



## Council Executive Committee

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Location: Embassy Suites – Nashville Airport  
10 Century Blvd, Nashville TN 37214  
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2023  
Time: 3:30 pm CST / 4:30 pm EST

**Present:** Tecia Puckett Pryor, Edward Mitchell, Sarah Cripps,

**Absent:** Ryan Durham, Lisa Johnson

**Staff:** Lauren Percy, Lynette Porter, JoEllen Fowler

**Visitor:** Roddey Coe

1) **Call to Order**

After confirming there was a quorum, Tecia Puckett Pryor, Chair, called the meeting to order at **3:31 p.m. CST / 4:31 p.m. EST.**

2) **Consent Agenda: Approve today's Executive Committee Agenda and January 2023 Executive Committee Minutes**

No discussion.

***Sarah Cripps moved for approval as edited; Edward Mitchell seconded. Approved.***

3) **Leadership Development Program Updates**

Lauren Percy, Executive Director, reviewed the history of the Partners in Policymaking™ (PIP) and Leadership Academy on Excellence in Disability Services (LAEDS) programs. Both programs were put under the same director for the first time when Cathlyn Smith came on board in February 2020, just as everything transitioned to virtual for the pandemic. This coming year we will step back and reassess how the programs should continue in the post-COVID era; likely a hybrid of virtual and in person sessions, but that will be determined through thoughtful analysis of evaluations from participants as well as focus groups with graduates. UT Center on Developmental Disabilities will continue to be a key partner in these evaluation efforts.

Staff will be sharing more as plans evolve and engaging the Leadership Committee as advisors.

4) **Budget Update**

Lynette Porter, Deputy Director reported that the Council presented its proposed budget to the House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee of the Tennessee General Assembly last month. The Committee was very engaged about Pathfinder and the Council's work in general. A link to the recording and a summary of the high points from the hearing are available in the Council's Weekly Policy Newsletter.

Federally, the Council has been level funded for FY23-24.



The Committee was asked to consider three continuation proposals that would fund key Council initiatives in FY24.

- The **Vanderbilt Kennedy Center** at Vanderbilt University Medical Center for information and referral services (TN Disability Pathfinder). Recommended \$80,000 in funding for this contract, the same amount as was funded in FY23. This contract begins July 1, 2023.
- The **United Cerebral Palsy of Middle Tennessee** for administrative support for Leadership Development programs, including the Council Scholarship Fund and Partners in Policymaking. Recommended \$41,722 in funding for this contract, the same amount as was funded in FY23. This contract begins July 1, 2023.
- The **University of Tennessee Center on Developmental Disabilities** for continued evaluation of the Leadership Institute. Recommended \$9,825 in funding for this contract, the same amount as was funded in FY23. This contract begins July 1, 2023.

***Sarah Cripps moved to approve the continuation slate for FY24 funding. Edward Mitchell seconded. Approved.***

#### 4) **Review March 3 Council Meeting Agenda**

The Committee reviewed the agenda for the March 3 Council meeting.

Elise McMillan is retiring from the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (VKC) and her last meeting will be in May. Ben Schwartzman is representing VKC this time.

Instead of the traditional Executive Director's report, we are moving to a high-level report on the overall work of the agency, reviewing the goal reports for the first half of the year. We have also moved the public policy presentation earlier in the day so that committee meetings can follow these "big picture" presentations with more focused discussions. The final session of the day will be interactive so that members have a chance to process the information together. This new sequence of sessions is intended to better prepare members to vote on progress made on the state plan in September.

Chair Puckett Pryor thought this was a good approach. No further questions or comments.

#### 5) **Updates From Executive Director**

- **Executive Director Evaluation**  
Responses were positive. One comment encouraged more frequent communications. Another suggested delegating tasks to members at each meeting and following up after. We have incorporated this suggestion into tomorrow's agenda.
- **New Council Member Interviews**  
We are currently in the final stages of the review process for the terms which start July 1<sup>st</sup>. We have a diverse group of potential nominees for the vacancies. We have switched



to a more team-based approach which is allowing for deeper knowledge and richer conversations throughout the nomination process.

- **Staffing Update**

We currently have one staff vacancy: the Director of Public Policy. This has allowed us to take a team approach to the legislative session. We are fortunate that all staff are very knowledgeable in public policy and have risen to the occasion. We also have a wonderful volunteer intern, Lindsey Guerin, during this semester and she has been a real asset to the team.

6) **Other Business**

The Executive Committee set dates for their next meeting: **April 11, 2023, at 11 a.m. CDT/12 p.m. EDT.** Additional meetings will be scheduled during the April meeting.

Lauren reviewed the list of members and staff who will be coming to Disability Day on the Hill next week. There will be good representation from across the state.

7) **Motion to Adjourn**

**At 4:05 p.m. CST / 5:05 p.m. EST Sarah Cripps moved to adjourn the meeting. Edward Mitchell seconded. Approved.**

**Next meeting:** April 11, 2023, at 11 a.m. CDT/12 p.m. EDT.

*Ashley Edwards*      *JoEllen Fowler*

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Prepared by: Ashley Edwards, Executive Assistant and JoEllen Fowler, Office Resources Manager

*Lauren Percy*

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Approved by: Lauren Percy, Executive Director