



Council Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2023

Council Members Present:

Kimberly Boyd*
Alison Bynum*
Roddey Coe*
Kezia Cox*
Sarah Cripps*
Ryan Durham*
Alicia Hall*
Chrissy Hood*
Clancey Hopper*
Diamond Grigsby*
Edward Mitchell*
Tecia Puckett Pryor*
Bliss Welch*
Brent Wiles*
Martez Williams*
Alison Gauld, Dept. Special Education
Julie Johnson, Voc. Rehab. Services
Carrie Brna, Dept. of Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities
Shannon Nehus, TennCare
Bruce Keisling, UT Center on
Developmental Disabilities (UTCDD)
Elise McMillan, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
Allie Haynes, TN Rural Health Association
Stephanie Cooper, Dept. Mental Health &
Substance Abuse
Don Watt, THDA

Staff Present:

Lauren Percy
Lynette Porter
Alicia Cone
JoEllen Fowler
Ashley Hill
Cathlyn Smith
Jolene Sharp
Emma Shouse Garton
Mildred Sparkman
Lindsey Guieren

Guests Present:

Ben Silverman
Jay Camperlino

Council Members Absent:

Shontie Brown*
Will Edwards*
Lisa Johnson*
Sara Miller*
Brigham Scallion*
Rusette Marcum-Embry,
Tenn. Commission on
Children & Youth
Jacqueline Johnson, Dept.
of Health
Lisa Primm, Disability
Rights TN
Ryan Ramsey, Tennessee
Commission on Aging and
Disabilities

**Governor appointed citizen*

8:30 a.m. Introductions, Opening & Agenda Review

Council chair Tecia Puckett Pryor welcomed everyone and facilitated introductions of members and staff. Council members shared their answer to the question: *Where do you feel you belong (or) Where have you experienced belonging in your life?*

Tecia then called the meeting to order after ascertaining there was a quorum at 9:11 a.m.

Tecia reviewed the agenda.

9:15 a.m. Business Items

Approval of March 2023 Minutes and March Meeting Agenda

The March 2023 Council meeting minutes were emailed to all the Council members prior to the May 5, 2023, Council meeting to give members an opportunity to review before the meeting. Tecia asked if there were any amendments to the agenda or March 2023 minutes. **Kezia Cox moved to accept the May 5, 2023, agenda and the March 2023 minutes as written. Roddey Coe seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion carried.**

Executive Committee Report

Tecia Puckett Pryor, Council chair, provided an overview of upcoming Council member recommendations.

- The Council will recommend Kezia Cox (East TN) and Edward Mitchell (Southwest TN) for reappointment to represent their Development Districts.
- One member, Alison Bynum (Mid-Cumberland) has asked not to be reappointed. Alison has enrolled in nursing school and no longer has the time she wants to dedicate to the Council.
- New member candidates must be a Tennessean with a developmental disability (as defined in the DD Act) or a direct family member of a person who cannot themselves serve. The Council prioritizes leadership experience, diversity in lived experience, and connection to disability. Staff track potential candidates year-round. Since January, staff have been vetting and interviewing potential members according to these criteria. There are five new members that the Council will recommend to the Governor's office to fill seats of members whose term will expire in June 2023.
- Tecia appointed Clancey Hopper, representing the Mid-Cumberland Development District, to be the Chair of the Leadership Development Committee beginning July 1, 2023.
- In July, the Council will need a new chair. This is a Governor appointed position. The executive committee has discussed and recommended Ryan Durham, current vice chair of the Council, to become chair of the Council and reappointed as the Council's representative from the South-Central Development District. Ryan has served as vice chair of the executive committee since 2019. He has been instrumental in leading the Council through the pandemic, through Wanda's retirement, and hiring Lauren as Executive Director. This will ensure a continuity of experienced leadership on the executive committee.

The executive committee moved that Ryan Durham, current vice chair of the Council, be recommended for appointment to Council Chair beginning July 1, 2023. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

- The vice chair position, which is also a Governor-appointed role, would become vacant if Ryan is appointed as chair. The Executive Committee recommended Brent Wiles, at-large member from Davidson County, to become the next vice chair of the Council. Brent is a parent of a young son with a developmental disability and is deeply connected to policy change in Tennessee. Brent's background is working at the highest levels of leadership to members of Tennessee's Congressional delegation, most recently to former Senator Bob Corker as the statewide director for Tennessee. Brent has co-founded a government consulting firm where he now works on statewide and national issues. His expertise in government, his personal connection to disability, and his temperament and natural leadership qualities made him stand out to us for the vice chair role.

The Executive Committee moved that Brent Wiles be recommended for appointment to Council vice chair beginning July 1, 2023. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council then recognized five Council members for whom the May meeting is their last meeting. Ben Silverman, Director of Appointments for the Governor's Office, also shared gratitude for the Council members' service to the state of Tennessee.

- Council chair Tecia Puckett Pryor has served the Upper Cumberland Development District since 2013. She has served as Council chair since 2017.
- Leadership development chair Lisa Johnson has served the First TN Development District since 2016.
- Council member Roddey Coe has served the Southeast TN Development District since 2017.
- Council member Alison Bynum has served the Mid-Cumberland Development District since 2019. Alison has asked not to be reappointed for her second term yet, but is open to serving as a Council member in the future.
- Elise McMillan, Co-Director of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, a DD Network partner to the Council, will retire in May 2023. The Council recognized her dedicated service to the disability service system as a Council member.

Next, the Council recognized four Council staff members for reaching milestones in their tenure as state employees.

- Alicia Cone, Director of Program Operations, for 25 years of service
- Cathlyn Smith, Director of Leadership Development, for 25 years of service
- JoEllen Fowler, Office Resources Manager, for 20 years of service
- Ashley Hill, Assistant to the Executive Director, for 5 years of service

Budget Report

Lynette Porter, Deputy Director, gave a brief overview of historical budget content. Lynette provided an overview of federal funding and its impact over the last 20 years:

- The Council's highest budget award was in 2010 at \$1,518,000.
- The Council's lowest budget award was in 2013 at \$1,426,000.
- The Council's budget award in 2020 was only \$1 more than in 2002.
- The Council's current funding is between its highest and lowest award, at \$1,471,000.

Councils are a formula-based federal grantee of the Administration on Community Living (ACL). There is no cost-of-living increases built into the grant, nor inflation increases factored into the formula. While the Council's federal award has remained static, the cost to do the work of the Council has not. Lynette gave several examples of operational cost increases.

Nationally, Councils maximize every dollar they receive to ensure programs are aligned with state plans & the authentic needs of each state. Conversations like this one are important when thinking about how to maximize federal dollars despite cost increases to manage programs .

Audit Committee Report

Lynette Porter reported on behalf of audit committee chair, Alicia Hall. Lynette shared that the audit committee had completed its annual review of the agency process for staff code of conduct acknowledgements in April. There were no questions or concerns. This was the last required audit committee task for fiscal year 2023.

Executive Director Report

Lauren Percy, Executive Director, gave an overview of what to expect during committee work during the Council meeting. Council members will engage in discussion during committees and will spend time answering discussion questions after committee report-outs later in the afternoon.

Lauren also provided a brief update on Council activities, including an update on legislative session and bills impacting disability. Additionally, Lauren provided information about the 30th anniversary of Partners in Policymaking® in Tennessee. The Council will take this year to engage graduates and plan a reunion event to celebrate this milestone. The University of Tennessee Center on Developmental Disabilities will hold alumni focus groups as the Council considers what the next 30 years of Partners should look like. The Council will not enroll a new Partners in Policymaking® class this fall.

10:30 a.m. Break & Check Out

11:00 a.m. Committees

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Committee Report Out

Goal 1 – Leadership Development Committee

Focus: Leadership programs revamp

- 30 years of Partners in Policymaking
 - Alumni engagement + gathering for the first time since 2019
- Planning for next 30 years
 - UTHSC will help us analyze evaluation data and convene focus groups to inform future plans.
 - Goal is to strike the right balance between virtual and in person
- Meanwhile, what we learn will inform planning for LAEDS 2024
 - Apply consistent approach to both academies
 - Plan at different times of the year

Goal: by 2024, launch balanced, sustainable, and meaningful leadership academies for the post-pandemic era.

Goal 2 – Public Policy

Focus: Behavioral Health

- Council will focus on behavioral health across the lifespan (i.e., school behavior, kids with IDD in state custody, adult supports throughout the community).
- Council is leading conversations across stakeholders about shared values when approaching behavioral health. This will be a multi-year effort.
- New web page “hub” for behavioral health resources across the lifespan.
- We want stories from you and your community – keep them coming as you experience them / hear them.

Goal 3 – Communications

Focus: *Breaking Ground* Planning

- We reviewed the Council's current list of ideas for *Breaking Ground* topics, articles, and issue themes.
- Committee members ranked the existing ideas. Comms staff will tally those responses to see which ideas rose to the top.
- One *Breaking Ground* issue in the next year will have a Partners in Policymaking 30th anniversary theme.

We had a great discussion about additional article ideas member suggested for *Breaking Ground*.

1:50 p.m. Wrap Up

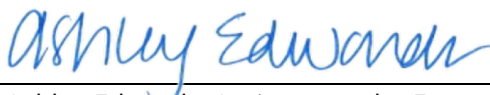
Tecia Puckett Pryor reminded members to complete the evaluation and travel forms before leaving today, which are in member folders. The next Council meeting will take place on Friday, September 15, 2023 at the Embassy Suites Nashville Airport.

1:55 p.m. Public Comment

Visitors to the Council meeting were invited to make public comment. There was no comment.

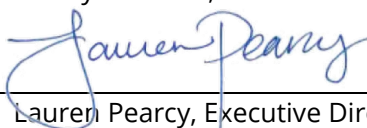
1:58 p.m. Adjournment

A motion for adjournment was made by Roddey Coe and seconded by Clancey Hopper. The motion carried and the Council meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.



Respectfully submitted by:

Ashley Edwards, Assistant to the Executive Director



Approved by:

Lauren Percy, Executive Director