



**Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Meeting Minutes  
May 1, 2015**

- Members Present:** Stephanie Brewer Cook, Cynthia Chambers, Tonya Copeland, Rick Davis, Evan Espey, Roger Gibbens, Serina Gilbert, Tommy Lee Kidd, William Lovell, Deborah McBride, Kelly Nale, Bob Plummer, Tecia Pryor, Debbie Riffle, Beth Ritchie.
- Members Absent:** Norris Branick, Dawn Fry, Sandi Klink, Renee Lopez, Gregory Sharp, Steve Sheegog.
- Agency Representatives Present:** Jackie Bruce (TCAD), Janet Shouse (Vanderbilt Kennedy Center), Lisa Primm (DRT), Richard Kennedy (TCCY), Gayle Feltner (Voc Rehab), Michelle Jernigan (TennCare), Amy Gonzalez (DIDD), Dr. Fred Palmer (UT Memphis Boling Center).
- Agency Representatives Absent:** Allison Gauld (Dept. of Education), Bettie Teasley Sulmers (THDA), Jacqueline Johnson (DOH/MCH), Sue Karber (DMHSAS).
- Staff Present:** JoEllen Fowler, Tiffany Mason, Lynette Porter, Emma Shouse, Ned Solomon, Mildred Sparkman, Wanda Willis.
- Staff Absent:** Alicia Cone (attending meeting of federal grantees on new state plan format)
- Visitors:** Laura Berry (Best Buddies TN), Scott Lillard (Autism TN), Commissioner Debbie Payne and General Counsel, Theresa Sloan (DIDD), Belinda Bruns and Allison Thigpen (TCAD)

9:00 A.M.	OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS
<p>Council Chair, Stephanie Cook, opened the meeting at 9:05 a.m.</p> <p>Ms. Cook welcomed everyone and introduced our newest Council member, Serina Gilbert, from Dickson TN. Ms. Cook also asked each person to introduce themselves by giving their name, where they are from, and what career path they would have loved to pursue had they not landed in their present career. Roger Gibbens, Vice-Chair, and Wanda Willis, Executive Director, presented Mildred Sparkman, Administrative Secretary, with a staff service award for 10 years of Service with the State of Tennessee.</p> <p>Since the last Council meeting, the Governor appointed new Council leadership. As she stepped down as Chair, Ms. Cook graciously welcomed new Council Chair, Roger Gibbens and Vice Chair, Tommy Lee Kidd, to their positions. Ms. Cook was presented an award commemorating her service as Council chair.</p>	
9:30 A.M.	BUSINESS ITEMS
<p><b><u>Parliamentary Process</u></b></p> <p>Once Mr. Gibbens was named as the new Council Chair, he explained that we will be incorporating a more formal parliamentary process into our Council meetings. This is the body of rules, ethics and customs that govern meetings of assemblies like the Council. The founding principles of these procedures are that all members have equal rights, privileges and obligations and that</p>	

rules must be administered impartially.

Examples of processes we will be adopting:

- Reviewing and passing the minutes from the previous meeting
  - The purpose of this is to give everyone an opportunity to make sure their voice was represented accurately.
- Adjournment motions
  - The purpose of this is to make sure all voices and business have been heard.

You will see these new actions built into our minutes as a guide.

**Review and Approval of October 31 Minutes**

The October 31, 2014 Council meeting minutes were emailed to all the Council members prior to the May 1, 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. ***Evan Espey moved to accept the October 31, 2014 minutes as written and Lisa Primm seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.***

**Executive Committee Report**

Mr. Gibbens reported that the Executive Committee met Thursday afternoon, April 30. The Committee reviewed the Council meeting agenda. Also, the Committee reviewed nominees for Council seats that will be discussed with the Governor’s staff on May 8.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Wanda Willis, Executive Director, discussed the Disability Policy Seminar held in Washington, D.C., April 13-15. Tennessee had a team of 8 attending, representing the Council, The Arc TN, Disability Rights TN and the 2 UCEDDs, the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and the Boling Center at UT Memphis. We met with the TN Congressional delegation and staff of our 2 senators. We are particularly concerned about Medicaid cuts over the next few months as Congress works on a new budget. Ms. Willis directed attention to the new Council member directory. Also, members were asked to complete a brief survey about their activities in the area of public policy over the past year.

**Budget Report**

Lynette Porter, Deputy Director, reported that the Council received an increase of less than 1% with the final FY15 appropriation. The increase was \$13,649. This brings the current planning budget balance to \$115,355. The FY16 budget was submitted to Congress with level funding for all Councils on DD of \$71.7 million. A continuing resolution is anticipated for October 2016.

10:50 A.M.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Planning Committee**

Planning Committee Chair, Evan Espey, reported on the state plan process, timeline and group discussion. He shared that the new state plan is due to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in August 2016 and the development of the new plan is an 18 month process that has already begun. From now until October, Council staff will be collecting needs assessment data, which will be presented at 2015 Council Retreat. He shared that the group discussed opportunities for growth in the areas of employment for individuals with disabilities and advocacy/self-advocacy. He mentioned that Planning Committee members will be looking for innovative work happening in their communities or local programs that are positively impacting individuals with disabilities around employment or advocacy, in order to share with Council staff as the new plan is being developed.

**Legislative & Public Policy Committee**

Tommy Lee Kidd, Legislative & Public Policy Committee Chair, used a PowerPoint highlighting the top tier bills of 2015 and gave a brief update to the Council members. He concentrated his report on the aging caregiver legislation and legislation that allows

parents to use an individualized education account if their child has certain disabilities. Other bills mentioned touched on subjects regarding motorcycle helmets, TN Family Support Council, Greene Valley Developmental Center, accessible technology for persons with disabilities and prone restraint in schools.

**Projects Review Committee**

On behalf of Beth Ritchie, Projects Review Committee Chair, Ned Andrew Solomon shared the topics discussed in the Projects Review Committee related to employment and transportation. He also reported that Project SEARCH (PS) had two new sites; was having challenges aligning the Vanderbilt and Montgomery County sites with the core Project SEARCH principles; and that the Knox County PS site was struggling getting referrals. Lastly, there was discussion about a possible intersection between Youth Leadership Forum/Youth Readiness Days trainings and the youth participants in the various PS programs.

11:10 A.M.

DEPARTMENT OF INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: CLOVER BOTTOM, GREENE VALLEY, ET.AL., EXIT PLAN

The Council heard a presentation from the Department of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) on the Clover Bottom, Greene Valley, et.al, Exit Plan. The presentation was by DIDD Commissioner Debbie Payne and Assistant Commissioner/General Council for DIDD, Theresa Sloan.

Commissioner Payne explained that the Department of Justice and People First do not support institutions. It is the Commissioner’s belief that the system can safely support people in their communities. DIDD and TennCare did not want an Exit Plan to apply to just class members, but wanted a positive change for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The transition has been hard for the Greene Valley families. They did not know of other models of services, so it has been harder for them to let go of institutional services.

Seventeen of the 94 Greene Valley residents are in active transition and 34 are not yet in process, but Commissioner Payne is expecting momentum to build as more successful transitions occur. In June 2016, Tennessee will be institution free. This is a target date and no one’s safety will be compromised to meet a calendar date. Two 6-month extensions were built into the Exit Plan for this reason.

Theresa Sloan reported on the specific sections of the Exit Plan. There are 10 sections. The first section is the legal portion that establishes the document. Sections 2 through 9 are the community provisions, and section 10 specifically relates to the Greene Valley closure. The following is a brief synopsis of sections 2 through 10:

Section 2 – Adds three new individuals as class members who were at the Harold Jordon Center.

Section 3 – Makes changes to the Individual Support Plan template and requires training for Independent Support Coordinators on person centered outcomes. Provider training is coming as well.

Section 4 – Pertains to psychotropic medications. Training on the use of psychotropic meds will be required for all licensed providers (who are also prescribers) who participate in TennCare. This is 95% of the providers in the State. Training will also be offered for consumers and family members about questions to ask and how to make informed decisions. The training is being developed in collaboration with the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. There will be much more oversight in prescriptions for psychotropic medications.

Section 5 – Creates two new behavioral respite centers in the state. Currently there is only one.

Section 6 – Requires that law enforcement training be developed for the police academy and the TBI academy. Additionally continuing education credits for officers already out of the academy will be offered. This section also requires DIDD to have an independent party conduct mortality reviews.

Section 7 – Pertains to SelectCommunity: a special TennCare health plan operated by Blue Cross with nurse care managers who have special certification in intellectual and developmental disabilities. People who move out of Clover Bottom or Greene Valley Developmental Centers and choose to enroll in a Waiver program can enroll in SelectCommunity.

Section 8 – Revises the Freedom of Choice form to make it clearer that people have a choice in services.

Section 9 – Specifies that all class members would be enrolled in an uncapped waiver. Also, people who already exceed the capped amount will be included in an uncapped waiver.

Section 10 – Pertains to the transition of the remaining 94 residents from Greene Valley Developmental Center. Greene Valley has always been a part of the Clover Bottom et. al, lawsuit. There has been a misconception that Greene Valley was not a part of the lawsuits to close institutions in Tennessee.

Some highlights from the brief Q&A session at the end:

- Information will be on the DIDD website as the web redesign project rolls out.
- Having Disability Rights Tennessee involved as advocates is a positive as we go forward.
- The State made the decision to build no more state operated homes. We have the provider capacity for private Intermediate Care Facilities.
- Greene Valley had 600 employees for 94 residents. DIDD is sensitive to the effect on Greene Valley employees and their families, however, DIDD’s driving factor is the people that the department supports.

For more information, see <http://www.tn.gov/didd/newsroom/announcements.shtml> and <http://www.tn.gov/didd/newsroom/announcements/GVDC%20Closure%20Plan.pdf>

11:55 A.M.

LUNCH & AGENCY UPDATES

Several agencies made announcements regarding upcoming events:

- Tennessee Commission on Aging & Disability (TCAD) and the Knoxville Mayor’s office are hosting a Livability event. The event examines local livability projects and what supports are needed. An Accessibility Summit will be held in conjunction (includes track for aging adults/livability) – Nov. 12, location TDB.
- TCAD will host a “training the trainer” for respite volunteers. They are trying to diversify funding/resources/volunteer base for respite care.
- Boling Center is hosting the Association for Successful Parenting international conference on 10/12-10/13. The conference is geared towards parents with I/DD/learning disabilities in Memphis including tracks for parents w/ID, legal eagles and professionals.
- Scott Lillard and Stephanie Cook both recently joined the Disability Rights TN (DRT) board. Sept. 10 is DRT’s annual employment luncheon. The keynote speaker is Jeff Huffman who is known for his Indiana training program at hotels.
- Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (VKC) is doing training for families/self-advocates about psychotropic medications and behavioral/physical health challenges. There is an online/print survey that will assist VKC in training doctors across the state.
- Laura Berry announced that Best Buddies Jobs is a new supported employment provider in TN (10<sup>th</sup> city that has this program). They are located in Middle TN.
- SRVS is having a ceremony celebrating the closing of their sheltered workshop on June 26th in Memphis. The Governor and the Office of Disability Employment Policy staffs are invited!

12:55 P.M.

TENNCARE STATE INNOVATION MODEL GRANT

Michelle Morse Jernigan, Deputy Commissioner of Long Term Services & Supports (LTSS) at the Bureau of TennCare, presented about TennCare’s State Innovation Model (SIM) Testing Grant. This grant provides financial and technical assistance for Tennessee to develop and test payment reform efforts and service delivery models that will improve the quality of care provided and reduce the costs for Medicare and Medicaid. The grant is helping TN transition from a long-term services and supports system that is largely “fee-for-service” to a system that pays providers for quality of services and the actual outcome, or impact on the individual. Reforms thus far have primarily focused on services provided in nursing facilities but will soon be focused on home- and community-based services (HCBS). In the reforms to the payment models and service delivery models for HCBS, integrated competitive employment and integrated community living are key focus areas. Person-centered planning processes and the coordination of a person’s care are also a priority in developing expectations for providers and managed care organizations. A group called “QuILTSS” (Quality in Long Term Services and Supports) has been leading this initiative to develop performance measures associated with these desired outcomes for individuals and a new payment system for nursing facility

care (soon to expand to focus on HCBS).	
1:25 P.M.	NO WRONG DOOR INITIATIVE
<p>Belinda Bruns, Grant Developer, TN Commission on Aging &amp; Disability (TCAD), presented on this new initiative. This is the first year of a planning grant given to the Commission to promote access to and information about LTSS services. No Wrong Door systems are designed to serve as highly visible and trusted places available in every community where people of all ages, incomes and disabilities go to get information. The grant is being funded by three federal agencies: the Administration for Community Living (ACL); the Veterans Health Administration (VHA); and the Centers for Medicare &amp; Medicaid Services (CMS). The key functions of the grant would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public outreach and coordination</li> <li>• Person-centered counseling</li> <li>• Streamlined access to public programs</li> <li>• State governance and administration.</li> </ul> <p>An underlying principle is that NO ONE agency has the capacity, expertise or authority to create a No Wrong Door system, so it will take the Commission partnering with other entities, including TennCare, DIDD, CDD, Veteran’s Administration and the Dept. of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. To address this, a No Wrong Door (NWD) “governing body” has been established, with the ultimate goal of applying for and receiving a 3-year NWD implementation grant. Activities so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convening the governing body</li> <li>• Collecting information re: LTSS</li> <li>• Conducting a statewide survey</li> <li>• Submitting three reports to the federal oversight agency.</li> </ul>	
1:25 P.M.	CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS
<p>Mr. Gibbens encouraged members to turn in their travel claims and surveys. <b><i>A motion for adjournment was made by Fred Palmer and seconded by Bob Plummer. The motion carried and the Council meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.</i></b> The next Council meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Nashville Airport.</p>	

2015 COUNCIL MEETING DATES	
Friday, September 18, 2015	Embassy Suites Nashville Airport
Thursday & Friday Nov. 5 & 6, 2015, Annual Planning Retreat	Montgomery Bell State Park

Respectfully submitted by:   
JoEllen Fowler, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:   
Wanda Willis, Executive Director