

GCDD Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes January 12-13, 2023

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Attendees: Jeff Allen, ASL Interpreters Mandy B and Patty G, Rebecca Brightwell, Starr Bruner, Lorie Campbell, Mark Crenshaw, Felicia Dillon, Brian Dowd, Lisa Eaves, Tianna Faulkner, Wesley Ford, Eric Foss, Babs Hall, Dorothy Harris, Rena Harris, Deborah Hibben, Kimberly Hudson, Nanditha Isaac, Isabel Knofczynski, Dana Lloyd, Wina Low, Alyssa Miller, Charlie Miller, Lisa Newbern, Evan Nodvin, Kim Person, Maria Pinkelton, Aaron Quick, Devika Rao, D'Arcy Robb, Bonnie Seery, Zolinda Stoneman, Sharia Stripling, Elana Taylor, Hilary Vece and Brad, a community member

Call to Order/Welcome

GCDD Council Vice Chair Lisa Newbern

Lisa Newbern began the meeting with a GCDD statement about gathering places and a moment of silence for Megan Frix, a Forsyth County, Georgia woman with special needs who was allegedly killed by her father, who then died by suicide.

Introductions of Attendees and Announcements

Lisa Newbern gave an overview of the meeting agenda and noted the next Council meeting will take place in April and the fall meeting will be hybrid/in-person. More details to come. Making a Difference Magazine was published today.

Evan Nodvin made an announcement about a show/production he is in at Habima Theater that will take place in the spring.

D'Arcy Robb asked meeting attendees to email her if they are interested in being in on the conversation about Megan Frix and her father, and how this incident speaks to the need for more supports and services for individuals, families and caregivers of people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

D'Arcy also made two announcements: 1: An opportunity to be on committee to talk about DSP career paths; and 2: The Rate study meeting that took place January 10 with DBHDD. Public comment is welcomed through January 20.

Roles

D'Arcy gave a presentation about the roles of GCDD Council members, executive director, staff, contributors, support people and the public. There was an interactive activity. Maria Pinkelton shared slides about role clarification. Some information in the presentation came from Sheryl Matney of ITACC. Presentation topics included Council members vs. Council staff, Governance vs. Management, and Primary Duties of GCDD Council members, staff and the executive director.

Kim Person administered an interactive activity based on D’Arcy’s presentation during the meeting. Kim asked a question/put it in the group chat, and meeting attendees responded in the chat. This activity was to help everyone better understand the roles D’Arcy talked about in her presentation.

Corrective Action Plan and HR Documents

D’Arcy gave another presentation about GCDD’s Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and HR documents. The CAP plan overview addressed where GCDD was not in compliance and the results of the quality review system tier 3 from 2021. Sarah Perez met with D’Arcy and Nick Perry, and gave a good review of the progress GCDD is making. GCDD is working to complete more CAP items in 2023. These focus on Council members, staff and diversity and inclusion. There are line items that are “satisfied,” other items are labeled as “work ongoing.”

Nandi Isaac had a comment about roles for self-advocates in response to D’Arcy’s presentation on roles. Nandi wants self-advocates to be added to GCDD roles in the future.

Dana Lloyd made a comment about contracting with people to help ensure presentations use plain language. Babs Hall also made a comment about plain language resources. D’Arcy supported this idea and said Maria Pinkelton is the GCDD staff contact, and Mark Crenshaw is the Council member contact.

D’Arcy announced Kim’s role at GCDD has been enhanced to include Office Manager and Membership Coordinator responsibilities. Kim’s new role will better connect staff with Council members. D’Arcy also announced Alyssa Lee is leaving GCDD, and Isabel Knofczynski will fill in for Alyssa until the new research and development director is hired. Recruitment for this position will begin in March/April after the legislative session has ended.

Overview of Committees

Lisa Newbern gave an overview of the committees as part of encouraging Council members to think about which committee they want to join. She noted serving on committees is a great way for members and staff to know in more depth what the Council is doing.

Alyssa began individual committee discussion by talking about the Advisory Committee on Public Policy Issues (ACUPPI). This committee is called on to advise on policy issues. Attendees were given opportunity to ask questions about ACUPPI.

Maria Pinkelton and Kim Person gave an update on the DEI Committee. Maria said this committee is supported by Sheryl Matney and Sherie Moon at ITACC.

Lisa Eaves gave an overview of the State Plan Committee, which she leads with D’Arcy. This committee covers three areas: 1) planning, 2) implementation and monitoring, and 3) evaluation.

Lisa Newbern gave the opportunity for Council members to share their committee interests (1st and 2nd preferences). Attendees will be contacted on the evening of January 12 with their assignments, and committees will meet January 13 during the Council meeting.

Managed Care and Medicaid

D’Arcy spoke about Managed Care under Medicaid recommendations. Lisa Mills, PhD, was a guest speaker and gave a presentation about her history and experience in managed care. There was a question-and-answer portion after the presentation during which Dr. Mills answered attendees’ questions. Dr. Mills will be doing a community meeting in February where people in the developmental disability community can get more information about managed care.

Program Updates

Following a lunch break, the Public Policy and IPSE staff members (Alyssa, Charlie Miller, Aaron Quick and Starr Bruner) gave an update about the 2023 legislative session. They went over information about the upcoming session and what to expect, including crossover days, when session began and ends, the new annual budget and Governor Kemp’s priorities, as well as Advocacy Days, Public Policy for the People calls and other updates. There was a question-and-answer portion after the presentation.

The Programmatic Team gave presentations and updates of the programmatic dashboard, which includes: Systems Change, Self-Advocacy, Diversity and Equity, and Additional Federal Grant.

Dorothy Harris asked about funding to attend the People First conference. D’Arcy said she would speak to Dorothy offline to discuss the funding process and whether or not there is funding.

Due to time constraints, the programmatic team will continue its presentations during the Council meeting on January 13 beginning with Tianna Faulkner and Maria Pinkelton’s presentation.

Project Search

Bonnie Seery gave a Project Search presentation, including showing a video and sharing national outcome data and new developments on wages and benefits. There are 25 active sites in Georgia, three new adult sites in the planning stage and four in hiatus. Bonnie is happy to share Project SEARCH has returned to in-person events and is growing and providing training and helping the IDD community secure employment. The country of Italy wants to start its own Project Search because community leaders are impressed with the program. In Bonnie’s presentation, she included a slide that showed how to get started. Several counties throughout the state of Georgia are working to start this program. The Project SEARCH presentation

document is available to meeting attendees. Bonnie says she has a meeting with Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport to do a presentation about Project SEARCH.

Following Bonnie's presentation, the Council voted to adjourn due to severe weather conditions in Metro Atlanta.

Friday, January 13, 2023

Attendees: Jeff Allen, ASL Interpreters D'Lisa R and Mandy B, Starr Bruner, Lorie Campbell, Mark Crenshaw, Felicia Dillon, Brian Dowd, Lisa Eaves, Tianna Faulkner, Eric Foss, Babs Hall, Dorothy Harris, Rena Harris, Deborah Hibben, Nanditha Isaac, Dana Lloyd, Alyssa Miller, Charlie Miller, Lisa Newbern, Evan Nodvin, Kim Person, Maria Pinkelton, Aaron Quick, D'Arcy Robb, Zolinda Stoneman and Elana Taylor

Call to Order

Lisa Newbern opened the January 13 meeting by welcoming everyone, reading the GCDD gathering statement, clarified rules about adjourning after day 1 of a multiple-day meeting and previewed the day's agenda.

Attendees voted on the Consent Agenda – budget report, October meeting minutes and program report. Nandi motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, and Evan seconded; the motion passed.

D'Arcy let the attendees know the ASL/CART interpreters would attend only during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Kim set up break out rooms to facilitate the committee meetings. Following the breakouts, each committee provided a report, including selection of/discussions about committee chairs.

ACUPPI: Jeff Allen is the chair, and Zo Stoneman is the co-chair.

DEI: Mark Crenshaw said the DEI chair was not elected because not all committee members were present. The DEI committee spoke about data collection, partnering with NACDD and challenges of diversity in the state and on the Council, as well as language access challenges. Dana Lloyd shared a comment about focusing on DEI and the disability experience and language access.

State Plan: Rena Harris is the chair, and Evan Nodvin is the co-chair. The committee members spoke about the role of the committee, the five-year plan and the NOFA process.

Following the committee reports, GCDD staff finished their program reports.

State Agency Updates

There were State Agency updates by Jeff Allen, Brian Dowd, Lori Campbell, Dana Lloyd, Zo Stoneman and Mark Crenshaw.

GVRA: Jeff Allen said the online referral platform is live on the agency's website. He also spoke about a national administration grant that is in the works and how GVRA is preparing for the legislative session. GVRA is hiring an IPSE-dedicated VR counselor.

DCH: Brian Dowd discussed staffing changes at the Department of Community Health, including bringing on Senator Burke. He also spoke about amending the COMP waiver to make permanent the 7% rate increase that was instituted as a result of an Appendix K submission at the start of the Public Health Emergency. It will go to the DCH Board in February, and the Board will vote on it at the April meeting. The COMP waiver was renewed; the NOW waiver has not been renewed yet but received a 90-day extension. CMS has 25 questions about the NOW waiver program. The Public Health Emergency has been extended through April 11. Brian also spoke about Appendix K provisions, Electronic Visit Verification and the Medicaid review process.

DBHDD: Lori Campbell said the department has a new commissioner, Kevin Tanner, who replaced Judy Fitzgerald. Tanner is meeting with a variety of people regarding issues, challenges and current plans. A lot of information sharing and reporting is happening. DBHDD is presenting the rate study and preliminary results to a variety of audiences, and is taking public comment. There will be funding for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) from the federal government. DBHDD will also be participating in the workforce development group to address the workforce shortage of DSPs. The goal is to create a sustainable workforce and a career ladder. DBHDD is also focusing on recruitment and retention.

GAO: Dana Lloyd said Rena Harris joined GAO as the Director of the Developmental Disabilities Program (Dana's former position), and Dana has a new role as Director of Community Outreach and Engagement. GAO is hiring for an additional DD Advocate position. GAO is also monitoring a Fulton County jail case regarding conditions of the jail and mental health treatment. Also continuing to monitor GNETs. GAO participated in a legislative panel with Voices for Georgia's Children, another advocacy agency. She also spoke about an upcoming Keystone training.

IHDD: Zo Stoneman shared Destination Dawgs gave out its first scholarship as a result of an event in Atlanta last year. Four Destination Dawgs students in the IPSE program at UGA graduate this spring. IHDD is planning a symposium that will take place this fall. Institute staff is also working on a Lois Curtis archive in the UGA library. Jillian Graybill is working on a book.

CLD: Mark Crenshaw said there are 16 students in the Center for Leadership in Disability's IDEAL program this semester. The GaLEND program has 27 trainees and fellows from various backgrounds. Application for the 2023-24 program will be available soon. CLD has formed relationships with CHOA and UGA for ideology students, and is hosting workshops for parents of children ages 3 to 5.

Public Comments

There were no public comments, so the meeting transitioned to attendee shout-outs.

Additional Agency Update

DAS: Babs Hall with the Division of Aging services said there will be increased collaboration across state agencies, including collaboration with the Department of Community Health (DCH). The partnership with DBHDD continues. In calendar year 2023, DAS is focusing on expanding collaboration with internal and external partners statewide. CMS has extended Money Follows the Person (MFP) through 09/2027. This continues DASs ongoing formal partnership with DCH to provide oversight for MFP transitions for individuals in the state of Georgia. DAS is collaborating with Georgia Department of Public Health around addressing the needs of older adults with long-term HIV and their caregivers. DAS is expanding the existing collaboration with DBHDD around addressing the needs of individuals with IDD who are also aging (as well as their families) in addition to looking at the needs of older adults who are care partners for individuals with IDD. DAS is also investing a full-time staff person in looking at the aging and disability network's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

State Budget

Alyssa gave a report on the newly released state budget. She said there were a lot of funds from the state budget that are going to tax rebates. There is also money going toward homeowner tax credits, and a lot of money is also going into education (\$2,000 salary raises for teachers, security grants for schools, etc.). No change in the GCDD budget.

Lisa Newbern asked for a motion to end the Council meeting. Nandi motioned, and Evan second. All were in favor of adjourning.