

**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:

### Executive Committee At Large

Todd Emmons

Myrta Rosa

Andrew McGeady

Safiyyah Muhammad

Elizabeth Dalzell

### Vice Chair

Todd Emmons

Myrta Rosa

Kevin Nunez

## 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	Safiyah 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