



**Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2015**

**Members Present:** Amy Allen, Cynthia Chambers, Tonya Copeland, Rick Davis, Evan Espey, Tatum Fowler, Dawn Fry, Roger Gibbens, Serina Gilbert, Doug Hall, Lisa Johnson, Tommy Lee Kidd, Scott Lillard, Renee Lopez, William Lovell, Deborah McBride, Tecia Pryor, Debbie Riffle, Beth Ritchie, Steve Sheegog, Karen West.

**Members Absent:** Norris Branick, Stephanie Brewer Cook, Bob Plummer.

**Agency Representatives Present:** Jackie Bruce (TCAD), Lisa Primm (DRT), Gayle Feltner (Voc Rehab), Michelle Jernigan (TennCare), Amy Gonzalez & Barbara DeBerry (DIDD), Bruce Keisling (UT Memphis Boling Center), Bettie Teasley Sulmers (THDA), Jacqueline Johnson (DOH/MCH).

**Agency Representatives Absent:** Allison Gauld (Dept. of Education), Elise McMillan (Vanderbilt Kennedy Center), Sue Karber (DMHSAS), Richard Kennedy (TCCY).

**Staff Present:** Alicia Cone, JoEllen Fowler, Tiffany Mason, Lynette Porter, Emma Shouse, Ned Solomon, Mildred Sparkman, Wanda Willis.

**Visitors:** Carrie Hobbs Guiden (The Arc TN)

9:00 A.M.	OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS
<p>Council Chair, Roger Gibbens, opened the meeting at 9:03 a.m. Mr. Gibbens welcomed everyone and introduced our newest Council members: Amy Allen (Milan), Tatum Fowler (Knoxville), Douglass Hall (Memphis), Lisa Johnson (Greeneville), Scott Lillard (Nashville), and Karen West (Gallatin). Mr. Gibbens recognized the people who will be retiring from their seat on the Council. There were certificates of recognition given out to the members present: Beth Ritchie (Knoxville), Cindy Chambers (Jonesborough), and Tonya Copeland (Brentwood). Retiring members Sandi Klink (Memphis), Kelly Nale (Dyersburg), and Greg Sharpe (Powell) were unable to attend.</p> <p>Mr. Gibbens facilitated introductions.</p>	
9:30 A.M.	BUSINESS ITEMS
<p><b><u>Approval of May 1 Minutes and Agenda Review</u></b></p> <p>The May 1, 2015 Council meeting minutes were emailed to all the Council members prior to the September 18, 2015 Council meeting to give members an opportunity to review before the meeting. Mr. Gibbens called for a motion to accept the minutes as written from the members present at the last meeting. <b><i>Steve Sheegog moved to accept the May 1, 2015 minutes as written and Lisa Primm seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.</i></b></p> <p>Mr. Gibbens reviewed the agenda for the Council meeting.</p>	

**Executive Director Report**

Wanda Willis, Executive Director, discussed the significant organizational changes in the federal Administration on Community Living (ACL), including the Independent Living Programs becoming a sister network to the DD Network programs and the move of Assistive Technology and Traumatic Brain Injury programs to ACL. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Council hosted a meeting of 6 TN Centers for Independent Living, the Statewide Independent Living Council and the 4 DD Network organizations (the Council, Disability Rights TN, UT Boling Center & Vanderbilt Kennedy Center). The federal Commissioner of the Administration on Disability and his staff attended and the group had facilitated discussions on the mission of the programs, authorizing statutes and opportunities for joint initiatives.

Ms. Willis also mentioned a Council proposal for a Disability Leadership & Learning Academy which was submitted to the State Dept. of Human Resources training division. The program would train leaders in state departments that provide programs/services to people with disabilities and result in shared values and knowledge of best practices.

**Budget Report**

Lynette Porter, Deputy Director, reported that the Council’s federal 2014 allotment has been fully obligated. This needed to occur before the end of the federal fiscal year, September 30, 2015. We have until September 30, 2016 to spend the 2014 allotment. The Council’s federal 2015 allotment must be fully obligated by September 30, 2016, with full spending occurring prior to September 30, 2017. Currently, the Council has a balance of \$215,451 that is unobligated This provides some security in case of unanticipated cuts to the federal budget that may occur when Congress passes the appropriation bill later in the year.

The federal 2016 budget has been submitted by the President with level funding for DD Councils. Congress must finalize the budget that starts October 1, 2016. We anticipate a Continuing Resolution to occur, which means states will get small portions of their funding until Congress passes the budget later in the year.

**Executive Committee Report**

Mr. Gibbens reported that 3 Executive Committee members participated in orientation for the 6 newly appointed members on Thursday, September 17. Also, the Committee met that afternoon and reviewed and approved the Council draft budget for 2016-17, reviewed the draft agenda for the Council Retreat in October and discussed the revision of the executive order that established the Council in state government. Mr. Gibbens appointed Evan Espey to chair the Proposal Review Committee that will evaluate a proposal the Council requested from national consultant Michael Smull to provide person-centered organization training to the managed care organizations that will administer the new waiver services next summer. The Committee will evaluate the proposal and bring a funding recommendation to the Council when we meet in February.

10:05 A.M.

BREAK & CHECK OUT

10:35 A.M.

THE ABLE ACT: IMPLEMENTATION AND SURROUNDING ISSUES OF SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS BY CARRIE HOBBS GUIDEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE ARC TN

Carrie Hobbs Guiden, Executive Director for The Arc Tennessee, gave a presentation on the ABLE Act. ABLE Act stands for “Achieving a Better Life Experience”. It is a federal act signed into law on December 19, 2014. The Act will allow eligible individuals with disabilities to establish savings accounts for use with disability-related expenses. The savings accounts do not impact a person’s ability to qualify for SSI and other federal benefits. Tennessee has been very proactive in moving towards the establishment of an ABLE program. On the federal level, the rules for the program are closing for public comment on 9/21/15. The expected start date of the accounts in Tennessee is January 2016.

11:05 A.M.

PREPARE FOR OCTOBER PLANNING RETREAT

Ms. Willis reviewed the date and location for the upcoming Council planning retreat. She mentioned that the agenda would consist of reviewing our 2014-2015 activities and beginning work on the new five year state plan, which is due in August 2016.

Dr. Alicia Cone, Grant Program Director, gave an overview of the agenda for the upcoming Council Retreat. The Council takes a big picture approach to create structural change with a long term impact. Dr. Cone stated that the state plan is a strategic planning document that outlines how we plan to make those big, structural changes. The plan has five year goals, then objectives which could span anywhere from 1 to 5 years. A new state plan is done every five years. Dr. Cone described the Council's needs assessment survey that was broadly distributed to the public in order to get their input. We have received just under 400 responses to our survey. Mr. Sheegog asked if there had been any interesting trends in the public input survey results. Dr. Cone shared that employment was the most frequently mentioned area of need. Dr. Cone asked Council members specifically to complete a needs assessment survey recently sent to Council members. Dr. Cone concluded by describing the timeline and next steps for the state plan development process. The new state plan will be submitted to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities by August 15, 2016.

11:25 A.M.	NEW DIAGNOSIS CODE REVISIONS: BRIEF OVERVIEW OF BACKGROUND AND POTENTIAL IMPACT BY BRUCE L. KEISLING, PH.D., ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, BOLING CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES & ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPT. OF PEDIATRICS.
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Dr. Bruce Keisling, Associate Director of the Boling Center, gave a presentation on new revisions to the diagnostic coding for the international classification of diseases.

The codes are under the auspices of the World Health Organization, which began this classification system in 1860. These "new" revisions are actually the 10<sup>th</sup> revision, so they are called ID-10. The US will move from ID-9 to ID-10 on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The codes are used by physicians, hospitals, health professionals, researchers (like the Boling Center) and insurance companies. They are being updated to allow for new diagnoses and procedures; to better understand complications when they occur; to better track outcomes, and more. The level of detail in the coding system will be significantly enhanced, as the codes go from 14,000 in ID-9, to 68,000 in ID-10.

Although this revision is meant to be an improvement in the long run, there may be some negative short term consequences. The most serious consequence is this: Prior approval from insurers is often required for expensive tests and medical procedures, and to get that approval, there needs to be a valid diagnostic code. If the proper codes are not used, insurers could delay, or worse, deny approval.

11:35 A.M.	LUNCH & CHECK OUT
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12:30 P.M.	OVERVIEW OF AMENDMENT 27 – BRIEF OVERVIEW OF 3 WAIVERS, SERVICES PLANNED BY MICHELLE MORSE JERNIGAN, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, LONG TERM SERVICES & SUPPORTS, BUREAU OF TENNCARE & COUNCIL PROPOSAL: PERSON CENTERED ORGANIZATION INITIATIVE
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Michelle Jernigan presented information on the Employment and Community First Choices Waiver (Amendment 27).

Ms. Jernigan shared background about the TennCare long-term services and supports system and an overview of the Employment and Community First Choices program, or "ECF CHOICES". The ECF CHOICES program will prioritize serving people with disabilities who have aging caregivers and youth with disabilities transitioning out of school. After these groups, individuals with intellectual disabilities on the DIDD waiting list and people with developmental disabilities (other than ID) will be prioritized.

Unlike other long-term care waivers in TN, ECF CHOICES will be administered by TennCare managed care organizations (MCOs), who will integrate long-term services and supports, physical health and behavioral health services. The benefit groups within ECF CHOICES are: Essential Family Supports, Essential Supports for Employment and Independent Living, and Comprehensive Supports for Employment and Community Living. All three groups have different expenditure caps, eligibility requirements and service options.

The proposed date for implementation of the ECF Choices program is July 1, 2016.	
1:25 P.M.	CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS
Mr. Gibbens encouraged members to turn in their travel claims, Council meeting evaluations, and the state plan needs assessment survey. He reminded Council members that the next meeting, the annual Council Retreat, will take place at the Embassy Suites Nashville Airport on October 26 & 27, 2015. Mr. Gibbens adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.	

2015 COUNCIL MEETING DATES	
Monday & Tuesday Oct. 26 & 27, 2015, Annual Planning Retreat	Embassy Suites Nashville Airport

Respectfully submitted by:   
JoEllen Fowler, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:   
Wanda Willis, Executive Director