



Paul Blaustein, *Chair Person*  
Kevin T. Casey, *Executive Director*

## **COUNCIL MEETING - REVISED**

### **Thursday, May 24, 2018**

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday May 24, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Hamilton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 10:55 am by Paul Blaustein, Chair Person, who presided and read the Open Public Meeting Act and Council Vision. The meeting notice was published in the *Newark Star Ledger* and the *Trenton Times*.

### **Approval of Minutes / Announcements**

#### Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the January 25, 2018 meeting were distributed.

#### Action:

Motion made by Bill Testa to approve the minutes, Seconded by Kevin Nunez  
The minutes were approved and will be added to the website.

#### Announcement:

- ❖ Paul requested that members to reply to Council Meeting email announcements with their attendance.
- ❖ Tom Baffuto, Executive Director of Arc NJ, was thanked for his leadership of the DSP Coalition.
- ❖ Council Consumer Caucus takes place the night before Council Meetings and are open to all Council members. This meeting reviews the Council Meeting agenda and encourages self-advocates to express their needs and request support from the Council.

### **Public Comment**

- ❖ Dr. Richard Harding was present and asked the Council to fund a pilot program in Cape May County for children's transitioning program for ages 18 – 21. The program would provide on life skills training and inform families of their rights. Dr. Harding was introduced to Frank Latham, Council Staff and was directed to the Mini Grant program.
- ❖ Myrta Rosa was present and commented about the payment card being developed for Access Link riders. The card, currently in development, would allow passengers to pay fares without the need to carry cash.

- ❖ Joan Migton was present and expressed her concern that implementation of HIPPA requirements prevents families from obtaining information regarding assaults upon their children by other individuals with I/DD. She wants families to have access to police reports, agency UIRs and DHS investigations. The Council Chair will pursue this issue with and on behalf of Joan Migton.
- ❖ Rebekah Novemsky was present and expressed her concern that the new DCF leadership may not be knowledgeable about the need for support services for children with I/DD and their families. An invitation to future Council meetings will be sent to DCF.

**Action:**

Motion by Bill Testa to make DCF a mandated member of the Council.

Motion amended by Bill Testa to consider changing the By-Laws to request DCF to attend meetings as a voting member. Seconded by Kevin Nunez and open for discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

This information will be sent to the Children’s Sub-committee and discussed at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

**Presentation: Direct Support Professional Grantee**

**“Coalition for a DSP Living Wage”**

Libby Vinson and Paula Harrington of NJ Association of Community Providers public relations sub-contractors, were thanked for their presentation and update.

**Committee Report**

- ❖ Executive Committee and Chair Report was given by Paul Blaustein
- ❖ Policy Committee Report was given by Ellie Byra
- ❖ Planning Committee Report was given by Kevin Nunez and Kevin Casey
- ❖ Executive Director Report given by Kevin Casey.

**Final Comments:**

- ❖ The July meeting will be rescheduled to August to allow more time for preparation.
- ❖ Michael Betram was present and commented on his issues with PPL.
- ❖ June 21, 2018 is Advocacy Day at the State House. Join us in conference room 1 from 10am to 2pm.

**CLOSED SESSION**

The Board went into closed session.

**During closed session, the Board voted unanimously to hire Mercedes Witowsky as the new Executive Director for the Council.**

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant  
**Next Consumer Caucus is August 8, 2018 @ Hilton Garden Inn**  
**Next Council meeting is August 9, 2018 @ Hilton Garden Inn**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Self-Advocates, Family Members**

Paul Blaustein	Ellie Byra	Andrew McGeady	Todd Emmons
Myrta Rosa	Gary Rubin	Safiyah Muhammad	Kevin Nunez
Helen Steinberg	Elizabeth Dalzell	Peg Kinsell	Kara Sellix

**Excused Members**

Walt Fernandez                      Tara Montague

**DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies**

Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

Joseph Young, Director, Disability Rights New Jersey

Kimberly Murray, Office of Special Education Programs

*No Representative*, Division of Family Health Services

*VACANT*, Division of Voc. Rehab. Services

*No Representative*, Division of Developmental Disabilities

*No Representative*, Division of Disability Services

*No Representative*, Division of Medical Asst. & Health Services

**Public Member**

William Testa, Executive Director, Arc of Morris County

**Guests**

Dan Keating, Executive Director, ABCD

Tom Baffuto, Executive Director, Arc NJ

Mercedes Witowsky, FSPC

Matthew McMullen

Cecilia Feely

Michael Bertram

Paula Harrington, ABS, Inc.

Karen Rea

**Colleen Klepse**

Eric Joice

Dr. Richard Harding

Rebekah Novemsky, FSPC

Joan Migton

Jennifer Binck, DSP

Libby Vinson, ABS, Inc.

**Lauren Agoratus**

Walter Kalman

**Council Staff**

Kevin Casey

Jacinta Williams

Gail Furrer

Kyoko Coco

Frank Latham

Bob Titus

Jonathan Waller

Dennie Todd

Jennifer Brown