

COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING MINUTES Thursday, August 15, 2024

The third quarter of the regular public meeting for the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday, August 15, 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.

MINUTES

The minutes from May 9, 2024 meeting were distributed in the meeting packet.

ACTION:

Vote: Motion made by Gwen Orłowski to approve the minutes as presented;
Seconded by Todd Emmons. All approved
The May 9th Council Meeting Minutes will be 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. Emma Ojeda was present and made a comment
2. Lisa Fitton was present and made a public comment.

PRESENTATION

The Supported Decision-Making Project presentation was made by Youth Ambassador, Giancarlo Vicari. Giancarlo created a Comic Book as a visual aide to assist youth and others in understanding Supported Decision-Making.

The New Jersey's Community of Practice on Supported Decision-Making as an Alternative to Guardianship: Update was given by Michael Brower, Legal Director and General Council at Disability Rights New Jersey.

NOMINATIONS: Council Vice Chair and Executive Committee Member At Large Positions During today's meeting, the members were asked to vote for a Council Vice-Chair and one At Large Member of the Executive Committee. Todd Emmons was voted in as the Vice Chair and

Myrta Rosa was voted in as the At Large Advocate of the Executive Committee. Congratulations to both Todd and Myrta.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ❖ Executive Committee and Chair Report was given by Paul Blaustein. The Council's Mission/Vision/Commitment statements were updated and included in the meeting packet.

ACTION:

Vote: Motion made to approve the Council's updated Mission/Vision/Commitment Statements by Elizabeth Dalzell; Seconded by Michael McCarthy.

- 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.

Mercedes highlighted some items that didn't make it to the report;

ACL Report was submitted yesterday and the 2025 Plan will begin October 1, 2024.

ACTION:

Vote: Motion made by Gwen Orłowski to approve the FY 2025 Proposed Budget as presented. Motion seconded by Andrew McGeady.

18 Yes Votes; 0 No Votes; Kevin Nunez abstained

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

There were three public comments made in person:

1. Iris Rivera was present and made a public comment
2. Rosa Mota was present and made a public comment.
3. Walter Kalman was present and made a public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 1:14pm

Motion to move to the Lunch and Learn portion of the meeting was made by Elizabeth Dalzell; Michael McCarthy seconded.

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

Next Advocate Caucus is scheduled for November 13, 2024 from 6:00pm-6:45pm
Next Council meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2024 from 9:30am-1:30pm followed by the Lunch and Learn from 1:30-2:30

ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members In Person

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

Absent

Walt Fernandez
Safiyah Muhammad
Kim Murray, Director, Office of Special Education Programs
No Representative 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
Jacqueline Moskowitz, Division of Disability Services
Jonathan Seifried, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities
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

Public Attendees

Michael Brower, Legal Director/General Council at Disability Rights New Jersey
Christine Bakter, Deputy Director, Office of the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families
Joan McGee
Rosa Mota
Celeste Dominguez
Kandy Ojeda
Iris Rivera, President, PACOPAD INC
Walter Kalman, Executive Vice President, NJAAIDD
Peter Brumlik
Charles Brumlik
Roxana Paoella, Unit Coordinator Warren County Health Department
Lisa Fitton, RFSPC #6 Member
Liza Gundell, Chief Executive Officer Family Resource Network
Emms Ojeda
Samnel Ojeda
Leonela Morg
Tom Baffuto
Julia Simko

Council Staff

Mercedes Witowsky	Alison Malnak	Bob Titus, ZOOM	Frank Latham
Jacinta Williams	Kerry McGrath	Kyoko Coco	Adam Kubler
Jodi Fox			