COUNCIL MEETING AMENDED MINUTES
Wednesday, September 11, 2019

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Wednesday September 11, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Hamilton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Paul Blaustein, Chair Person, 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.

Approval of Minutes / Announcements

Approval of Minutes: Discussion

The minutes from the May 23, 2019 meeting were distributed and reviewed.

Action:
Motion made by Todd Emmons to approve the minutes, Seconded by Elizabeth Dalzell. The minutes were approved and will be added to the website.

Announcement:

❖ A moment of silence was had for the 9/11 victims, which one was Colleen Fraser, an advocate for people with developmental disabilities. Also, the passing of Joe Amoroso, Ex – Director for the Division of Disability Services, on Thursday September 4, 2019.
❖ At the conclusion of today’s meeting, the board members will be conducting a lunch and learn.
❖ Hackettstown Elks Lodge #2331 was awarded funding for training and creating 100 1st Responders Kits for law enforcement in Warren County. The kits are to help reduce the trauma for people with developmental disabilities in a police emergency and improve their safety and wellness. Kits will be assembled by students with disabilities.

Public Comment

❖ Education Day in the Northern Region, will be held on Saturday October 26, 2019.

Presentation:

SPAN/SEVA: 3rd year Update
Carolyn Hayer and Jeannette Mejias
Committee Reports

- **Executive Committee and Chair Report** was given by Paul Blaustein
  
  **Voting on Vice Chair and At Large Executive Committee positions**
  
  **Action:** Kevin Nunez was voted in as the Vice Chair and Safiyyah Muhammad was voted in as the At Large Executive Committee position. Congratulations to both Kevin and Safiyyah.

- **Public Policy Committee Report** was given by Ellie Byra
  
  **Voting of Council Position Papers: Education and Employment**
  
  **Action on Education:**
  
  Motion made by Kevin Nunez to approve the presented updated position paper on Education.
  
  Seconded by Todd Emmons. The updated position paper was approved and will be added to the website. Motion passed with 1 abstention, Kevin Nunez
  
  **Action on Employment:**
  
  Motion made by Bill Testa to approve the presented updated position paper on Employment.
  
  Seconded by Todd Emmons. The updated position paper was approved and will be added to the website. Motion passed with 1 abstention, Kevin Nunez

- **Grant & Planning Committees Report** was given by Kevin Nunez

Advocate Caucus

The Advocate Caucus takes place the night before the full board meeting. Gary Rubin, shared the discussion of the transportation issues people with disabilities face and how Disability Rights NJ will be including more advocates in their discussions.

Staff Reports

- **Executive Director Report** given by Mercedes Witowsky
  
  Kyoko Coco, Family Support Coordinator and Rebekah Novemsky, Family Support Liaison, gave a presentation to update members on family trainings.

Public Comment

- Kevin Nunez thanked Myrta Rosa for her service as Vice Chair.

Action

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

**Next Consumer Caucus is March 18, 2020 @ Hilton Garden Inn**

**Next Council meeting is March 19, 2020 @ Hilton Garden Inn**
ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members
Paul Blaustein    Ellie Byra    Andrew McGeady    Todd Emmons
Myrta Rosa       Gary Rubin    Kevin Nunez       Safiyyah Muhammad
Helen Steinberg  Peg Kinsell   Elizabeth Dalzell  Tara Montague
Kara Kushnir

Excused Members
Walt Fernandez

DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies
Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
Jill Hoegel, Disability Rights New Jersey
Kim Murray, Office of Special Education Programs
Dawn Mergen, Division of Family Health Services

VACANT, Division of Voc. Rehab. Services
Jonathan Seifried, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities I don’t think Jon was there???? Was Robert Artis there? Or am I getting meetings confused???
Rosemary Brown was there representing DCF/CSOC
Peri Nearon, Executive Director, Division of Disability Services

No representative for Division of Medical Asst. & Health Services

Public Member
William Testa, Executive Director, Arc of Morris County

Guests
Tom Baffuto, Executive Director, Arc NJ    Eric Joice
Matthew McMullen                            Melanie Ayers
Erin Ross Burgess                            Rosemary Browne
Annette Smith                                Walter Kalman
Gail Furrer                                  Ryan Roy
Liza Gundell                                 Dominiqui Bentley
Lauren Agoratis                              Paul Aronsohn
Andy Stovtgakyj                             Jessica Lars
Kyle Picone                                  Dawn Mckitty
Sarah Aziz                                   Brenda Considine
Jeannette Nejias                              Carolyn Hayer
Gabrielle Bohon

Council Staff
Mercedes Witowsky                           Frank Latham
Jacinta Williams                            Gary Brown
Dennie Todd                                 Bob Titus
Kyoko Coco                                  Rebekah Novemsky
Jodi Fox