

**COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING MINUTES – Updated March 10, 2023**  
**Zoom Webinar**  
**Thursday, November 10, 2022**

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday, November 10, 2022 as a Hybrid Zoom Webinar 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**

No public comment.

**Meeting Minutes**

The August 11, 2022, meeting minutes were distributed.

**ACTION:**

Motion made by Kevin Nunez to approve the minutes as distributed.

Seconded by Todd Emmons, meeting minutes are approved and will be added to the website. Passed.

**Presentations:**

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, presentation was given by Karen Carroll and Vito Palo.

An overview of the services and supports that are available through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for eligible individuals with disabilities to overcome and achieve employment that is consistent with their strengths and abilities.

**VOTE:**

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Cultural and Linguistic Competence Plain Language Definitions, presentation was given by Lanisha Makle-Ridley, Kim Rivers and LaVonia Abavana.

**MOTION:**

Motion made by Peg Kinsell to accept all 5 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Cultural and Linguistic Competence Plain Language Definitions; Todd Emmons Seconded. Passed.

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 Kara Kushnir.  
The committee submitted three positions papers regarding transportation, healthcare and housing to vote for. All position statements were reviewed and discussed.

### **VOTE:**

#### Transportation Position Statement

**MOTION:** Todd Emmons made a motion to approve the Transportation Position Statement as presented. Ryan Roy seconded. Motion passed by way of unanimous vote.

#### Healthcare Access Position Statement

**MOTION:** Peg Kinsell made a motion to approve the Healthcare Access Position Statement as presented. Todd Emmons seconded. Motion passed by way of unanimous vote.

#### Housing Position Statement

**MOTION:** Todd Emmons made a motion to approve the Housing Position Statement as presented. Elizabeth Dalzell second. Motion passed by way of unanimous vote.

- Children and Youth Services Subcommittee Report was given by Peg Kinsell.
- Health and Wellness Committee Report Elizabeth Dalzell.
- ❖ State Plan Committee Report was given by Helen Steinberg.
  - 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 Ryan Roy.

**Executive Director Report** given by Mercedes Witowsky.

## **Public Comment**

- Many questions typed into the Zoom Q&A were addressed by the Chair and agency representatives.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

**Next Advocate Caucus is March 08, 2023 at 6pm-8pm**  
**Next Council meeting is March 9, 2023 at 9:30am-2:30pm**

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **Self-Advocates, Family Members In Person**

|                 |                        |                           |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Paul Blaustein  | Todd Emmons            | Elizabeth Dalzell         |
| Andrew McGeady  | Sarah Aziz, Zoom       | Walt Fernandez, Zoom      |
| Gary Rubin      | Myrta Rosa             | Ryan Roy                  |
| Peg Kinsell     | Kevin Nunez            | Safiyyah Muhammad, Zoom   |
| Helen Steinberg | Michael McCarthy, Zoom | <b>Nantanee Koppstein</b> |

### **Self-Advocates, Family Members Zoom**

#### **Excused**

Kara Kushnir

### **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  
Karen Carroll, Director, Division of Voc. Rehab. Services, Zoom  
Jonathan Seifried, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Zoom  
Jacqueline Moskowitz, Division of Disability Services  
Phyllis Melendez, Division of Medical Asst. & Health Services, Zoom  
Nicole Buten, Office of Special Education Programs, Zoom

### **Public Member**

***VACANT***

#### **Guests**

Matthew McMullen  
Annette Smith, Zoom  
Kerry McGrath  
Walter Kalman, President, The McKallyn Group  
Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman  
Christine Bakter, Deputy Director, Ombudsman  
Laura Williams, Executive Director, Arc Ocean County, Zoom

### **Council Staff**

Mercedes Witowsky  
Bob Titus  
Kyoko Coco  
Jodi Fox  
Gary Brown  
Jesse Schwartzman  
**Jade Pollock**  
Alison Malanak  
Jacinta Williams