

Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities Council Meeting

- Call to Order: The meeting of the Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities was called to order by Vice Chairperson, Phylicia Davidson, at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at LCCC, TC 120 and Zoom.
- Roll Call/Members Present: Roll call was taken. - Council members present: Brittany Hankinson-McGovern, Phylicia Davidson, Callie Allred, Tehla Bates-Stayer, Lynda Baumgardner, Kim Bellamy, Amy Burns, Krystyne Ethridge, Matt Crandall for Elizabeth Forslund, Heather Glaser, Jeff Graham, Michelle Jarman, Karl Knopf, Nikita Meyer, Kathy Miller, Susan Oaks, Stephanie Olson, David Ray, Maraia Rubin, Tess Reed, Jennifer Tatro, Lucas Tronquet and Feliciana Turner
- Absent: Nicky Harper (ne) and Deana Smith (e)
- Staff present: Shannon Buller, Kayla Green and Penny Davis
- Additional Attendees: Maria Iroz, Conner Reed and Evelyn (accompanied Karl)
- Agenda: **David Ray motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Michelle Jarman seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
- Minutes: **Amy Burns motioned to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Nikita Meyer seconded the motion. The motion carried.**
- Council Mission: Brittany Hankinson- McGovern – reviewed the WGCDD mission, vision and responsibilities. A reminder was given to complete the Quick Focus form.
- Council Business: Brittany-Hankinson-McGovern – The Chairperson Report was given. The report contained updates and activities that chairpersons are involved in between formal meetings. The Leadership Team Goal was reviewed.
- Director's Report: Shannon Buller – The Director's Report was reviewed
- General Office Report
 - Council membership - Currently looking for new self-advocate and family member Council members, especially the northwest part of the state
 - Staff Trainings
 - Fiscal
 - Publications
 - Federal Reporting - Annual workplans approved, but platform for Program Performance Report has been abandoned; staff are working on putting information into a PDF format provided by ACL. This is due March 28, 2025.
 - Currently working on the Five-Year-Plan by conducting Listening Sessions.

- o Executive Meetings-meeting each month. Jen Davis is no longer with the Governor's office. Curtis Biggs has taken her place.
- o Information and Referrals
- Projects
 - o Developmental Disabilities Awareness Luncheon is March 6, 2025, at Little America. There will be some changes: mini-groups both before and after the luncheon as well as a storytelling table.
 - o Art Gala will be Friday, June 13th. Council members were invited to share their art.
 - o The Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Conference will be October 8th-10th at the Red Lion Hotel and Conference Center.
 - o WYABLE- Continue to do outreach and trainings. The number of accounts continues to grow each month.
 - o Employment Activities
- Collaborative Projects - Promoting Health project is complete.
- Bright Ideas Grants - Mind & Thought LLC is the newest grantee and will give an update tomorrow.
- Partner Groups and Meetings

Committee Reports:

Budget/Executive Leadership Committee - Phylcia Davidson – Reviewed the standard and special budget reports. Reviewed the plain language fiscal chart. The budget spending is on track.

MyChoice contracts were discussed.

Systems Advocacy Committee – Amy Burns – No motions were made. Legislative Bill Tracker was discussed as it pertains to people with developmental disabilities.

Action Plans: post-legislative guidance will be given by Council staff if there are legislative changes that affect those with developmental disabilities, for example changes in the way voting takes place.

Always looking for stories that people would like to share. For example, what impact does Medicaid make on the lives of those with developmental disabilities? There will be a story sharing booth at the luncheon in March. Stories can be sent to staff or directly to Amy.

Five-Year-Plan Committee – Callie Allred – No motions were made. This committee discussed two grants that may potentially be funded. Questions for applicants were gathered by Council staff and will be emailed to applicants for response before the next meeting. There will be a vote on these grant applications in May.

Recess:

The Chairperson, Brittany Hankinson-McGovern, recessed the general assembly meeting at 3:52 p.m until 8:30 a.m. on February 14, 2025.

Call to Order/Reconvene: The meeting of the Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities was re-called to order by Chairperson, Brittany Hankinson-McGovern, at 8:37 a.m. on Friday, February 14, 2025, at LCCC, TC 120 and Zoom.

Roll Call/Members: Roll call was taken. - Council members present: Brittany Hankinson-McGovern, Phylcia Davidson, Callie Allred, Tehla Bates-Stayer, Lynda Baumgardner, Kim Bellamy, Amy Burns, Krystyne Ethridge, Matt Crandall for Elizabeth Forslund, Heather Glaser, Jeff Graham, Michelle Jarman, Karl Knopf, Nikita Meyer, Kathy Miller, Susan Oaks, Stephanie Olson, David Ray, Maraia Rubin, Tess Reed, Jennifer Tatro, Lucas Tronquet and Feliciano Turner

Absent: Nicky Harper (ne), Kathy Miller (e) and Deana Smith (e)

Staff present: Shannon Buller, Kayla Green and Penny Davis

Additional Attendees: Carrissa (accompanied Karl)

Public Comment: No public comment occurred.

Guest Speaker: There were no guest speakers for this meeting.

Old Business: **Updates with Guardianship projects and acceptance of vote** – Shannon Buller – Last August Council members had lots of questions, especially regarding reporting. Since then, Council staff and the Council Chair had several meetings with MyChoice staff. Their goals were listed in a format similar to the Annual Work Plan for the Five-Year-Plan format. MyChoice staff confirmed that they will use this format to track and report met goals and objectives.

The Executive Group met and voted to move forward with funding the Alternatives to Guardianship project at \$50,000.00 for one year and Resource Center at \$25,000.00 for six months so that Council staff could move forward on drafting of contracts.

Discussion was had about the purpose of the projects and what they plan to do with the approved funding.

A vote of agreement was taken. There were no opposing votes.

Council Survey Updates – Brittany Hankson-McGovern – This survey is meant to create a baseline of understanding of the developmental disabilities resources that exist in the communities of the Council members and how they know/find that information. All Council members were asked to complete this survey.

Grant Report: Mind & Thought, Mental Health First Aid – Archie Pettry and Jennifer Johnson – Had first training and certification in Casper. The seventeen participants were part of the targeted demographic. Most were family members of those with developmental disabilities. There were also case managers, providers and a person with developmental disabilities in attendance.

The March training will be in Rock Springs. The Cheyenne training in May is currently overfull with 89 registrations. To register, go to the Mind & Thought website.

The training is 7.5 hours long. Participants receive an inclusive manual with a section tailored to those with developmental disabilities. They also receive a processing guide. There is a PowerPoint and group activities. The course is an action plan on how to identify a crisis and provide emergency intervention until you can get the individual having a mental health crisis professional care.

New Business:

Nomination Process for WGCDD May Elections – Shannon Buller – Nomination forms were explained and distributed to Council members. Shannon will use the answers on forms to build the ballot. If nominated, Shannon will send those members a form explaining why they want to serve. The deadline for nomination forms is March 14th.

Mandatory training in July for leadership in July was discussed.

Minor verbiage changes – Shannon Buller – Discussion was held on why verbiage changes need to be made to documents, websites, etc, due to Federal Administrative changes. The request is that the Council staff be allowed to make these changes without needing to request permission from the Council members.

Discussion was had about how members can contact federal representatives as private citizens if they would like to discuss changes that might impact people with developmental disabilities, but not on behalf of the Council.

How to share personal stories of impact was also discussed.

Nikita Meyer motioned to allow Council staff to make minor verbiage changes to be in line with current guidance. David Ray seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Updated Roles and Responsibilities and Governance Updates – Shannon Buller – Changes to Roles and Responsibilities were reviewed in each committee meeting. It was discussed that these updates would require changes to the Governance. Once changes are made, using track changes, it will be sent out to the Council for a 30 day review, discussion will occur and a vote will take place on these changes in May.

Five-Year-Plan Surveys – Shannon Buller – Council members were asked to complete these surveys. Discussion was had on the sections of the survey and the three different types of surveys. There is an online option as well, if members would like to complete it this way.

Agency Reports:

Wyoming Independent Living – Amy Burns – The Friendships and Dating Workshop kicked off last week. WIND has helped in facilitating. The goal is to offer this training twice a year.

The Peer Advocacy Conference is slated for August 13th-15th, in Casper. It highlights work happening in Wyoming and allows self-advocates to share their stories.

The WYDPAC is a group led by individuals with developmental disabilities. There have been efforts to celebrate businesses across the state that are accessible. They ask for stories from members of the developmental disabilities community about experiences with businesses. If interested, please contact this group through Amy. The group meets the first and third Fridays of each month.

National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) promotes the independent living movement. They have a National Conference in DC, July 21st-24th. They will have scholarships and travel stipends available. This group moves more into activism. Amy can provide more information to those who are interested or visit NCLI.org.

PIC – Krystyne Ethridge – The PIC Conference is scheduled for Saturday, August 2nd, in Casper at the Best Western Downtown Hotel. Virtual attendance is available, but there is a fee to join in-person and a lower rate for virtual. The Keynote Speaker is Karen Meyer-Cunningham, the Special Education Boss.

WDH-HCF-HCBS – Matt Crandall for Elizabeth Forslund – In 2021 ARPA was signed into law and gave HCBS 28 million dollars to be used for clients and providers. They held public forums for ideas to help build an improved infrastructure. They worked with WIND on some of these initiatives. Some of the funds were also used to increase provider rates. They are in the closeout period and have until March 31, 2025 to spend the money. Provider rate increases will be taken out of general funds until June 30, 2025. There are appropriations in the supplemental bill to provide funding to keep the rate increases. The division is compiling a rate study report by collecting information across the nation to make sure that the providers in Wyoming are being paid appropriately.

They are working on building a new Care Case Management System, where everything can be done in one system instead of several. Clients and family members will have access to this system. Discussion was had about the new system and Medicaid renewals being done using this system.

WIND – Dr. Michelle Jarman – WIND is currently pursuing inclusive post-secondary opportunities for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. An international network called Think College helps coordinate these efforts. Wyoming does not have a solid program. They received funding from another UCEDD and had their first student in the classroom this semester. There is a former special education teacher overseeing the project. They need federal funding to continue this program. If the program is funded, they would like to have 4-5 students in the fall. Discussion was had on this program.

Assistive technology funding was used to purchase big equipment, like track chairs, that can be borrowed. Call ahead if you would like to reserve.

The SOAR Conference for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, service providers is coming. The conference supports peer mentorship and advocacy. Michelle can connect Council members to the individual who is pulling the conference together if they are interested. There will be a couple of scholarships earmarked for individuals with I/DD. The conference will be in Omaha.

P&A – Stephanie Olson – Their Legal Director, Andy Lemky, is now their Director. He has held both positions since January 1, 2025.

They are currently reaching out to all of the mental health centers in all of the counties in Wyoming to let them know who P&A is and ask what services P&A can offer.

WDH - Aging – Maraia Rubin – They implemented a new database on January 6, 2025. This will increase efficiency with provider reporting of services for seniors. Submitted Older Americans Act performance report; they were the first in the nation to submit! Stats from the report: served 8,000 through home delivered or takeout meals and 15,000 through congregate meals. Through assisted transportation (catered more to those with disabilities), 670 clients were served. 1/5th of the states' older adults are served by their various programs.

Currently, they are working on their four-year state plan. They are facilitating focus groups to discuss prioritization of goals. They are looking to make improvements moving forward. The goal is to have it out for public comment by mid-March.

WDH-PH-MCHU – Feliciana Turner – Completed their needs assessments. They set their seven priorities for the next five years, 1. Lower preventable death and disease in MCH populations 2. Promote safe and supportive environments 3. Promote individual and family self-advocacy 4. Promote family thriving and resiliency 5. Promote healthy growth and development 6. Improve access to quality systems of care 7. Improve family and community engagement. They also selected five performance measures 1. Post-partum visits 2. Improve safe sleep practices and environments for infants 3. Improve child food sufficiency 4. Access to medical homes 5. Adolescent mental health treatments. Discussion was had about priorities and strategies.

Action Plans:

- Leadership and Council trainings are ongoing (whole Council training will be in August)
- Survey roll out ongoing
- Governance updates and feedback ongoing
- Nomination forms due by March 14th.

Adjournment:

**David Ray motioned for the meeting to be adjourned.
Heather Glaser seconded the motion. The motion carried.
The meeting adjourned at 11:16 am.**

Submitted by: Penny Davis, Administrative Specialist