

COUNCIL HYBRID MEETING MINUTES Thursday, March 13, 2025

The first quarter of the regular public meeting for the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday, March 13, 2025, 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

- Paul Blaustein welcomed and introduced newly appointed Council Members:
 - Pamela King, Self Advocate
 - Yana Mermel, Parent
 - Michelle Solomon, Parent
- Paul Blaustein congratulated Kevin Nunez on his invitation to the President's State of the Union Address in Washington DC.

MINUTES

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

ACTION:

Vote: Motion made by Kevin Nunez to approve the minutes as presented;
Seconded by Myrta Rosa. All approved
The November 14th Meeting Minutes will be posted on the Council Website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Blaustein read the Public Comment Guidelines before comments were made. There was 1 public comment made in person:

- Iris Rivera was present and made a comment

PRESENTATION

There were 2 presentations from Council Grantees:

- 1. Capacity-Building to Improve the Capability of New Jersey's Medical and Behavioral Health Care System to meet and respond to the mental health and dual diagnosis needs of individuals with I/DD and their families** - *Woods System of Care*, Erin Drummond, Senior V.P. of HR Strategic Leadership and her team presented a PowerPoint presentation summary update on the goals reached and their next steps. There was an opportunity for questions and answers. Everyone was thanked for their participation.
- 2. NJ Coalition for Inclusive Education has a name change to ALL IN for Inclusive Education** – Fred Buglione, M.A., M.Ed., CEO and his team presented the name change and an overview of several supports that are in place to ensure students are included in school activities. There was an opportunity for questions and answers. Everyone was thanked for their participation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ❖ Executive Committee and Chair Report was given by Paul Blaustein. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee will change its name in response to the Federal Government's announcements regarding certain language that federal contracts use.

ACTION:

Motion made by Todd Emmons to amend the bylaws to change the subcommittee name to Access For All. Seconded by Myrta Rosa. The proposed name change will be presented to the DEI subcommittee members for feedback and a final vote will take place by the Council to amend the bylaws at the May meeting.

- Self-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 was given by Kyoko Coco.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

There were three public comments made in person:

1. Bill Byrne was present and made a public comment.
2. Julia Simko was present and made a public comment.

ADVOCATE CAUCUS

Self-Advocates meet the night before the Council meeting to discuss topics of their interest. Last night's topic was on the federal budget. Self-advocates from other states joined in the discussion with similar concerns. Summary was given by Ryan Roy.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35pm

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

Council Member Retreat (Council Members) May 7, 2025 Noon - 5pm @ Hilton Garden
Next Consumer Caucus is May 7, 2025 - 6 pm - 8 pm @ Hilton Garden Inn
Next Council meeting is May 8, 2025 - 9:30 am-1:30 pm @ Hilton Garden Inn

ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members In Person

Paul Blaustein	Todd Emmons	Elizabeth Dalzell	Peg Kinsell
Andrew McGeady	Myrta Rosa	Ryan Roy	Annette Smith
Kevin Nunez	Nantanea Koppstein	Kelly Stout, Zoom	Pam King
Yana Mermel	Michelle Solomon	Helen Steinberg, Zoom	

Absent

Sarah Aziz Michael McCarthy

Excused

Kim Murray, Director, Office of Special Education Programs
Jonathan Seifried, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities

DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies

Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
Jill Hoegel, Disability Rights New Jersey
Kourtney Pulliam, Division of Family Health Services
Jacqueline Moskowitz, Division of Disability Services
Phyllis Melendez, Division of Medical Asst. & Health Services
No Representative Division of Voc. Rehab. Services

Public Member

Laura Williams, Executive Director, Arc Ocean County

Personal Care Attendant

Sean Kenny, PCA for Andrew McGeady
Zinke McGeady, PCA for Andrew McGeady
Edna Bond, PCA for Kevin Nunez

Public Attendees

Erin Drummond	Rachel Hedden-Albadine
Bill Byrne	Zinke McGeady
Julia Simko	Sean Kenney
Ray Vercruyssen	Charlotte Layton
Dianne Kelly	Iris Rivera

Council Staff

Jacinta Williams	Jodi Fox	Jade Pollock	Bob Titus
Frank Latham	Kerry McGrath	Kyoko Coco	Adam Kubler
Ebony Freeman	Alison Malnak	Mercedes Witowsky	