

Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities Quarterly Meeting

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD or The Council) met on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 1515 West 7th Street, Little Rock, AR 72201 in the 5th floor conference room.

Agenda Item I Call to Order

Council Chair Katherine Donovan called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM CST. She then proceeded to call roll.

Agenda Item II Roll Call

Vice Chair Ludwick Kozlowski conducted the roll call with the following results:

Members Present:

Katherine Donovan - Chair
Ludwik "Lud" Kozlowski – Vice-Chair
Joseph Baxter
Karan Burnette
Syard Evans
C.W. Gardenhire
Mark George
Kasey Hodges
Carrie Hollis-Anthony
Tom Masseau
Ann Price
Amanda Sanders
Christopher Tebbetts
Maria Villagran
Janette Williams-Smith

Members Absent:

Ke'Arus Henderson
Toni Roy
Rhonda Saunders
Heather Shrader

Guests:

Rebecca Billy
Reagan Sharp – District Rep. for Rep. French Hill
Brenda Reynolds – Partners for Inclusive Communities
Cynthia "Cindy" Fong – Former GCDD Member
Amanda Mauck – Mangan Holcomb Partners (MHP)
Tonya Miller-Witsell - MICI
Dr. Amy Cobb – Empower Healthcare Solutions
Sherice Smith – Director, AADA

Michael Bynum – GCDD AG Office Liaison

Staff Present:

Jonathan Taylor, Executive Director

Assiah Lewellen, Deputy Director

Linda Sims, Program Coordinator

Scottie York, Finance and Operations Coordinator (F&O)

Kim Gatewood, Admin Specialist

With a quorum of 15 Council members in attendance, Chair Donovan moved to Agenda Item III.

**Agenda Item III
Guest Introductions**

Chair Donovan asked for guests to introduce themselves. They are listed under “Guests” in Agenda Item II – Roll Call.

**Agenda Item IV
Approve December 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Chair Donovan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting. She asked if there were any corrections. Vice-Chair Kozlowski requested that the “c” be taken out of his name and that a few grammatical errors be corrected. Director Taylor stated that the corrections would be made. The motion was then made by C.W. Gardenhire and seconded by Mark George to approve the December 14th, 2023, minutes. All members voted unanimously in favor, and the motion to approve the minutes passed.

**Agenda Item V
Council Staff Update**

- A. **Executive Director's Report** - Executive Director Jonathan Taylor thanked the Council members for attending the meeting. Taylor also thanked GCDD Council staff for all their work putting the meeting together. Taylor outlined his activities since the December 14, 2024, Quarterly Business Meeting. Director Taylor discussed the Program Performance Review (PPR) and its completion by staff. He then discussed the preliminary activities taking place to update the five-year plan. He then discussed the upcoming self-advocacy event and the GCDD's role in helping facilitate it, as well as multiple outreach events that himself and staff took part in. For full details please see the written Executive Director's report.
- B. **Council Budget Report** – F & O Coordinator Scottie York presented the Council Budget Report. York updated the Council on any changes to the report. See the Council Budget Report for more details. He also touched on reimbursement and match that the council can take part in. He then asked if there were any questions. Being none, Chair Donovan asked for a motion to approve the Council Budget Report as presented. Karen Burnette made the motion, with Carrie Hollis-Anthony seconding. All members present voted unanimously in favor, and the motion to approve the report passed.

- C. **FY23 Funded Project Report** – Program Coordinator Linda Sims reviewed the Funded Project Report, sharing the highpoints from each program as well as remaining fund amounts for each. For full details please see the Funded Project Report.

Director Taylor then gave an open invitation for representatives from the subgrantees in attendance to report firsthand on what the programs were working on. Tanya Miller-Witsell made a presentation on the Marshallese Interpreting for Community Inclusion (MICI) project, and the work they have done to reach out to parents and families in the Marshallese community and the training opportunities that are being made available. Some discussion ensued afterwards about the possibility of MICI obtaining further funding from other organizations.

Director Taylor and Chair Donovan thanked them for their work and moved to the next Agenda Item.

Agenda Item VI DD Network/Advocacy Update

Sherice Smith, Director of Arkansas Alliance for Disability Advocacy (AADA), known internally at Disability Rights Arkansas (DRA) as The Advocacy Program (TAP), gave an update of their activities since the December 14th meeting. Activities included:

- DRA changing AADA to TAP
- Working with Home and Community based services
- Preparing funding for the upcoming election cycle
- Partners in Policy Making
- TAP's self-advocacy conference

A few questions were brought forth on the topic of DRA's and TAP's advocacy conference. Chair Donovan thanked Director Smith for her presentation and information, and then called on Karen Burnette of Partners for Inclusive Communities to share an update.

Burnette then delivered an update about Partners for Inclusive Communities:

- Partners' involvement and support of the TAP advocacy conference and other self-advocacy efforts.
- A new Department of Human Services (DHS) initiative to assist at risk children and young adults, and children suffering from pre-natal alcohol issues.
- Partners' continuing efforts to find collaborative systems to bring the Developmental Disabilities network and families closer.

Director Taylor gave some brief comments on Partners' work on employment.

Agenda Item VII Break

Chair Donovan then adjourned for a break.

Agenda Item VIII Reports from Committee Chairs

Upon returning from break, Chair Donovan asked the Committee Chairs to deliver their reports:

- A. Executive Committee** – Did not meet.
- B. Nominating Committee** – Did not meet, but Director Taylor said he continued to work with Boards and Commissions, individual legislators, self-advocates, and parent advocates about joining the Council. As well as touching on terms for current council members. Discussion and guidance were then had about finding replacements for council members.
- C. Public Policy and Outreach** – Committee Chair Mark George gave updates on the PPO committee and its current work. Committee Chair George then turned it over to Director Taylor to update the council on the status on the Employment First interim study. Committee Chair George also touched on the trip to the Disability Policy Seminar and upcoming laws he and the committee will be communicating with legislators on.

Amanda Mauck of MHP then gave her quarterly update to the council. Please refer to the recording for further information and details.

- D. State Plan and Implementation** – Committee Chair Gardenhire shared the results of the SPI meeting. See the SPI Committee Meeting Minutes for more details.

Committee Chair Gardenhire then turned it over to Director Taylor to discuss the timeline of the upcoming State plan updates and deadlines with the council.

Deputy Director Assiah Lewellen then went over staff recommendations for funded projects.

For further details and information on any of these updates please refer to the recording of the meeting.

Agenda Item IX Training and Education

Executive Director Taylor then called on Michael Bynum, Assistant Attorney General and Liaison to the GCDD. Bynum conducted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) refresher to the Council.

Agenda Item X
New Business and Announcements

Vice Chair Kozlowski asked if there was any new business or announcements. Director Taylor shared the following upcoming events:

- March 21 – State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) meets.
- April 8-10, 2024 – Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC
- April 10-??, 2024 – Arkansas General Assembly – Fiscal Session
- April 18 – Arkansas Statewide Independent Living Centers Capital Event
- April 20 – Arkansas Autism Walk at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock
- June 13 – Next Quarterly Business Meeting
- July 22-24 – NACDD Annual Conference & TA Institute in Washington, DC

Agenda Item XI
Adjourn

Vice-Chair Kozlowski asked for a motion to adjourn. C.W. Gardenhire made the motion, seconded by Marie Villigran. All voted in favor of ending the meeting, and it adjourned at 12:35 PM CST.

Scottie York, Recorder

APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL ON: 06/13/2024