

DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
DD ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JULY 18, 2014

ADVISORY COUNCIL ATTENDEES: Debbie Conway (Chair), Estelle Duncan, Twana King, Sheryl Arno, Heidi Moore, Dr. Bruce Lindemann, June Dipolito, Rita Young, Bobby Holcombe, Lynnette Bragg, and Eve Brogan (Participated via Conference)

STATE OFFICE STAFF: Judy Fitzgerald, Dan Howell, Sara Case, Eddie Towson, Doris E. Johnson, Mary Price, Catherine Ivy, Robert Bell and Lynne Hutcheson (Recorder)

EXCUSED: William (Scott) Crain, Nicki Wilson, Mitzi Profitt and Nandi Issac

Topic	Outcome
Welcome & Introductions Ms. Debbie Conway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ The meeting began at 10:15 AM.❖ Ms. Conway welcomed everyone in attendance and asked members to share what is going well in their work and supports of individuals with developmental disabilities.❖ Two members of the DD Advisory Council have stepped down – Scott Crain and Nikki Wilson. Applications previously submitted for membership on the council will be reviewed. When the DD Advisory Council was established, the appointment was for a two year period. Since we are approaching the end of the two year period, it was recommended that 1/3 of the members roll off (including the two who have stepped down) and the other 2/3 of the members remain on the council.
Business: Approval of Minutes Ms. Estelle Duncan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ There was a motion to approve the May 16th meeting minutes.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. DiPolito motioned to approve the minutes.• Dr. Lindemann seconded the motion.• Minutes were approved unanimously.
Division Updates Ms. Judy Fitzgerald	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ <u>New Director Update:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• A candidate has been chosen for interview and Ms. Conway has been asked to sit in.❖ <u>DBHDD 2014 Strategic Initiatives:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Fitzgerald gave a brief explanation of the department's re-engineering.• Ms. Fitzgerald stated this re-engineering would promote easy access to high quality person-centered care.• Ms. Fitzgerald also feels that the blueprint for re-engineering cannot be fulfilled without partnering with the DDAC.• The re-engineering would include a complete overhaul of DD Services❖ <u>ADA Settlement/Transition:</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• The hospital transitions are still on hold until the provider base can be assessed for adequate placements. Support Coordination is an important piece and will need to have early engagements with providers 60 days prior to transitions and provide wraparound supports.

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Communication Mr. Dan Howell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mr. Howell believes that better communication between the Department and the Council will better utilize what the Council can offer the department. ❖ Mr. Howell pledged to attend all council meetings and remain until lunch.
Supported Employment Pilots/SELN Ms. Catherine Ivy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ms. Ivy discussed the provider rate increase and why it was being held up. ❖ Providers must continually evaluate services to show that individuals have full freedom of choice and are not segregated. Providers will do a self-assessment (using a standardized tool); self-assessments will be validated (a random sample) by Support Coordination or Regional Office staff. ❖ The Georgia Transition Plan will have a public forum on July 30th, with changes finalized by August 30th and submitted to CMS by September 15th. Space is limited during the public forum so three members will be invited from each major group, ex. DDAC, SPADD, etc. DCH is the leader related to the plan. ❖ <u>Supported Employment Pilot:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on the transition of 10 high school students in each region into jobs with 60 slots to be filled. • Family Support – Supported Employment: Funds were identified and seven (7) providers will be funded. Individuals selected must be off the planning lists or Family Support lists.
Support Coordination Importance of Person-Centered Thinking Trainers Mr. Robert Bell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mr. Bell updated the council on the continued training of the person-centered trainers through the University of Georgia (UGA). 20 people across the state have been certified as person centered trainers. Mr. Bell encouraged us to utilize these qualified people. ❖ Mr. Bell believes that the support coordinators responsibilities are way too broad and should be narrowed to recognizing the needs of the individuals and referring the individuals to the appropriate service providers- recognize and refer. It is important to move away from the current system of ratings and friction between Support Coordinators and providers.
Input on Standard ER Audits Capacity Study Person-Centered Organ. Training Ms. Sara Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ms. Case stated the DDAC members would receive two emails requesting input from the council regarding standards for all providers and person-centered organization training. ❖ Ms. Case also stated that the department would be performing unannounced exceptional rate audits on providers to verify that individuals are receiving the services that are needed and agreed upon and that the documentation supports. ❖ The department has been conducting a capacity study. All regions, except region five, have completed and submitted their questionnaires and the department will compile the results to see where there is capacity for expansion. ❖ Ms. Case asked for submissions from council members for the department newsletter by August 15th.
Quality Indicators/QI Councils/DDAC Mr. Eddie Towson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mr. Towson reported on the Quality and Outcome Indicators Workgroup which met on Thursday, July 17. Six workgroup committees were organized by quality area “domains”. The workgroups are as follows: Access to Services, Health and Safety, Community Integration, Qualified Providers, Financial Accountability and Administrative Authority, and Service Planning. The entire workgroup will meet monthly either by conference call or face-to-face. The smaller “domain” workgroups will develop draft indicators and submit to the larger group.

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Microboards Ms. Gillian Grable	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ He believes they will have a draft ready for public comment by December 2014.❖ Ms. Grable briefly discussed microboards and gave a definition of what they are and how one can become involved in a microboard.❖ There are about 30 registered microboards in Georgia. They consist of a group of people in the community who help an individual with a disability realize his/her goals in life.❖ Todd Cooper and his mother, Becky, shared a video of Todd's story of his microboard. Todd's microboard help him live independently in Atlanta while his family lives in Florida. Todd works as a bell ringer with the Salvation Army and has his own website where he recommends movies online at www.toddsreeldeal.com. He is very involved in the community, he loves to go on cruises with his family, he is very involved in his church and rides Marta. His dream is to work with the Braves organization. His email is tcooper95@yahoo.com.❖ Ms. Grable then showed a DVD of how another microboard worked to help a young woman with cerebral palsy who wanted to learn to drive a horse drawn carriage. The young woman was injured and her doctors would not agree to her returning home until her mother involved her microboard. The microboard became involved and the young woman was allowed to return home to spend her last months with her mother doing the things she loved.
Questions/ Recommendations Advisory Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Ms. Conway asked that another council member, perhaps a family member, also sit on the interview panel for the Executive Director replacement.❖ Options were discussed for other locations for the meeting or for conference calls.
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ The meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2014. The next meeting may be held at DeKalb CSB but members will be notified of the location.