COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING MINUTES
Zoom Webinar
Thursday, May 12, 2022

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday May 12, 2022 and was held as a Hybrid ZoomWebinar Meeting. 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 Star Ledger and the Trenton Times.

Public Comment
Paul Blaustein addressed one public comment that was submitted in advance.

Meeting Minutes
The February 10, 2022, meeting minutes were distributed.

ACTION:
Motion made by Elizabeth Dalzell to approve the minutes.
Seconded by Kevin Nunez, meeting minutes are approved and will be added to the website.

Presentations:
NJCDD 5-Year Plan Goal 1, Objective 1- Leadership Training Opportunities Development: Community Options, Paula Kaestner, National Training Specialist, was present in person to provide an introduction update of the project and a timeline for future progress.

NJCDD 5-Year Plan Goal 1, Objective 3- Increasing Access to Information for Black NJ Residents: LeDerick Horne Speaks, LeDerick Horne, Director and Bill Davis, Co-Director, who participated by Zoom webinar, provided an update on the project initiative and first quarter progress.

NJCDD 5-Year Plan Goal 3, Objective 3- Improving Diversity, Equity and Cultural Competency and Linguistic Responsiveness at NJCDD: SPAN Family Advocacy, who participated by Zoom webinar, provided an update on the project initiative and Steering Committee update.

All presenters were thanked for their participation.
Committee Reports

- **Executive Committee and Chair Report** was given by Paul Blaustein.
  - Advocate Advisory Subcommittee Report was given by Ryan Roy
- **Public Policy Committee Report** was given by Andrew McGeady
  - Children and Youth Services Subcommittee Report was given by Peg Kinsell
  - Health and Wellness Committee Report was given by Elizabeth Dalzell
- **State Plan Committee Report** was given by Mercedes Witowsky
  - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee Report was given by Sarah Aziz
- **Grants Committee Report** was given by Kevin Nunez

Advocate Caucus Update was given by Todd Emmons

**Executive Director Report** given by Mercedes Witowsky.
A few announcements were made that didn’t make it into the report.

Nominations:
The following are nominations taken for the At Large position on the Executive Committee and Vice Chair position:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Committee At Large</th>
<th>Vice Chair</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Todd Emmons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myrta Rosa</td>
<td>Myrta Rosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew McGeady</td>
<td>Kevin Nunez</td>
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<td>Safiyyah Muhammad</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Dalzell</td>
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Public Comment
Paul answered several questions from the public, submitted by Q&A.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Peg Kinsell, Seconded by Todd Emmons.
Meeting adjourned

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

**Next Advocate Caucus is August 10, 2022 at 6pm-8pm**
**Next Council meeting is August 11, 2022 at 9:30am-1:30pm**
ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members
Paul Blaustein, Zoom    Todd Emmons    Elizabeth Dalzell, Zoom
Andrew McGeady    Sarah Aziz, Zoom    Walt Fernandez, Zoom
Gary Rubin    Myrta Rosa    Ryan Roy
Peg Kinsell    Kevin Nunez    Safiyyah Muhammad, Zoom

Excused
Helen Steinberg
Kara Kushnir
Michael McCarthy

DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies
Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, Zoom
No Representative, Disability Rights New Jersey
No Representative, Division of Family Health Services
Cheri Thompson, Division of Voc. Rehab. Services, Zoom
No Representative, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Jacqueline Moskowitz, Division of Disability Services
Phyllis Melendez, Division of Medical Asst. & Health Services
No Representative, Office of Special Education Programs, Zoom

Public Member
VACANT

Guests
Matthew McMullen
Annette Smith, Zoom
Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman
Nick Taubenslag, Zoom

Council Staff
Mercedes Witowsky
Bob Titus
Kyoko Coco
Jodi Fox
Gary Brown
Maria Ali
Maria Leary
Jesse Schwartzman
Jade Pollack
Frank Latham
Alison Malnak