

COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING MINUTES
Zoom Webinar
Thursday, March 9, 2023

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Hamilton, NJ and 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

November 10, 2022, meeting minutes were distributed.

ACTION:

Motion made by Kevin Nunez to approve the minutes after meeting attendance is updated.

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

Presentations:

Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) presentation was given by Jennifer Langer-Jacobs, Assistant Commissioner.

Provided a presentation on NJ Family Care highlights and of some work that is currently underway at DMAHS. The Medicaid eligibility reinstatement renewals were also covered in this presentation.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Cultural Competence and Linguistic Responsiveness

presentation was given by Diana Autin, Senior Director for Organizational Capacity-Building.

Shared an overview of the process and components of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Cultural Competence and Linguistic Responsiveness sequential plan of the Council.

Both presenters were thanked for their participation.

Committee Reports:

- ❖ Executive Committee and Chair Report was given by Paul Blaustein.
 - In person Council Retreat scheduled for May 10, 2023
 - 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 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 Myrta Rosa

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

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

Council Retreat is May 9, 2023 from Noon-5PM

Next Advocate Caucus is May 10, 2023 from 6pm-8pm

Next Council meeting is May 11, 2023 from 9:30am-1:30pm

ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members In Person

Paul Blaustein	Todd Emmons	Elizabeth Dalzell, Zoom
Andrew McGeady	Sarah Aziz, Zoom	Walt Fernandez, Zoom
Myrta Rosa	Ryan Roy	Peg Kinsell
Kevin Nunez	Safiyyah Muhammad	Helen Steinberg
Michael McCarthy	Nantanee Koppstein	Annette Smith

Excused

Gary Rubin
Kara Kushnir

DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies

Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities, Zoom
Gwen Orłowski, Executive Director, 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
Jacqueline Moskowitz, Division of Disability Services
Phyllis Melendez, Division of Medical Asst. & Health Services, Zoom
No Representative, Office of Special Education Programs

Public Member

Laura Williams, Executive Director, Arc Ocean County

Guests

Matthew McMullen
Jennifer Langer Jacobs, Assistant Commissioner, Div. of Medical Assistance and Health Services
Diana Autin, Senior Director for Organizational Capacity-Building
Monique Dujue Wilson
Tom Lencovich, Director, Experienced Support Coordination, LLC
Fanny Ochoa
Cherie Rodan
Catherine Chin, Executive Director, ABCD
Christine Baker, Deputy Director, Ombudsman
Suman Paul
Julia Simko
Ray Veracruzse
Edna Bond

Council Staff

Mercedes Witowsky	Jade Pollock
Bob Titus	Alison Malanak
Kyoko Coco	Jacinta Williams
Jodi Fox	Maria Leary, Zoom
Gary Brown	Kerry McGrath
Frank Latham	Brenda Considine