

Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes

April 20-21, 2023

Thursday April 20, 2023

Attendees: Tianna Faulkner, Maria Pinkelton, Charlie Miller, D'Arcy Robb, Starr Bruner, Lisa Eaves, Felicia Dillon, Tonya Fair, Isabel Knofczynski, Aaron Quick, Eric Foss, Kim Person, Nick Perry, ASL Interpreter Kirk Neuroth, ASL Interpreter Veronique Graves, ASL Interpreter Donna Flanders, Lori Campbell, Rena Harris, Evan Nodvin, Christina Palacios, Wesley Ford, Sharia Stripling, Debbie Hibben, Jeff Allen, Patrick Bielecki, Elana Meyers Taylor, Mark Crenshaw, Brian Dowd, Nandi Isaac, Nalini Isaac, Lisa Newbern, Naomi Williams, Devika Rao

Nick reads GCDD mission statement and reads another statement formulated by Maria Pinkelton. Nick gives welcome, then Kim Person does Roll Call of Council Members.

Nick Perry shares July Council Meeting dates, July 13-14, 2023, and shares that the Spring Edition of Making A Difference Magazine is available to view online on the GCDD website.

Nick Perry gives an overview of the council meeting agenda.

D'Arcy Robb gives an update of GCDD's Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with PowerPoint presentation. The GCDD CAP is specific to four areas: Council Membership, Staff, Diversity and Inclusion, and Grants.

Nick Perry notes that most of the CAP areas should be ongoing and talks about changes at GCDD with new executive director, the current CAP, and proposes that Lisa Newbern and Nick Perry switch roles for the duration of the term. Lisa Newbern will be the Chair of the Council and Nick Perry will be the Vice Chair of the Council. The proposal was recommended by the executive committee and will be voted on by Council Members at Friday's meeting (separate from the consent agenda). So far, the term is four years and is currently two and a half years into the term. Mark Crenshaw shares why he supports the transition. Nick Perry shares that if transition is not approved during the vote, Nick Perry would step down as Council Chair and Lisa Newbern would be the new Council Chair and the Vice Chair role would be vacant. If Lisa cannot fill Chair role, there would be a vote to select someone who can run the council meetings. Rena Harris, Lisa Newbern, and Lori Campbell also made comments about the changes. Lisa led the search committee that selected D'Arcy Robb as GCDD's new executive director.

Nick Perry gives a presentation on council business beginning with membership updates, looking to fill Rena Harris's previous member seat. Baps Hall resigned from DHS, so her seat is also open to fill. Then Nick Perry speaks about commitment to committee meetings. There are two positions that GCDD is currently hiring for: Deputy Director and Public Policy and Research and Development Director. Nick Perry speaks about the upcoming council member opportunities for council members to participate in from April through July 2023. The next

council meeting in July will be virtual. The October council meeting will be in person in a location in Atlanta. Dates are to be determined.

Nick Perry speaks on the Policy and Procedures manual and reads a particular section from the manual. D'Arcy Robb said questions have come up about the designation and full voting rights and addresses those questions. Nick Perry opens the floor for attendees to ask questions then goes over the attendance policy. Mark Crenshaw volunteered to read it. Nick Perry answers questions about the council's attendance policy.

There is a morning Break. The meeting resumes at 10:50am.

The Public Policy presentation is given by Charlie Miller and GCDD staff about an update of what happened during the 2023 Legislative Session. Charlie spoke then Aaron Quick spoke on GCDD's asks during session, Tianna Faulkner spoke on GCDD's media placements and growth of media attention during session, Isabel Knofczynski spoke on legislative awareness and went in more detail about GCDD's asks during session and she also spoke on the Capital Canary that GCDD used during session. D'Arcy Robb then presented to speak in even further detail about waivers and wages. Starr speaks about Inclusive Post Secondary Education (IPSE). Charlie Miller speaks on Advocacy Day three which focused on employment. Charlie Miller also talks about ACUPPI and opens the floor up for questions.

The meeting attendees break for lunch. The meeting will resume at 1:10pm.

The council meeting resumes. Nick Perry has D'Arcy Robb explain and talk about the activity exercise. Council members and staff will go into break out rooms. The council members will lead the discussion. Assigned GCDD staff will take notes during the meeting. The purpose of the activity exercise according to D'Arcy Robb is for participants to go from the personal to systemic. Meeting attendees will share personal issues and how they addressed them and explain any results. There will be an afternoon break after the activity exercise.

There was a break at 2:15pm.

The Council meeting continued with updates from GCDD staff to do an overview of program projects. Charlie spoke about the DSP Innovation Fund and Georgia Options and Stronger Together-HCBS Coalition. Maria Pinkelton talks about the Georgia Technology White Paper project. Starr Bruner spoke about her contracts Advancing Employment and Supporting Coalition-Building to Phase out 14(c). Tianna Faulkner spoke about the Public Health Workforce grant.

D'Arcy Robb does a brief presentation about the GCDD Programmatic Dashboard, which is used to inform council members of project progress each quarter. D'Arcy Robb opens the floor for questions about the Programmatic Dashboard and shared that there were a couple of edits to the document. Conference Funds and Dottie Adams Scholarship Funds had edits because they were on hold during the pandemic.

Nick Perry introduces Devika Rao from 23 East Group. She will give a presentation on their work now that they are back with GCDD.

Devika Rao gives a presentation about 23 East Group, re-engaging with GCDD and their current work with GCDD. The attendees share positive feedback about Devika Rao's presentation.

Nick ends meeting for the day. The meeting will reconvene at 9:00 am Friday, April 21, 2023.

Friday, April 21, 2023

Attendees: Tianna Faulkner, Rena Harris, Kim Person, ASL Interpreter Veronique Graves, ASL Interpreter Donna Flanders, Nandi Isaac, Charlie Miller, Maria Pinkelton, D'Arcy Robb, Eric Foss, Christina Palacios, Isabel Knofczynski, Jeff Allen, Nick Perry, Felicia Dillon, Tonya Fair, Teresa Heard, Debbie Hibben, Lisa Newbern, Lisa Eaves, Starr Bruner, Sharia Stripling, Mark Crenshaw, Brian Dowd, Evan Nodvin, Sharifa Peart, Wesley Ford, Lori Campbell, Ann Price, Jenn Ballentine, Aaron Quick, Dorothy Harris

Nick Perry begins the meeting. Isabel Knofczynski gives update about President Biden signing an executive order about a lengthy bill regarding care to increase high quality care and to support care givers. This care includes disability care. Another focus is improving job quality for care givers (retirement, pay, benefits). Isabel opens the floor for comments.

Nick Perry goes over the day's agenda. There will be a vote for the Council Chair and Vice Chair to switch roles for the remainder of the term. Council members vote for the transition. The motion passes. Eleven votes were counted. There is another vote on the consent agenda. January minutes, budget reports and the program reports are the items being voted on. Nick Perry gives a motion to adopt the consent agenda. The vote is taken and counted. The motion passes. Twelve votes were counted.

Agency Updates begin.

Lori Campbell with DBHDD said they are working on rate study and concluded that. The agency received a lot of public comment and they are acting on those comments. She appreciated D'Arcy Robb's presentation about action steps regarding wages. They are looking at how they can continue to support the provider community and provide services that people need. The workforce issue is a priority, and a workforce work group has been meeting over a year on how to professionalize the DSP position and field and has progressed. Three tracks that they are evaluating. The agency is looking at how they can financially support a career ladder. They will be submitting the presentation for rate study and response to public feedback as a package within the next couple of weeks. She spoke on Appendix K and the expiration of Appendix K. People are concerned about what DBHDD is calling "The Cliff." The goal is going to flatten The Cliff. They are unable to use federal dollars and have to use state dollars. She opened the floor for questions. The goal is to get a better/livable wage for DSPs. Another challenge is to recruit people to work in the DSP industry. Currently there is a limited pool of DSPs. They have talked

about connecting with technical schools and high schools to recruit people for the industry. A virtual provider meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023. There are trainings every month.

Brian Dowd with DCH shares his update. He says the new options waiver has not been renewed yet. There are 30 questions from CMS that have not been answered yet. There are two extensions to the waivers while working through the renewal. There is a 90-day extension to CMS. They have until November 2023 before Appendix K terminates. The COMP waiver has been renewed for another 5-year cycle. CMS waived a 15-day meeting about COMP waivers. They are hoping to get waivers approved within the next couple of weeks. They are ending continuous enrollment provisions that were placed during the public health emergency. No one was terminated from Medicaid for three years. Medicaid processing for renewing individuals has begun. They will be done in 12 segments. 2.7 million people on Medicaid in Georgia. 27000 renewals went out. 7000 people's Medicaid was renewed. He opens the floor for questions and answers questions. There is a call center line and field reps from the Division of Family and Children Services if they are having Gateway issues.

Jeff Allen with GVRA gives update. IPSE counselor has been onboarded. There will be one singular point of contact for all IPSE programs. GVRA has extended practices and outreach to different colleges to get people onboard. There will be RSA monitoring during session. It happens every three years. He opens the floor for questions.

Sharifa Peart with DPH said she does not have any updates, but they will be recruiting youth leaders who will be compensated this summer to support their work.

No DOE representative was present at the meeting and no DHS representative was present at the meeting and no IHDD representative was present at the meeting.

Mark Crenshaw with CLD gives update. They have made commitments to graduate students at GSU and Morehouse School of Medicine. They are looking to recruit individuals for the LEND program. Two students from IDEAL program will graduate this year and participate in the graduation ceremony. Looking to recruit 12 new students for the fall. Mark Crenshaw has invited individuals to join the Community Advisory Council meeting. CLD is in the midst of a leadership transition and are reviewing applications and the job announcement has been posted. He opens the floor for questions.

Rena Harris gives the GAO update. There is an uptech in nursing facility admission of children with developmental disabilities. Working with the National Center for Youth Voice Youth Choice. There are 44 youth working in 11 states to promote change about guardianship. GAO was approved by Caresource with funding with 6 more youth ambassadors.

This is the time of the meeting to go into Committee Meetings. There will be a 15-minute break after the committee meetings. Then the general meeting will convene at 11:15 am with Committee report outs.

State Plan Committee give updates. Brian Dowd gives report. All the members of the committee are going to get a copy of the state plan to have it and to be familiar with it. They met with independent evaluators who are putting together the evaluation work group. The current state plan is a five-year plan. They are currently in year two. Independent evaluators Ann Price and Jenn Ballentine broke down the evaluation process for the committee. They also have a workgroup that they are working on that includes GCDD staff, GCDD grantees, and self-advocates.

The ACUPPI Committee gives update. Jeff Allen said the group gave an update of what happened during the 2023 legislative session. Isabel took notes. The group talked about the IPSE funding and talked about what will happen during the summer regarding advocacy.

The DEI Committee gives an update. Mark Crenshaw gives a recap of their meeting. The committee elected the co-chairs – Mark Crenshaw and Dorothy Harris. There is a focus on NACDD diversity equity and inclusion measures and initiatives and sharing that with GCDD to implement. They also spoke about translating council information into plain language so that everyone can be engaged in the conversations. He talked about Maria Pinkelton presenting information about Georgia related to diversity language and language access.

The October Council meeting will be potentially held at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta. Training for the DEI Committee will take place and there may be training for GCDD staff.

Now is the segment of the meeting for public comment. Eric Foss is the timekeeper. Five minutes have been allotted for individuals to speak. Nick Perry said Council members will not respond to public comment at this time but will take note and incorporate it in the Council's work. One person made a comment in the chat.

Time for closing shoutouts facilitated by Lisa Eaves. Everyone gives a shoutout to someone or for something great that has happened over the quarter.

That concludes the meeting, and the meeting is adjourned by Nick Perry.