

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Zoom Webinar
Thursday, November 18, 2021**

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday November 18, 2021 and was held as a virtual Zoom Webinar 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 Newark Star Ledger and the Trenton Times.

Announcement

- Paul Blaustein thanked the board members for their continued hard work during this pandemic. In reading committee reports, it's clear that everyone has stepped up and done a wonderful job.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Meeting Minutes

The August 12, 2021, meeting minutes were distributed.

ACTION:

Motion made by Kara Kushnir to approve the minutes.

Seconded by Helen Steinberg, meeting minutes are approved and will be added to the website.

Committee Reports

- ❖ 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 Elizabeth Dalzell
- ❖ Grants Committee Report was given by Mercedes Witowsky
- ❖ State Plan Committee Report was given by Helen Steinberg.

Advocate Caucus Update was given by Gary Rubin

Discussion on Implementation of the Updated By-Laws

The By-laws have been updated and will be implemented beginning January 1, 2022. Paul Blaustein discussed the 2nd At Large position on the Executive Committee for an advocate Council Members. Anyone who is interested in that position or any other person who would like to nominate a self-advocate, please email Jacinta Williams at jacinta.williams@njcdd.org. Voting will take place at the February 10th Council Meeting.

Paul Blaustein also introduced the 2 new subcommittees that will allow members of the public to join and participate:

Self-Advocate Subcommittee that will report to the Executive Committee

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee that will report the State Plan Committee

As an added reminder, due to the Open Public Meeting Act, there can only be 10 Council members on any Council Committees. If you are interested in any of these 2 new subcommittees, send an email to jacinta.williams@njcdd.org.

Executive Director Report given by Mercedes Witowsky.

The Executive Director report was included in the meeting packet. Mercedes updated members with highlights of the report. Jade Pollack was introduced as staff contact for the newly created Subcommittee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Everyone welcomed Jade.

Public Comment

Paul addressed the public comments from the comments section within the Zoom platform.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Helen Steinberg, seconded by Elizabeth Dalzell.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

Next Advocate Caucus is February 9, 2022 at 6pm-7pm
Next Council meeting is February 10, 2022 at 10:00am-Noon

ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members

Paul Blaustein	Walt Fernandez	Elizabeth Dalzell	Kara Kushnir
Andrew McGeady	Helen Steinberg	Sarah Aziz	Gary Rubin
Peg Kinsell	Safiyyah Muhammad	Myrta Rosa	Ryan Roy

Excused

Todd Emmons
Kevin Nunez

DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies

Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
Jill Hoegel, Disability Rights New Jersey
Dawn Mergen, Division of Family Health Services
Karen Carroll, 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
Ari Charles, Office of Special Education Programs

Public Member

VACANT

Guests

Annette Smith
Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman
Charlotte Glover

Council Staff

Mercedes Witowsky
Jacinta Williams
Bob Titus
Kyoko Coco
Jodi Fox
Gary Brown
Maria Leary
Brenda Considine
Jade Pollack