

Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities Quarterly Meeting

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD or The Council) met on Thursday, September 12, 2024, on the virtual meeting platform Zoom.

Agenda Item I Call to Order

Council Chair Katherine Donovan called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM CST. She then proceeded to call roll.

Agenda Item II Roll Call

Chair Donovan then conducted the roll call with the following results:

Members Present:

Katherine Donovan - Chair
Joseph Baxter
Syard Evans
C.W. Gardenhire
Mark George
Ke'Arus Henderson
Kasey Hodges
Carrie Hollis-Anthony
Ann Price
Toni Roy
Amanda Sanders
Rhonda Saunders
Maria Villagran
Janette Williams-Smith

Members Absent:

Ludwik "Lud" Kozlowski – Vice-Chair
Karan Burnette
Carrie Hollis-Anthony
Tom Masseau
Rhonda Saunders
Heather Shrader
Christopher Tebbetts

Guests:

Jennifer Brezee – Director, DDS
Sherice Smith – Director, AADA
Sarah DeBusk – 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 14 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 Previous Meeting Minutes**

Chair Donovan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Council meeting. She asked if there were any corrections. Tom Masseau requested he be removed from listed as present as he was not in attendance. Director Taylor stated that the corrections would be made. The motion was then made by C.W. Gardenhire and seconded by Karan Burnette to approve the June 13, 2024, 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 March 14th, 2024, Quarterly Business Meeting. He then discussed the 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 then asked if there were any questions. Being none, Chair Donovan asked for a motion to approve the Council Budget Report as presented. Mark George made the motion, with C.W. Gardenhire 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.

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

Agenda Item VI DD Network/Advocacy Update

Tom Masseau was then called upon as the Director of Disability Rights Arkansas to give an update on DRA and there activities:

- US Senate Finance Committee Testimony
- Human Development Centers and their state nationally and locally
- "The Program" – Netflix Documentary
- Candidate Forums

C.W. Gardenhire asked about a particular location in Monticello that had been included in a recent report. Chair Donovan thanked Director Masseau 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 Department of Human Services (DHS) efforts to assist family's before the need of facilitating the young person.
- Families in Transition
- Partners' continuing efforts to find collaborative systems to bring the Developmental Disabilities network and families closer.

Sherice Smith then spoke on AADA/TAP and the recent activities conducted by the network. General discussion then begun around various topics revolving around self advocacy and parent advocacy. Syard Evans had questions for Karan and Sherice about the reports they gave. For full details on these discussions please see the recording.

Agenda Item VII Break

Chair Donovan moved this agenda item till after the Committee Reports were given as she had to leave for another meeting.

Agenda Item VIII Reports from Committee Chairs

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

- A. Executive Committee – Met to discuss topics for the meeting taking place.**

B. Nominating Committee – Did not meet.**C. Public Policy and Outreach –** Committee Chair Mark George gave updates on the PPO committee and its current work. Committee Chair George also praised the Arkansas DD network, staff, and DRA's efforts to propel AR in the right direction.

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

Director Taylor then spoke on the status of public comments and the council's desire to address the AR Medicaid Sustainability Report. He then gave Larry Stang and Yukiko Taylor the opportunity to address DDPA's view of the report. Syard Evans also spoke on the needs and hurdles being faced by the PASSE's. General Discussion then ensued on the topic. David Cook also gave comments for the Alzheimer's Association and its intersectionality with the Council. For full details please refer to the recording on the lengthy discussions.

At this time Vice-Chair Ludwick Kozlowski dismissed for a break.

After the break the meeting resumed with Committee Chair Gardenhire and the SPI update.

D. State Plan and Implementation – Committee Chair Gardenhire then commented on the size of the reports they were given. Due to the size, he called for a vote to approve both memo, the FFY 25 Projected Budget by SP Goal. Upon calling for a motion, Syard Evans requested that at the very least a high-level review as some members may be voting without full knowledge of the contents. Director Taylor then gave a high-level review of the main taking points from the 99 pages of documents. Syard also had further questions about the information provided. For complete details on the discussion please refer to the recording.

Syard then made a motion to approve, stating that she was cautious about the vagueness and lack of council input. Karen Burnette approved, and the motion was passed unanimously approved.

Gardenhire then asked Deputy Director Lewellen to speak on the second memo, State Plan Implementation FFY25. She gave a brief overview of the memo. Vice-Chair Ludkowski then called for a motion to approve, C.W. Gardenhire made the motion and was seconded by Christopher Tebbetts. The motion passed unanimously. Karan and Tom abstained from the vote.

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 gave a quick update and overview of the Access Rule.

**Agenda Item X
New Business and Announcements**

Taylor shared the following upcoming events:

- July 22-24 – NACDD Annual Conference & TA Institute in Washington, DC

**Agenda Item XI
Adjourn**

Vice-Chair Kozlowski asked for a motion to adjourn. Ann Price made the motion, seconded by C.W. Gardenhire. All voted in favor of ending the meeting, and it adjourned at 12:39 PM CST.

Scottie York, Recorder

APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL ON: 12/12/2024