

Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities July 2023 Meeting Minutes

July 13-14, 2023

Thursday, July 13, 2023

Attendees: Tianna Faulkner, Evan Nodvin, Maria Pinkelton, Wesley Ford, D'Arcy Robb, Charlie Miller, Nandi Isaac, Mandy Bracken-Interpreter, Jinah-Interpreter, Lisa Eaves, Felicia Dillon, Kim Person, Isabel Knofczynski, Deborah Hibben, Sharia Stripling, Rena Harris, Tonya Fair, Dorothy Harris, Brian Dowd, Starr Bruner, Eric Foss, Jeff Allen, Lisa Newbern, Zolinda Stoneman, Lori Campbell, Mark Crenshaw, Melissa Barwick, Devika Rao, Clementine Rivers, Nalina, Elana Meyers Taylor, David Taylor, Mark Friedman, Naomi Williams, one unidentified attendee who called in

Meeting begins with welcome from Lisa Newbern reading the welcome place statement. Kim Person begins introductions where GCDD staff, Council members, and attendees introduce themselves.

Lisa Newbern has announcements for the group. The next Council meeting October will be in person in Atlanta. The latest issue of Making a Difference Magazine was published today. Lisa goes over the meetings' agenda for the next two days.

Kim Person and D'Arcy Robb speak about Council business. Kim Person shares that GCDD has moved from 2 Peachtree to the Twin Towers at Sloppy Floyd. She provides meeting attendees with GCDD's new business address and opens the floor for questions. D'Arcy Robb shares with attendees that GCDD will maintain a hybrid working model and that the staff will not be on site fulltime and that the GCDD phone number is the same. D'Arcy Robb begins power point presentation regarding more Council business beginning with staff roles and position updates. D'Arcy Robb also talks about membership updates and next steps, including a membership drive. D'Arcy Robb then gives an update about the conflict-of-interest policy and the next council meeting will be in person in Atlanta in October.

Lisa Newbern begins discussion about membership and recruiting new members and answers questions about D'Arcy Robb's presentation. The goal is to recruit agencies that can help GCDD to fulfill its strategic plan. Suggestions should be sent to D'Arcy Robb and Lisa Newbern. The executive committee will discuss the suggestions at its August meeting and develop the membership application and an update will be given at the October council meeting. The membership committee will recruit citizen members.

Kim Person gives a power point presentation to call on volunteers and recruit new members for GCDD's ad-hoc committee. She then opens the floor for questions. Volunteers who joined the committee are Elana Meyers Taylor, Mark Crenshaw, Rena Harris, Dorothy Harris, Nandi Isaac, Evan Nodvin, Wesley Ford. D'Arcy said she and one or two other staff will also volunteer on the committee.

Morning Break

Lisa Newbern welcomes everyone back. D'Arcy Robb and Lisa Eaves will give a budget update. Before the presentation, D'Arcy Robb shared about current agency members and spoke about the rotation of citizen members. Kim Person will send letters individually to citizen members. There will be two budget presentations. The budget meeting takes place in July. D'Arcy Robb gives first budget presentation about the federal budget. D'Arcy Robb opens floor for questions and comments. Lisa Eaves gives presentation about GCDD's Fiscal 2024 budget and opens floor for questions and comments. Lisa Eaves' presentation included two scenarios of the budget for fiscal year 2024. D'Arcy Robb elaborates on Lisa Eaves presentation to talk about best case and worst-case scenarios if GCDD must make budget cuts. She also talked about raises that GCDD staff got. D'Arcy shares that the GCDD Storytelling Project will be cut in the worst-case scenario. D'Arcy Robb opens the floor for questions and comments. Wesley Ford asked about reducing Advocacy Days budget and Nandi Isaac asked about the Dottie Adams funding saying there is less money for self-advocates to attend events. Lori Campbell and Rena Harris also commented.

Lunch Break

Lisa Newbern welcomes everyone back from the lunch break. Lisa Newbern spoke about travel budgets, including funding about the Dottie Adams fund, for members and non-members. There will be more time spent tomorrow morning to talk about the budget if anyone has any more questions.

Isabel Knofczynski gives an update about what is going on with the rate study and what GCDD is doing about it and spoke about any advocacy GCDD is doing around it. She opens the floor for questions and comments before the rate study activity. Brian Dowd had a comment and went into detail about the \$10.63 rate for direct support professionals. Lori Campbell also had comments. Rena Harris also agreed with Brian Dowd and also had a comment about the DSP rates.

Before D'Arcy Robb introduced the rate study activity, she went over the waivers and wages one pager (that was used during Advocacy Days) to make an additional comment and perspective about the rate study. She also briefly went over the Mad Libs Advocacy document that will be used during the activity before having everyone go into breakout sessions to begin the activity. After the activity, D'Arcy Robb allowed attendees to share comments from their activity discussions.

Afternoon Break

This part of the meeting, there will be presentations about GCDD projects and IPSE. Mark Friedman presented about the Tech White Papers and how people, DSP's, self-advocates can use technology. Self-advocates that Mark Friedman has connected with throughout the project, including Sandra Wilcox. Ruthie-Marie Beckwith, and David Taylor, spoke about their personal experiences with technology. Mark Friedman opens the floor for questions and comments.

Naomi Williams gives an update and overview about the Public Health Workforce grant, including deliverables around emergency preparedness planning as a result of the Public Health Emergency (PHE). She is hosting listening sessions throughout the state of Georgia and partnering with other agencies who have similar missions. She spoke about the grants successes and challenges. Naomi Williams opens the floor for questions and comments.

Starr Bruner gives an update about the Inclusive Post Secondary Education (IPSE) grants and school programs. Starr opens the floor for questions and responds. Lisa Eaves shares the difference between grant money for IPSE students, which is federally funded and funds from GCDD that is given to the IPSE schools.

Devika Rao from 23 East Group does a presentation about a recent communication survey (and results) they launched for GCDD at the April meeting as a part of their growth plan for communications for GCDD. The survey was launched in May and ran for three to four weeks to find out what information is important to GCDD's audiences. Devika Rao opens the floor for questions and comments and responds. Devika Rao provides the link in the meeting chat to give council members an opportunity to complete the survey by Monday, July 17, 2023.

D'Arcy Robb thanks all of the GCDD project presenters. She pointed out that attendees received a copy of the Programmatic Dashboard. She shared the document with the attendees and welcomed feedback and said the document is more accessible and user friendly. She also opened the floor one more time for questions and comments about any of the project spotlights and presentations.

Lisa Newbern thanks all the day's presenters and opens the floor for questions and comments. She talked about the agenda for Friday's meeting. She asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nandi and Dorothy and Evan motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting is adjourned.

Friday, July 14, 2023

Attendees: Tianna Faulkner, Mandy Bracken-Interpreter, Dorothy Harris, Evan Nodvin, Deborah Hibben, Kim Person, Nandi Isaac, Lisa Newbern, Starr Bruner, Jinah-Interpreter, Eric Foss, D'Arcy Robb, Joel Truss, Maria Pinkelton, Charlie Miller, Felicia Dillon, Rena Harris, Brian Dowd, Sharia Stripling, Lisa Eaves, Mark Crenshaw, Tonya Fair, Lori Campbell, Isabel Knofczynski, Zolinda Stoneman, Nick Perry, Wesley Ford, Jeff Allen, Teresa Heard, Clementine Rivers, Ann Price, Jenn Ballentine, unidentified caller

Lisa Newbern begins meeting with introduction and goes over the day's agenda. Discussion and voting on the documents are the first over of business. Lisa Newbern asked if anyone had any comments about the April meeting minutes, the Program Dashboard, and the budgets (flat budget, budget with potential 9% cut). Mark Crenshaw had a question/comments about cutting the Dottie Adams fund and conference funds. Lisa Newbern opens the floor for staff (Lisa Eaves and D'Arcy Robb) to discuss Mark Crenshaw's concerns. D'Arcy Robb addresses the group about

the concerns about cutting the Dottie Adams and conference funds. D'Arcy Robb said council members will have the opportunity to vote on the flat budget and potential 9% cut budget. Mark Crenshaw also had a comment about cuts being made to the Storytelling Project. There was a brief discussion about cutting the Dottie Adams Fund, the Storytelling Project, and traveling funds. Lisa Eaves addressed the group about the history of about what is being done about the Dottie Adams Fund. Lisa Newbern opens the floor to pause to really look at why the Dottie Adams Fund began and is interested in creating a committee to review the fund to ensure that it is effective. There is a template in place so when the budget information is given from the federal government about the budget cuts, the committee will have everything they need to move forward regarding the Dottie Adams Fund.

It is time to vote for the Consent agenda, the April meeting minutes, and Programmatic Dashboard. Motion by Dorothy Harris and seconded by Rena Harris. Members vote. Consent agenda passes.

Lisa Newbern gives Nandi Isaac an opportunity to comment and share concerns about budget/Dottie Adams Fund. It is time to vote on the flat budget. A motion was made by Dorothy Harris. Nandy Isaac seconded the motion. Members vote and the flat budget passes. Vote on 9% budget cut. Dorothy Harris makes a motion. Evan Nodvin seconded the motion. Members vote and 9% budget cut passes.

Lisa Newbern recruited volunteers for the Dottie Adams Fund Committee. Debbie Hibben, Jeff Allen, Dorothy Harris, Nandi Isaac, Wesley Ford. Committee Members will receive follow-up and next steps instructions about being on the committee.

Lisa Newbern opens the floor for state agency representatives who are present to give their updates.

Brian Dowd with DCH said DCH is working with the office of planning and budget and with DBHDD about 10% rate increase regarding Appendix K and rate increase that was finalized. They are trying to find a way to secure the 10% rate increase that is left from Appendix K. This is the 10% rate increase that was given for certain services under Appendix K. They are looking for support from the Governor's office to do increases for that 10% by November. The goal is to avoid any reductions in the rates. Brian Dowd said DCH is seeking both, to use ARPA and get it in waiver. Legislative funding is required regarding the rate study which will begin next session. Currently, there is a Medicaid budget shortfall this year and DCH will need to ask for additional funding in amended budget. Both waivers have been renewed for another five-year cycle. The waivers automatically renew every five years (NOW and COMP waivers). Commissioner Noggle of DCH is resigning at the end of the month to be the executive director for the Georgia Healthcare Association. Russell Carlson who works at DCH is new Executive Director. Grant Thomas from Governor's Office of Healthcare Strategy also joining DCH. Medicaid Redeterminations are going on and there is a New Pathways for Coverage project that began July 1, 2023. The project is a partial expansion of Medicaid for people working part-time or

doing community activities. Six thousand people have enrolled, and 14 applications have been reviewed so far. DCH also has projects going on about waivers, re-procurement of CMO's, and re-procurement of billing system for Medicaid. It is important for people to respond to DCH's communications during this process. The new application process began July 1, 2023. DCH moved to the 19th floor of the East Tower at Sloppy Floyd. Brian Dowd opens the floor for questions and comments and responds.

Lori Campbell with DBHDD speaks. Grateful Brian Dowd spoke about rate study which DBHDD is also working on, as it is a huge priority. They have completed transition from 2 Peachtree to West Tower at Sloppy Floyd building. They are on the 5th, 6th, and 14th floors. The conference room is on the 5th floor. Currently working a hybrid model. DBHDD is working on a development to build a Crisis and Stabilization and Diagnostic Center in Macon, Ga. This is a priority of Commissioner Tanner. The goal is to assess and support individuals with extremely complex healthcare needs and to eventually include outpatient services. Talking with Mercer University about project. They have not broken ground yet, but they are planning and planning is expanding. There was a question about the intended maximum length of stay and interdisciplinary team approach. They are working on warm handoffs and making sure they have seamless services for youth transitioning to adulthood and are working with several providers to accomplish this. DBHDD has two multi stakeholder task groups, one about provider enrollment, which they are trying to streamline and expedite. The other task group is an IDD work group, similar to what was proposed during legislation, to get recommendations about their services. Lori Campbell answers questions from the group.

Jeff Allen with GVRA speaks. They received a disability rehabilitation fund grant (Subminimum Wage to Competitive Integrated Employment grant) from federal partners. Had a kickoff celebration for it. Starr Bruner of GCDD is a part of this group on employment. Getting individuals out of subminimum wage employment is the focus. They are partnering with IHDD (Doug Crandell and his team) as well. They finally got a dedicated IPSE counselor, and he has met with every IPSE school as a referral source for students. Another big initiative is getting in the door getting individuals in services at a more rapid rate. They are also at Sloppy Floyd on the 13th Floor. He opens the floor for questions.

Zolinda Stoneman with IHDD shares updates. October 3rd the Disability History Symposium will take place. This is an annual event. The last event was held in 2019. It is the 6th annual symposium. The focus is on the road to the ADA, celebrating Section 504. Joe Shapiro from NPR and Dom Kelley from New Disabled South are the other keynote speakers for the event. Symposium may be hybrid. Representative from Smithsonian to help with planning. Russell Library in Athens, Ga has the biggest in Georgia history disability archive. GCDD archives are also in the library. The archives are there to preserve the disability movement work in Georgia. Gillian Grable is working on a book that was just released in print which relates to history archives, "Until We Meet Again," the life of Jennie Raffield Williams. Williams was a grandmother who lived for over 50 years at Central State Hospital, from 1930's till 1990's. The

book uses her letters. Summer Leadership Institute have a program for IPSE students. There are five new Destination Dawgs that will start school in the fall. Several students are going through a sorority rush. Staff updates IHDD is bringing on a videographer. They also have a new grants position opening that they are interviewing for.

Mark Crenshaw with CLD gives updates. CLD faculty and staff are supporting Georgia's Early Intervention program "Babies Can't Wait" conference in early August. Evan Nodvin, GCDD Council member will speak at the event and talk about his experience. Supporting this system to be more child- and family-centric. CLD is welcoming 24 new LED fellows. Several students are entering the IDEAL program this fall. One IDEAL student will be playing in Georgia State Marching Band this fall. Opens floor for questions.

Rena Harris with GAO gives updates. GAO is continuing to monitor Parkwood, GA's private intermediate facility ICF/IDD and monitoring Gracewood, GA's public ICF/IDD. Their employment team has visited all organizations that hold a 14c status (pay subminimum wages) and have been invited back to talk more about and do trainings on how to eliminate 14c. There will be a workshop on August 3rd for parents who support young adults on journey to a good life.

The Department of Education, the Department of Public Health, and DHS/DAS were not present at meeting. No updates from these agencies were presented.

After the state agency updates, it was the time in the meeting for attendees to go into breakout sessions with their committees.

Morning Break

Three committees reported on their group discussions. Brian Dowd from the State Plan Committee gave an update. The committee met with evaluation team Ann Price and Jenn Ballentine. They presented project logic models in the meeting, including public information and advocacy. Will meet with their work group on August 11th and working with GCDD staff on how to move forward with the evaluation plan.

Jeff Allen gave update from the ACUPPI committee. They are looking at strategies to do during the summer months to interact with legislators in the off season.

Mark Crenshaw gave DEI committee update. Two agenda items they had during their conversation: GCDD's response to an executive order to collect demographic data related to gender. Waiting to hear from NACDD about guidance around it. Second, the committee discussed preparing for the October council meeting and diversity training that will take place at the meeting. Will be in communications with trainers from the National Center for Civil and Human Rights where the meeting may take place.

Public Comment session during the meeting. Maria Pinkelton to lead public comment session. Eight people registered, but no one from the public was present to comment. Public comment session is over.

Time of the meeting for shoutouts from meeting attendees. Lisa Newbern asks Kim Person to lead the shoutout section of the meeting. As a part of closing out the meeting, shoutouts are given at the meeting. Lisa Newbern asks Kim Person to kick off the shoutouts.

Lisa Newbern pauses the shoutouts because a member from the public, Vanessa Faraj, has a comment. D'Arcy let Vanessa know that public comments are not addressed in the meeting, but the executive meeting will discuss her comments in their next meeting and that she can refer to the meeting minutes of the July meeting since her questions were addressed in presentations and discussions throughout the meeting.

The closing shoutouts continue.

Lisa Newbern concludes meeting. Dorothy Harris gives motion to end the meeting. Evan Nodvin seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned