



Stephanie A. Pratico, *Chair*
Kevin T. Casey., *Executive Director*

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES **October 27, 2016**

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday October 27, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Princeton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 10:29 am by Stephanie Pratico, Chair, 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*.

Introductions/Announcements/Approval of Minutes

Announcement:

- ❖ Tomorrow, 10/28/16, is Council member Andrew McGeady birthday.
- ❖ Members congratulated the Regional Family Support Planning Council (RFSPC) #10 (Cape May County) for being honored as a recipient of the Cape May County Department of Aging and Disability Services' 8th Annual Frank Unkle Outstanding Service Recognition Award.
- ❖ Save the date: Free Advocacy Conference on Saturday January 21, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Monroe. Check the council website for more information.
- ❖ Congratulations to Council member, Joe Young for being selected to receive the Ann Klein Advocate Award.
- ❖ Everyone was reminded that their membership on the board does not allow for lobbying on behalf of the Council.
- ❖ Council Vice – Chair, Chris Miller, attended the “Every Place Counts Leadership Academy” and was the only attendee that used a wheelchair. He gave them a perspective they weren’t thinking about. His testimony is listed below:

Transportation decisions shape our lives and connect our communities. Yet members of the public often struggle to figure out how and when to engage in these important decisions.

Transportation Secretary Foxx believes in the power of transportation to increase opportunity -- and he knows that communities must get involved in transportation decisions in order to break down historic transportation barriers and prevent new ones from being built. In that light, he announced that USDOT would create the Every Place Counts: Leadership Academy to demystify, clarify and simplify transportation decision making. The processes of transportation planning and project development can be complex and confusing, and folks need help to learn how to get involved.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the July 16, 2016 meeting were distributed.

Action:

Motion made by Bill Testa to accept the July minutes with revisions, seconded by Paul Blaustein and approved. The minutes have been approved and will be added to the website.

Public Comment ~ AM

- ❖ Dan Keating, Executive Director at Alliance for the Betterment of Citizens with Disabilities (ABCD) was present to announce his availability to work on a document reply to an email that went out from VOR and thanked the Council for their support of their annual conference on November 1, 2016.

Presentation:

**Elizabeth Connolly, Acting Commissioner
“Services within Department of Human Services”**

Committee Report

- ❖ Executive Committee/Chair report given by Stephanie Pratico.
- ❖ Executive Director Report given by Kevin Casey.
- ❖ Planning/Grants Committee report was given by Chris Miller and Kevin Casey.

Public Comment: ~ PM

- ❖ None at this time.

Other/New Business

- ❖ Council member, Walt Fernandez shared with the board, his meeting with members of special needs families and his senator and assembly reps. He will be submitting his concerns in writing regarding the DSP training that is being proposed.

Adjournment

Action

Motion made by Kevin Nunez to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tara Montague.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Brister, Executive Assistant

ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members

Stephanie Pratico
Andrew McGeady
Todd Emmons
Paul Blaustein
Peg Kinsell

Ellie Byra
Chris Miller
Myrta Rosa
Kevin Nunez

Walt Fernandez
Tara Montague
Safiyyah Muhammad
Elizabeth Dalzell

Absent Members

Leah Ziskin
Gary Rubin
Helen Steinberg

Guests

Matthew McMullen
Michael Avella
Jeremy Einbinder, Council Staff Intern
Rebekah Novemsky, Statewide FSPC
Eric Joice, Executive Director, Family Resource Network (FRN)
Adeola Sonaike, National Get FIT Director, FRN
Dan Keating, Ph.D., Executive Director, ABCD
Joan Migton
Pam King
Lauren Agoratus, Family Voices
Elizabeth Manly,
Jonathan Blaustein

DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies

Michael Knox, Ph.D., Deputy Director, The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
Joseph Young, Executive Director, Disability Rights New Jersey
Kimberly Murray, Office of Special Education Programs
Felicia Walton, Division of Family Health Services
Harry Pizutelli, Division of Disability Services
David Free, Division of Voc. Rehab. Services

Public Member

William Testa, Executive Director, Arc of Morris County

Council Staff

Kevin Casey, Executive Director
Jacinta Brister, Assistant
Frank Latham, Youth Leadership/Presenter
Gail Furrer, Fiscal
Kyoko Coco, Family Support Coordinator

Dennie Todd, DD Specialist
Bob Titus, Legislative Coordinator
Jonathan Waller, Communications
Jaymes Brill, People First Coordinator