Boling Center CAC meeting

August 21, 2013

Attendees:
Susan Bryant – CLEE trainee FY 14
Gina Brady – DLAC
Judy Brooks – BCDD
Melvin Jackson – CLEE
Steven Sheegog
Carolyn Somerville – Health Department
Jenness Roth – BCDD
Fred Palmer – BCDD
Martha Lopez – STEP
Derek Flake – STEP
Carlene Leaper – Mid South Arc
Elizabeth Bishop – BCDD
Laurie Fleming – Vanderbilt Kennedy Center
Geri Mulligan – CLEE
Lori Mabry – Disability Coalition
Emma Shouse – DD Council
Crystal Godwin – CLEE

Welcome and introductions – Melvin Jackson introduced Susan Bryant who will be a trainee this year at the Boling Center and working with the Center for Literacy, Education and Employment (CLEE) and the transition project. Martha Lopez introduced herself as the new bilingual liaison at the West TN STEP office.

DD Network Reports:
DD Council (Emma Shouse) reported that the Council has just received a 5 year grant in partnership with DIDD for supporting families through communities of practice. Tennessee and five other states were awarded this funding as well as part of a national coalition for best practices to service families not in service system. Also, the council is funding 9 new Project Search sites focusing on partnerships with Voc Rehab targeting high school students with intellectual disabilities to get them early work experience as part of their transition from high school. The nine sites are located in nine developmental districts and include partnerships with local businesses. There is also a possible opportunity to partner with Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) to host a Tennessee chapter. More to come on that in October.

DLAC (Gina Brady) reported that through the efforts of DLAC and many advocates that the plan to change the transition age from 16 to 14 was defeated and the age still remains at 14 for transition plans to begin for students with disabilities. The Heros fundraiser has been postponed until March. DLAC has completed their data collection on community needs and the top 5 are:

1) community services (not enough transportation etc.)
2) employment
3) education (IEPs will be addressed this year)
4) disability discrimination
5) housing
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center (Laurie Fleming) reported that the Next Steps students started today (8/21/13); TN Works Community Conversation is scheduled in Murfreesboro; Volunteer Advocacy Project goes September 9 – November 25 more information can be found on the VKC website at http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/site/newsandevents/calendar/page.aspx?id=4019; and the CAC will meet 9/13 and will begin planning the 5 year renewal application.

BCDD (Elizabeth Bishop) reported that they have begun a new partnership with the YMCA on Project REACH, a Hispanic outreach program designed to address the overall health of Hispanic and latino families in the Shelby County area. REACH is part of a national grant from the CDC to address specific health concerns for Hispanic and latino families. Also the AIDD UCEDD grant was refunded to BCDD for the next 5 years. A copy of the evaluation plan and process for the CAC involvement was emailed out to everyone and provided as a hard copy at the meeting. Questions please contact Dr. Palmer or Dr. Keisling. August 29th will be the scheduled orientation for 23 new long-term trainees at the Boling Center. Most of these trainees will be here until April; some until August. More details about who they are will be provided later.

Derek Flake, West TN STEP Coordinator provided a brief overview of STEP, Inc. and the current initiatives (Power point handout is attached). Most interesting to note is that the STEP workshops are archived on the website and available for loan on DVD as well. The STEP model is to empower families to advocate for their children with special needs in the school system as well as through life. For more information on STEP visit the website at www.tnstep.org or call the local office at 901-426-4334. Geri Mulligan stated that she would like to collaborate with STEP regarding efforts on literacy in TN.

Announcements:
Robin Stevens, long time member of CAC will be rotating off this year. She will be greatly missed on the CAC but has promised to be one of the Family Mentorship families for our trainees. Robin thank you for your time and years of dedication to the Boling Center and CAC.
Dena Gassner has also rotated off the CAC due to relocating to another state. Dena has been a valued asset to the state of Tennessee and we will surely feel the void in her absence.
UT Boling Center now has a Facebook page! You can find the Facebook page off of our website at www.uthsc.edu/bcdd. Like us if you have Facebook as well. Announcements about trainings, disability events and issues will be posted to the FB as well as the website. It’s just another way for us to increase our dissemination efforts.