

COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING MINUTES Thursday, May 9, 2024

The second quarter of the regular public meeting for the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Hamilton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order by Paul Blaustein, Council Chair, who presided and declared a quorum present.

INTRODUCTIONS

The Open Public Meeting Act and Council Vision were read. The meeting notice was published in the *Trenton Times and Star Ledger*. Everyone around the table introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ The Council Retreat was held on yesterday, Wednesday May 8th and was facilitated by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities newly hired Executive Director Jill Jacobs and Erin Prangle, Public Policy Director.

MINUTES

The minutes from March 14, 2024 meeting were distributed in the meeting packet.

ACTION:

Vote: Motion made by Todd Emmons to approve the minutes as presented; Nantanea Koppstein requested the guest attendance list be updated with the correct titles for Paul Aronsohn, as Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families and Christine Bakter, as Deputy Director for the Office of Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families.

Seconded by Kevin Nunez. All approved

The March 14th Council Meeting Minutes will be updated and posted on the Council Website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Blaustein read the Public Comment Guidelines before comments were made.

There were 2 public comments made in person:

1. Bill Byrne was present and made a comment
2. Cortez Range was present and made a public comment.

PRESENTATION

Federal Policy Perspectives was given by Jill Jacobs, Executive Director and Erin Prangle, Public Policy Director, both from the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities. All members contributed to the discussion with the intent of inviting housing representatives to join the conversation. Jill and Erin 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 Nantanee Koppstein.
 - 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 Annette Smith
- ❖ Grants Committee Report was given by Kevin Nunez.

STAFF REPORT

- ❖ Executive Director Report highlights was given by Mercedes Witowsky.
 - It was requested that all members interested in attending the Annual National Council on Developmental Disabilities, NACDD, Conference scheduled for July 22-26, 2024 send an email to Jacinta Williams, Council Secretary.
 - Kyoko Coco, Council Staff, gave an update on the national Community Practice for Supporting Families Across the Life Span.
 - Adam Kubler, Council Staff provided an overview and statistics of Disability Benefits Planning 101 (DB101).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no afternoon public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ Nominations are now being accepted for the Council Vice Chair position and the Executive Committee At-Large position. Voting will take place during the Annual meeting which is scheduled for August 15, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 1:23pm

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

Next Advocate Caucus is scheduled for August 14, 2024 from 6:00pm-6:45pm
Next Council meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2024 from 9:30am-1:30pm

ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members In Person

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

Absent

Sarah Aziz
Safiyah Muhammad
Jacqueline Moskowitz, Division of Disability Services
Karen Carroll, Director, Division of Voc. Rehab. Services

DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies

Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
Gwen Orłowski, Executive Director, Disability Rights New Jersey
Kourtney Pulliam, Division of Family Health Services
Jonathan Seifried, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Kim Murray, Director, Office of Special Education Programs
Phyllis Melendez, Division of Medical Asst. & Health Services

Public Member

Laura Williams, Executive Director, Arc Ocean County

Personal Care Attendant

Matthew McMullen, PCA for Andrew McGeady
Edna Bond, PCA for Kevin Nunez

Public Attendees

Jill Jacobs, Executive Director, NACDD
Erin Prangley, Public Policy Director, NACDD
Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families
Amanda Reece
Bill Byrne
Julia Simko
Liza Gundell
Cortez Range
Donald Campbell
Dawn Padick
Walter Kalman

Council Staff

Mercedes Witowsky	Alison Malnak	Bob Titus	Frank Latham
Jacinta Williams	Kerry McGrath	Kyoko Coco	Adam Kubler
Jade Pollock	Jodi Fox	Brenda Considine, Zoom	