

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WebEx Meeting & YouTube Streaming Live**  
**Thursday, September 24, 2020**

An additional public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday September 24, 2020 and was held as a virtual WebEx Video Meeting. The meeting was also streamed live on the Council YouTube page. 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 *Newark Star Ledger* and the *Trenton Times*.

**Public Comment**

There were 2 public comments submitted in advance to be read during the meeting.

- ❖ Nantanee Koppstein submitted a comment to be read during the meeting. Paul Blaustein, Council Chair responded to the comment.
- ❖ Bruce Ettinger submitted a comment to be read during the meeting. Jonathan Seifried was present to respond to the comment.

**Announcements**

There are two positions open and applications are still being accepted.

**Voting on FY 2021 Budget**

**Action:**

Motion made by Bill Testa to approve the FY 2021 Budget as presented.

Seconded by Helen Steinberg, Budget approved.

13 Yes votes          1 Abstain: Kevin Nunez

**Meeting Minutes**

The May 21<sup>st</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were distributed.

**Action:**

Motion made by Paul Blaustein to approve both meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by Elizabeth Dalzell. Both meeting minutes are approved.

**Elections**

The two positions up for nominations are Council Vice Chair and Executive Committee Member At Large. The voting was performed by way of virtual voting poll and there were no phone callers attending the meeting. After a slate of nominations were presented, a virtual poll was conducted, and the results are as follows:

Council Vice Chair: Kevin Nunez          At Large: Safiyyah Muhammad

Everyone was thanked for their interest in these positions and participation in voting.

## **Other**

- ❖ Bill Testa, Executive Director of Arc Morris will be retiring on November 6, 2020. Everyone thanked Bill for his service and contribution.
- ❖ The Race, Economic Equity and Diversity Ad Hoc Committee have scheduled a meeting on Wednesday September 30, 2020 at 1pm. All Council members are invited. Please contact Safiyyah Muhammad for meeting information.

## **Action**

Motion made to adjourn at 11am by Kevin Nunez

Seconded by Safiyyah Muhammad

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

**Next Council meeting is November 19, 2020**

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **Self-Advocates, Family Members**

Paul Blaustein	Andrew McGeady	Todd Emmons
Myrta Rosa	Safiyyah Muhammad	Kevin Nunez
Helen Steinberg	Peg Kinsell	Elizabeth Dalzell
Kara Kushnir		

### **Excused Members**

Tara Montague  
Gary Rubin  
Walt Fernandez  
Ellie Byra

### **DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies**

Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

*No Representation, Disability Rights New Jersey*

Kim Murray, Office of Special Education Programs

*No Representation, Division of Family Health Services*

*No Representation, Division of Voc. Rehab. Services*

Jonathan Seifried, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities

*No Representation, Division of Disability Services*

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

*No Representation, Department of Children and Families*

### **Public Member**

William Testa, Executive Director, Arc of Morris County

### **Guests**

Annette Smith  
Paul Aronsohn, Ombudsman

### **Council Staff**

Mercedes Witowsky  
Jacinta Williams  
Bob Titus  
Kyoko Coco  
Rebekah Novemsky  
Jodi Fox  
Gary Brown  
Kerry McGrath  
Ron Gordon