

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 presented 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

Matthew McMullen

Erin Ross Burgess

Annette Smith

Gail Furrer

Liza Gundell

Lauren Agoratis

Andy Stovtgaskyj

Kyle Picone

Sarah Aziz

Jeannette Nejas

Gabrielle Bohon

Eric Joice

Melanie Ayers

Rosemary Browne

Walter Kalman

Ryan Roy

Dominiqui Bentley

Paul Aronsohn

Jessica Lars

Dawn Mckitty

Brenda Considine

Carolyn Hayer

Council Staff

Mercedes Witowsky

Jacinta Williams

Dennie Todd

Kyoko Coco

Jodi Fox

Frank Latham

Gary Brown

Bob Titus

Rebekah Novemsky