

TENNESSEE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CALL
JANUARY 13, 2016
11:00 A.M. CDT/12 NOON EDT
MINUTES

Present: Roger Gibbens, Evan Espey, Tommy Lee Kidd, Renée Lopez, Debbie Riffle

Staff: Wanda Willis, JoEllen Fowler, Lynette Porter

Roger Gibbens, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

1) Review agenda; approve minutes

Roger reviewed the Executive Committee agenda.

Renée moved to approve the December 2, 2015 minutes as written. Tommy Lee seconded. Evan abstained (he did not attend the December 2nd meeting). Approved.

2) Budget Process

Lynette learned more about what our budget process with the General Assembly will be in our new position as a free standing agency within state government. She and Wanda had a very informative meeting with the Legislative Budget Office, learning what kind of information the legislature would be interested in hearing about the Council. We are waiting to find out if the Senate will request a presentation from us, but we are scheduled on the calendar of a House standing committee, the House Finance, Ways & Means Committee on March 1st. We were also assigned to the House Health Committee and make a presentation to them on February 17th. They want a general description about who we are and what we do. Wanda and Lynette will connect with chairs and vice-chairs of these Committees as well as key legislators prior to the presentations.

Evan emphasized the importance of maintaining our visibility as the Council moves through this new process. Wanda concurred and noted legislators will be interested in hearing from our members. Members may want to connect with their legislators and let them know they are constituents and are on the Council.

3) Legislative Reception and Disability Day on the Hill

Three new Council members and two of Executive Committee members have confirmed their participation in the Legislative Reception and/or Disability Day on the Hill.

Staff will provide attendees with position papers, information cards and event and travel details.

4) February Council meeting agenda

Roger reviewed the draft Council meeting agenda in detail and a few minor edits were made. Members who attend the Legislative Reception or Disability Day on the Hill will be asked to make brief remarks on their experience.

JoEllen will incorporate suggested changes in to the agenda.

5) Updates

- Project SEARCH developments
Later this month Wanda has 2 meetings scheduled regarding Project SEARCH sites. One is with Project Opportunity at Vanderbilt. It has been in operation for over 10 years and staff have been working with them to smooth out funding issues. One of the MCOs that will be implementing the new TennCare Waiver services when they take effect in July, Amerigroup, has stepped up to provide bridge funding for the program until the new Waiver takes effect. A community provider will assume responsibility for running the program and Vanderbilt will be the work site host.

Amerigroup has decided they also want to be a Project SEARCH business host site here in Nashville so the second meeting will be with their Nashville staff, their national office staff, the TN Department of Education and the community provider to get started setting up the site.

- Michael Smull/Support Development Associates (SDA) proposal
Wanda sent out a summary of the current status of the SDA proposal. TennCare was very open to working with SDA, but also wanted to do even more training with their Choices program. We will adjust our timeline to start in the fall so that the MCOs will be providing services at the time they receive training.

6) Other?

- The Committee discussed the September 2015 Council meeting evaluations.
- The Committee agreed to cancel the March 2nd Executive Committee call.

At 11:53p.m. Tommy Lee moved for adjournment, and Evan seconded. Approved.

Next Executive Committee call: February 3, 2016 @ 11 a.m. CDT/12 noon EDT

Next Executive Committee meeting: February 25, 2016 @ 3:00 p.m. CDT/4:00 p.m. EDT @ Embassy Suites Airport

Prepared by: JoEllen Fowler, Administrative Assistant

Approved by: Wanda Willis, Executive Director