanked Watson for her service.

Chairperson Donovan turned the meeting over to Mark George on the Public Policy and Outreach Committee. George explained that since the U.S. Congress continues to negotiate the legislation known as Build Back Better, there is little new policy to discuss. He then moved to the media presentation.

Colbie Jones, 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 shared that the COVID messaging campaign will be released in early 2022.

State Plan and Implementation Committee member, Syard Evans gave an update to the council. She reviewed the legislation passed by the Arkansas Legislature during the special session this week. Evans discussed the tax cut that was passed from the special session and its consequences. Chairperson Donovan then discussed the importance of Arkansans establishing and maintaining relationships with their individual legislators

Mark George then asked DDS proxy Regina Davenport about any changes to CES Waivers. She answered there were no changes.

Deputy Director Lewellen then reviewed the State Plan implementation report by Goal, Objective, and Activity. Chairperson Donovan thanked her for the clarity and ease of use of the report.

Director Taylor then described his work around Goal 3. He described a series of meetings between the CareSource Provider-led Shared Savings Entity (PASSE) and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) with the goal of coordinating services around employment. Director Taylor has a meeting with Summit PASSE scheduled on December 10, 2021 to gauge their interest in the same collaboration. He had a meeting with staff for the Arkansas Achieving a Better Life Experience (AR ABLE), a program of the Office of the Arkansas Treasurer of State to incorporate their financial services into the employment project as well.

Agenda Item VII Council Education & Training

Chairperson Donovan then asked Director Taylor what topic of council education and training he was discussing. He directed the Council to an advocacy paper he had sent to members. Director Taylor stated advocacy is a training focus because the Disability Policy Summit (DPS) will be held virtually and in-person this year (March 28th – 30th). A review of advocacy versus lobbying, as well as effective advocacy methods, is a precursor to attending DPS. Director Taylor also discussed non-traditional advocacy techniques as a way to influence policymakers.

Cindy Fong asked for an update on the status of the Empower PASSE. Director Taylor shared the testimony of Mark White, Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) legal counsel, that was presented during the Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee meeting on December 6th, 2021.

Agenda Item VIII DD Network Update

Chairperson Donovan then turned the meeting over to the DD Network Partners for an update. Tom Masseur, director of Disability Rights Arkansas (DRA), discussed the Breakfast Club and its work on generating a policy presentation for the upcoming Arkansas Gubernatorial Election. Masseur also thanked the Council for funding the AADA and deferred a full description to Ally Tomlinson during Agenda Item IX. He then announced that Arkansas People First had received a grant for a COVID messaging campaign, and that the grant has injected new life into that struggling chapter. Karan Burnette, director of Partners for Inclusive Communities (Partners), then discussed how Partners, DRA, and GCDD's strong working relationship allows each group to achieve its goals more effectively.

Agenda Item IX Self-Advocacy Update

Ally Tomlinson, Director of AADA then described her new organization. AADA consolidated Community of Champions, SAND, and Partners in Policymaking (PIP) under her leadership. Tomlinson then gave a detailed description of the PIP program. She

answered several Council member questions and ended her presentation. Chairperson Donovan then proceeded to Agenda Item X.

**Agenda Item X
New Business and Announcements**

Chairperson Donovan then discussed New Business and Announcements. Vice-Chair Kozlowski revealed he had taken on a new role in his company and thanked the Council for their support. He announced that the schedule was changing from Wednesday evenings to Saturday mornings for the Adults on the Autism spectrum monthly support group meeting that he facilitates. Director Taylor reviewed the Upcoming Events document (see attached).

Chairperson Donovan then reminded all Council members to complete the annual Statement of Financial Interest by the due date of January 31st, 2022. She also asked those members who need to complete an in-kind contribution form to do so.

**Agenda Item XI
Adjourn**

Chairperson Donovan then requested a motion to adjourn. Carrie Hollis-Anthony made the motion to adjourn. Judy Watson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Jonathan Taylor, Recorder

APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL 03/10/22