

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES ~ Amended 5/20/2021
WebEx Meeting & YouTube Streaming Live
Thursday, February 11, 2021

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday February 11, 2021 and was held as a virtual ZoomVideo Meeting and also streamed live on the Council YouTube page. The meeting was called to order by Paul Blaustein, Chairperson, who presided and read the Open Public Meeting Act and Council Vision. The meeting notice was published in the Newark Star Ledger and the Trenton Times. Everyone went around and introduced themselves.

Public Comment

There were 2 public comments submitted in advance to be read during the meeting.

- ❖ Emma Anderson submitted a comment to be read during the meeting. Paul Blaustein, Council Chair read and responded to the comment.
- ❖ Joan Migton submitted a comment to be read during the meeting. Paul Blaustein, Council Chair read, and Jonathan Seifried was present to responded to the comment.

Meeting Minutes

The November 19, 2020 meeting minutes were distributed.

ACTION:

Motion made by Todd Emmons to approve the November meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Gary Rubin, meeting minutes are approved and will be added to the website.

Committee Reports

- ❖ State Plan Committee Report was given by Helen Steinbeg.
After committee discussion, the 2022 – 2026 drafted State Plan was presented to the full Council for review and approval.

ACTION:

Motion was made by Gwen Orłowski to accept the State Plan draft and submit it for public comment; Kara Kushnir seconded. Motion approved with none opposed and **three abstentions, Safiyyah Muhammad, Kevin Nunez and Phyllis Melendez.**

- Ad Hoc Committee Equal Access to DD Services was given by Safiyyah Muhammad
- ❖ Executive Committee and Chair Report was given by Paul Blaustein
- ❖ Public Policy Committee Report was given by Kara Kushnir
 - Children and Youth Services Subcommittee report was given by Peg Kinsell
 - Health and Wellness Committee Report was given by Maria Leary, Council Staff

- ❖ Grant Committee Report was given by Kevin Nunez

Presentation/Update:

Council Grantee, NJ Supportive Housing Association, Housing Navigator Program, presented by Diane Riley, Executive Director, was present to give an update to the members. Diane was thanked and congratulated on their virtual conference.

Advocate Caucus

The Advocate Caucus report was given by Kevin Nunez.

Executive Director Report given by Mercedes Witowsky.

In Person Ethics Training

As part of the Council Membership, an In Person Ethics Training is to take place every 3 years. This year is our third year and the training has been scheduled for Thursday April 8, 2021 at 1pm. This will be a virtual training due to current conditions due to COVID-19.

Public Comment

There were 3 public comments from the YouTube Live Streaming that were read aloud and responded. Comments were received from the following:

- ❖ Monique Wilson
- ❖ Fannie Ochoa
- ❖ Sharon Scipio

Action

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 12:12pm by Andrew McGeady.
Seconded by Kevin Nunez

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

Next Advocate Caucus is May 19, 2021 at 12pm
Next Council meeting is May 20, 2020 at 10:00am

ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members

Paul Blaustein	Walt Fernandez	Elizabeth Dalzell	Kevin Nunez
Andrew McGeady	Helen Steinberg	Kara Kushnir	Todd Emmons
Peg Kinsell	Safiyah Muhammad	Myrta Rosa	Gary Rubin
Sarah Aziz			

DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies

Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
Gwen Orłowski, Executive Director, Disability Rights New Jersey
Kim Murray, Office of Special Education Programs

No Representation, Division of Family Health Services

No Representation, Division of Voc. Rehab. Services

Jonathan Seifried, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Jacqueline Moskowitz, Division of Disability Services
Phyllis Melendez, Division of Medical Asst. & Health Services

No Representation, Department of Children and Families

Guests

Annette Smith
Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman
Ryan Roy
Diane Riley

Council Staff

Mercedes Witowsky
Jacinta Williams
Bob Titus
Kyoko Coco
Rebekah Novemsky
Frank Latham
Jodi Fox
Gary Brown
Brenda Considine
Maria Leary