Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities

**Quarterly Council Meeting**

**October 16-17, 2014**

**Atlanta, Georgia**

Present:

Council Members

Josette Akhras

Marcey Alter

Kate Brady

Dan Crimmins

Geneice McCoy

Darelen Meador

Evan Nodvin

Ron Pound

Mitzi Proffitt

Crystal Rasa

Debbie Reagin

Zo Stoneman/ Becky Brightwell

Lynn Walker

Advisory Members

Theresa Brenner

Pam Hunter Dempsy

Dorothy Harris

Trace Haythorne

Bren Munoz

Eren Neidenhofer

Lisa Newbern

Colleen Pirkle

Marcia Singson

Jodi Wren

Guest:

Riyadh Akhras

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mitzi Proffitt reported that two staff positions had been vacant: Grants Manager and Public Policy Director. Eric Jacobson has hired Lisa Eaves as the GCDD Grants Manager and has decided to leave the Public Policy Director’s position vacant. He has appointed Dawn Alford Acting Public Policy Director. Ms. Proffitt also introduced Nick Perry who is the Public Policy Intern.

Mitzi Proffitt introduced six new Advisory Members that were selected from over 30 applications. In addition, five other people were recommended to Governor Deal for appointment to the GCDD. She thanked the committee of Geneice McCoy, Theresa Heard, Debbie Hibben and Tom Connelly for reviewing applications and recommending the new Advisory Members. The new Advisory Members are: Pam Dempsy, Trace Haythorne, Brenda Munoz, Eren Neiderhoffer, Marcia Singson, and Jodie Wren.

1. **DBHDD**

Mitzi Proffitt introduced Dan Howell who is the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Developmental Disabilities for the State of Georgia. Mr. Howell and Frank Kirkland presented on several new initiatives and how the Department is addressing the concerns from the Department of Justice settlement. They discussed the need to offer incentives for supported employment and that this will be part of the rewrite for the Medicaid Waiver which will take place in the near future and implementation in 2016. There will be public forums in the regions around the waivers. Frank Kirkland will be leading this effort and will work with several consultants including Robin Cooper from the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services.

Mr. Howell offered to have GCDD representation on this effort and to provide updates to members at quarterly meetings.

Mr. Howell also announced that DBHDD has created an Office of Deaf Services. He also explained that ValueOptions had received the contract to create an administrative services organization that will be responsible for collecting data, prior authorization, provider quality assurance and auditing services. This will be done through the Georgia Collaborative.

1. **Georgia Microboard Association** .

Gillian Grable presented overview of the Georgia Microboards and what is happening in Georgia. With Gillian were Todd Cooper, his friend and housemate Chris Stroud, and Todd’s mom Becky. Ms. Grable reminded people that the Georgia Microboard Association is a collaboration between the “Federal DD Network” with each agency providing either funding or technical assistance.

1. **Legislative Agenda**

Dawn Alford presented the proposed legislative agenda for the 2015 legislative session. The issues presented were:

* + - 1. Support creation of an Employment First Policy
      2. Support the Unlock the Waiting List Agenda that includes: new funds for Medicaid Waivers, housing vouchers, increased rates for providers, and support to move children out of nursing homes and intermediate care facilities for people with developmental disabilities.
      3. Support efforts to include students in Inclusive Post Secondary program in HOPE Scholarship
      4. Support the Family Care Act

1. **State Medicaid Transition Plan**

Mitzi Proffitt reminded members that at the July meeting, Pat Nobbie presented on the new rules for Medicaid as it relates to Waivers and home and community based services. She then introduced Marcey Alter from the Department of Community Health who presented on Georgia’s plan to transition Medicaid waivers to meet the new requirements. Ms. Alter reported that there are 40,000 people on waivers in Georgia. Those who self-direct services are not impacted by this effort. In addition, person centered service delivery and conflict free case management are not included because the federal government says states should already be doing this. Ms. Alter then reviewed the process Georgia is using to create its transition plan

Friday October 14, 2014

1. Old Business

Consent Agenda

* Minutes from the July meeting,
* Program Update Report,
* Quarterly Budget Report,

**Dan Crimmins made a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Zo Stoneman seconded the motion. The Council members unanimously approved the motion to adopt the consent agenda.**

Legislative Agenda:

**Geneice McCoy made a motion to adopt the legislative agenda as presented. Zo Stoneman seconded the motion. The Council members unanimously approved the motion to adopt the legislative agenda.**

1. Real Communities Update

Caitlin Childs and Cheri Mastin gave an update on the Real Communities initiative and how we are evaluating this effort.

1. Advocacy Training

D’Arcy Robb and Dawn Alford gave an interactive presentation on how to approach legislators and discuss issues on the legislative agenda.

1. Adjourn