

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WebEx Meeting & YouTube Streaming Live
Thursday, November 19, 2020

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday November 19, 2020 and was held as a virtual WebEx Video Meeting and also streamed live on the Council YouTube page. 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. Everyone went around and introduced themselves.

Public Comment

There was 1 public comment submitted in advance to be read during the meeting.

- ❖ Nantanee Koppstein submitted a comment to be read during the meeting. Paul Blaustein, Council Chair responded to the comment.

Meeting Minutes

The September 24, 2020 meeting minutes were distributed.

Action:

Motion made by Kevin Nunez to approve the September meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Andrew McGeady, meeting minutes are approved.

Committee Reports

- ❖ Executive Committee and Chair Report was given by Paul Blaustein
Kara Kushnir has been appointed Chair of the Public Policy Committee and Andrew McGeady will be the Vice Chair.
- ❖ Public Policy Committee Report was given by Kara Kushnir
 - Children and Youth Services Subcommittee report was given by Peg Kinsell
- ❖ Grant Committee Report was given by Kevin Nunez

ACTION:

Motion made by Kevin Nunez to create an ad hoc committee to revise the current Council Bylaws. Paul Blaustein agrees and asks for volunteers for the committee. Safiyyah Muhammad amends the motion to say that the entire Council revise the Bylaws. Paul Blaustein gave a summary of the procedure to revise the Bylaws but would like to see who is interested in participating in an ad hoc committee. Then the committee will send their recommendations to the full board for a vote. Council members interested in serving on the ad hoc committee were encouraged to notify Paul, Mercedes or Jacinta.

- ❖ State Planning Committee Report was given by Helen Steinberg
 - Equal Access to DD Services Ad Hoc Committee report was given by Safiyyah Muhammad

Presentation/Update:

Best Buddies International, was present and an update was given by Matthew Fernandes, NJ State Director, Best Buddies and Lisa Derx, of the Maryland DD Council.

Advocate Caucus

The Advocate Caucus report was given by Andrew McGeady.

Executive Director Report given by Mercedes Witowsky

2021 Calendar of Public Meetings and Committee Meetings

The meeting schedule was distributed without a couple of schedules. The recently added Ad Hoc Committee, Equal Access to DD Services and the January Retreat were discussed. After discussion, the current schedule will be updated to include added meeting dates.

Public Comment

There were 3 public comments from the YouTube Live Streaming that were read aloud and responded. Comments were received from the following:

- ❖ Norman Smith
- ❖ Walter Kalman
- ❖ Monique Dujue-Wilson

Action

Motion made to adjourn at 12:50pm by Kevin Nunez
Seconded by Elizabeth Dalzell

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

Next Advocate Caucus is February 10, 2021 at 6pm
Next Council meeting is February 11, 2020 at 10:30am

ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members

Paul Blaustein	Elizabeth Dalzell	Kevin Nunez
Andrew McGeady	Helen Steinberg	Kara Kushnir
Peg Kinsell	Safiyah Muhammad	

Excused Members

Tara Montague	Todd Emmons
Gary Rubin	Myrta Rosa
Walt Fernandez	
Ellie Byra	

DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies

Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
Gwen Orłowski, Executive Director, Disability Rights New Jersey
Kim Murray, Office of Special Education Programs

No Representation, Division of Family Health Services

No Representation, 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
No Representation, Department of Children and Families

Guests

Matthew Fernandes
Sarah Aziz
Annette Smith
Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman
Ryan Roy
Kyle Picone
Lisa Derx

Council Staff

Mercedes Witowsky
Jacinta Williams
Bob Titus
Kyoko Coco
Rebekah Novemsky
Frank Latham
Jodi Fox
Gary Brown
Ron Gordon