AGENDA

Eric Cole called the meeting to order at 3:53 p.m. by welcoming everyone. He introduced Jacqueline Stone, representing Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) for Chris Smith, Nancy Pineles representing Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) for Virginia Knowlton, and Casey Shea who is the newest employee at DRM. He also introduced Rosanna Hanna representing the Department of Aging (DOA), Donna Harris representing the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and guest Peg Kolm.

Approval of Minutes
M/S/P to approve the March 7, 2016 minutes.

FFY2017 Council Budget Overview
Eric explained that the Council’s budget follows the Federal fiscal year and not the State fiscal year. The FFY2017 period is October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.

Rachel London presented an overview of the FFY 2017 budget. Rachel provided details for each section of the budget. Both Rachel and Brian Cox responded to questions from Council members.
Grantee Presentation: Advocacy by the Bay, Tilson & Diaz Associates, Dr. Monica Simonsen, Co-Director

Before Eric introduced Monica, he shared that this was a project the Council has been funding for the last few years and the focus is developing self-advocacy skills to assist youth with developmental disabilities in Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. Funds remaining on the grant will expand work in collaboration with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

Monica stated the original purpose of the grant was to provide self-advocacy training for youth in partnership with the local school systems and ArtStream. But as the project evolved, the focus turned to sustainability. Monica elaborated on the accomplished goals as well as one that hadn’t been met yet and answered questions from Council members.

Kelley Malone mentioned the status report provided in the meeting packets contained additional information about Advocacy by the Bay’s outcomes and numbers are listed for each quarter.

Eric thanked Monica for her presentation.

Bylaws and Policy Amendments – Eric Cole & Brian Cox

A. Bylaws

The recommended changes are based on the transition to a work team structure. Those changes are tracked within the document. There is a motion from the Executive Committee to amend the bylaws with the changes noted. Bill DuSold questioned if the Council’s name change needed to go through the legislature for approval. According to Brian, the Council’s name change occurred many years ago but the Executive Order is outdated. The Council is established through Executive Order instead of legislation. We are working with the Governor’s office to update the Executive Order that hasn’t been changed since 1987.

S/P to approve the changes in the Bylaws.

B. Conference Participation Policy

There is a motion from the Executive Committee to lower the amount of funds a person can request under Conference Participation from $2,500 to $1,000 per person. This will be reassessed in six months. Julie questioned if the change was being considered due to over spending the conference funds every year. Eric responded by saying that the Council doesn’t receive an overwhelming amount of requests and many are not approved because they don’t meet the requirement that participation will benefit more than one person.

We are looking at all the policies as related to the new State Plan. We also looked at which Conference Participation requests were approved or not. Brian explained that funding priorities are always a challenge because the Council’s funding is relatively the same every year despite increasing expenses. The Executive Committee did discuss whether to stop funding Conference Participation but they decided to continue it at a lower amount.

S/P to adopt the changes as written.
C. Unsolicited Proposals Policy
Eric explained the intent of the Executive Committee’s motion is to eliminate redundant policies and ensure a more streamlined process for unsolicited funding requests. The Executive Committee’s motion is to eliminate the Unsolicited Funding Request Policy (#620-A) and to stop advertising it because all Council funding must be tied to State Plan objectives, we have limited funding for grants, very few requests are received, and the unsolicited requests that have been received have very seldom been funded. The Council’s Grants Policies & Procedures (#600) already include language that will continue to allow the Council the option to fund activities in a variety of ways in addition to the RFP process.

Bernie Simon, Russ Young and George Flamer made recommendations to ensure that policy 600 is clear with regard to the information that is in Policy 620A.

M/S/P: to eliminate Policy 620A, keep Policy 600 with clarifications commented on.

Transforming and Improving Practices through Customized Technical Assistance (TIP) Grants - Damon Briggs

Through customized technical assistance by subject matter experts, DDA licensed providers will improve the way services are provided so that more people with developmental disabilities are supported to get and keep the meaningful work they want in their communities and to have meaningful days when not working.

Funding was made available through a partnership between the DD Council and Maryland Works.

Damon Briggs reported that 16 proposals were received.

- A total of $128,312 will fund technical assistance to 13 of those proposals and 14 agencies and one proposal was submitted by two agencies.
- Five grants focus on increasing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in rural areas.
- Three grants focus on people having meaningful days when they are not working.

For a brief description of each grant, Damon referred members to the project summary provided in the meeting packet.

Aaron Kaufman questioned how the Committee settled on the amounts. Rachel explained that the RFP stated the agencies were allowed to apply for up to $10,000 in technical assistance and more if it was a joint application for two agencies. The one that is $11,000 is a partnership between two agencies. The total amounts awarded were the amounts that agencies applied for.

Eric pointed out that the Council originally set aside $90,000 but only about $70,000 was needed.

Grantee Presentation: TIP Grant Awardee - Michael Shriver, Executive Director, CHANGE, Inc.
Michael thanked the Council along with Maryland Works for awarding the Tip Grant to CHANGE and having the faith and trust in his company to execute. Michael shared the journey his agency is
on to transform and where they intend to go in the future along with the accomplishments and the challenges faced. He stated this grant was a natural extension to the work that they have done so far. CHANGE seeks to produce data and antidotal information that is helpful in what the Council is doing. He shared a PowerPoint presentation.

Dinner

**Committee and Work Team Reports**

A. *Committee & Work Team Update – Eric Cole*

Eric provided an update on converting from committee to Work Teams and encouraged members to let him know if interested in an initiative. Members will also be asked to participate if not already assigned to a Work Team.

B. *Executive Committee Funding Decisions – Aaron Kaufman*

Two Education and Training Event Sponsorship (ETES) requests were received but only one was funded for $500 to MDOD for their Annual Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Anniversary event.

Two Small Grants totaling $4,980 were awarded. One helped a group with developmental disabilities develop a local self-advocacy group in Montgomery County and the other will develop a curriculum for training neurotypical middle and high school students to support their diploma-bound peers with autism pursuing student service learning (SSL) hours.

Further details on funding were provided in the meeting packet.

C. *Adult Issues Committee – Damon Briggs*

The committee selected a company to produce a video about “People having Meaningful Days When Not Working,” which will highlight one or two adults with developmental disabilities who have significant support needs engaging in meaningful activities in their communities when not working. Details:

- It will be used to increase understanding and enhance training experiences by providing examples for staff, families and other stakeholders
- Wilkum Studios was selected because they had the most experience and produced one of the inclusive child care videos.
- $4,370 to create, film, and edit a five minute video.

The project summary was provided in the meeting packet.

D. *Membership Committee – Aaron Kaufman*

Aaron reported that his term would end in 2017 and there would be about ten new membership slots to fill. Membership applications have been received but more are needed. In the month of October, two meetings are scheduled to interview potential candidates.

Membership packets were available and Aaron encouraged members to distribute.
According to Brian out of the 30 applications received, only one or two was a person with a developmental disability and one or two were Hispanic.

E. Self-Advocacy Work Team – Amanda Lay
The Work Team is working with People on the Go on a continuation grant proposal. In addition, the Council has participated with MDOD on an RFP to develop the Ethan Saylor Alliance, which will educate law enforcement about people with disabilities using people with disabilities as trainers.

F. Photo Contest Work Team – Amanda Lay
This year’s theme was Side-by-Side: Relationships. The photo contest judge’s panel was made up of Amanda, Jamal Cannady, and Russ Young. Forty-four people submitted photos. The judge’s met to review all pictures submitted.

Photos were chosen based on the following criteria:

- for the quality of the relationship shown in the photo;
- if there was one person with a developmental disability alongside someone without a disability;
- the location of the photo – had to represent a facet of community life;
- the quality of the picture.

, Jamal and Russ shared comments about their positive experience on the Photo Contest Team. The winning photos were shown.

Executive Director’s Report – Brian Cox
Brian explained that the status report was the last one on the FY2012-2016 State Plan, which ends this month. We accomplished every objective over the 5 years, except one which focused in inclusive post-secondary education and was partially met. Work continues on many priorities in the new State Plan.

The following Highlights were shared:

Highlights: employment in addition to tip grants and the video that were going to do, we have continued to engage with Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and others on employment first. October is National Disabilities Awareness Month using that opportunity to inform others about awards & videos.

In addition to awarding the TIP grants and developing a video, the Council remains active in DDA's Employment First work. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month so the Council will publicly announce the TIP grants and video then. Members were encouraged to let Kelley Malone know if they have good resources and stories to share. The Council’s application for a federal Partners in Employment grant was not selected. It focused on develop statewide network of inclusive programming for 18-21 year olds on college campuses (dual enrollment programs). The partnering organizations agreed to explore opportunities to implement at least part of the proposed plan.
Teri Sparks provided an update on the Community of Practice for Supporting Families initiative co-led with DDA. Regional Awareness events will be planned.

Rachel London provided background on three bills to be introduced in 2017 that the council is active on so far that will 2017 introduced next session having to do with child care and education. Rachel was invited to testify at a Joint Committee for Children, Youth and Families hearing about the quality of child care for children with disabilities. This hearing was the second of a series of three focused on improving access to high quality, inclusive child care for all children and their families. The Council presented information about the barriers to accessing child care for families of children with disabilities.

Brian reported that the Council staff had opportunities this month to meet with the Governor’s top staff to advocate priorities and develop relationships. Rachel met with the Governor’s Director of Public Policy to discuss early intervention services and options for increasing access to these critical services for children with developmental disabilities and delays. Brian and the DD Coalition met with the partners, including child care providers and other agencies that support children with disabilities and their families. In addition to advocating for more funding, the waiting list initiative proposed by the Coalition would include two new capped supports waivers – one for families with children ages birth-22 and another for adults. DDA and the DD Coalition have been meeting to agree on the details of the supports waivers.

Members were referred to data on the Council’s communications and highlights were provided.

Brian referred members to copies of the entire new State Plan and the FY2017 Annual Work plan, which will serve as our roadmap and guide how we gather information and data to measure our impact.

Jane Wesley –Maryland Department Health and Mental Hygiene

- Home Community Based Waivers were due to be renewed this past July 1: Brain Injury, Home and Community-Based Options Waiver (Options Waiver), and Medical Day Care Services Waiver. To date, the Options Waiver and Medical Day Care Services waivers have been approved by CMS. Renewals are good for 5 year period
- Federal Home& Community Based Setting Rule activities are being handled separately for DDA and other Medicaid home and community-based services programs. A recently updated Statewide Transition Plan is available on the DHMH Medicaid website.
- Self surveying of compliance with the final rule by most providers has been accomplished. Participants also received the opportunity to comment on their day and residential settings. Full compliance by providers with the CMS rule is required by March 2019. A lot of culture change needs to happen because providers are still entrenched with old ways of providing services that is program or facility-centered rather than person-centered. A lot of training assistance is needed for providers and that is being worked on.
Carmen Brown – Maryland State Department of Education

- MSDE received a lot of questions about the Governor’s decision to begin school after Labor Day and how it might impact students who turn 21 at the end of summer, including those students currently enrolled in the Autism Waiver.
- MSDE is working with stakeholders to develop and disseminate 3 Technical Assistance Bulletins. They will provide guidance on how schools should address the learning disabilities of Dyslexia, Dyscalculia and Dysgraphia; how schools should implement the new law about translating Individual Education Programs into the native language of a parent under certain circumstances; and effective transition practices for three year olds transitioning from an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) to an extended IFSP or IEP.
- After the roll out of the Technical Assistance Bulletins, MSDE will provide technical assistance to local school systems.

Nancy Pineles – Disability Rights Maryland

- Name has changed to Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) from Maryland Disability Law Center.

Bernie Simons - Development Disabilities Administration

- Home Community Bases Settings Rule team is in the process of finishing surveys of providers.
- Information is on DDA’s website regarding proposed amendments to the Community Pathways waiver. DDA is getting stakeholder input and once that’s done DDA will work with Medicaid and posted final draft. Amendment will be submitted in January.
- Employment First is moving forward and there will be a summit in October in Columbia.
- Rate study legislation was passed in 2014. Consultants are drafting a report that will be submitted in January.
- Work to develop a new supports waiver supporting kids and families has started and includes the Council. Bernie anticipates a robust menu of support options. Mary Ann Kane Breschi at DDA has been charged with learning from families about their needs.

Jacqueline Stone – MD Center for Developmental Disabilities

- MCDD is embarking on its Community Needs Assessment in preparation for its next year annual grant. Data collected with its sister agencies, community partners, and through public community meetings and forums will be used. The
- MCDD partnered with the Kinera Foundation. This is a parent-led organization on the Eastern Shore. On September 14, 2016, they had their open house launching a new Health Hub located in Stevensonville, MD.

Rosanne Hanratty - Maryland Department of Aging

- Reported the Department is in the process of naming a permanent representative to the Council. Expressed her interest in being a member.
Deputy Secretary William Frank – Maryland Development of Disabilities

- Currently celebrating Direct Support Professional Week. Visits have been made with different individuals awarding them a Governor's Citation for a job well done.
- The 2016 ADA celebration in July was a big success. Bill thanked the Council for sponsoring the event.
- Working on 5 year strategic plan and Anne Blackfield is heading that effort.
- A Behavior Health Policy Specialist will start at MDOD in October.
- October is Disability Employee Awareness Month.
- The legislative session will start the second Wednesday in January, MDOD had a great session last year and the following bills were passed: The Able Act, Ethan Saylor Alliance and Sub-Minimum Wage.

Updates & Announcements

Amanda Lay
After five years of employment, she left her job recently and seeks new employment.

As there was no further business to discuss M/S/P to adjourn the meeting.