



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

## **COUNCIL MEETING** **Thursday, January 25, 2018**

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday January 25, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Hamilton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 11:08 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 October 26, 2017 meeting were distributed.

#### Action:

Motion made by Bill Testa to approve the minutes,  
Seconded by Todd Emmons and approved. The minutes will be added to the website.

#### Announcement:

- ❖ Paul requested for members to reply to Council Meeting email announcements with their attendance.
- ❖ Tom Baffuto, Executive Director of Arc NJ, was thanked for his leadership with the DSP Coalition.
- ❖ Council Consumer Caucus takes place the night before Council Meetings and they are open to all board members. This meeting not only reviews the agenda, but it also engages members in conversations amongst ourselves to better the Council.

### **Public Comment**

- ❖ Rebekah Novemsky was present and announced that in 2 days, Myrta Rosa would be celebrating a birthday.
- ❖ Joan Migton was present and is seeking the Council's help regarding the current policy within DDD about not allowing family members access to incident reports of loved ones that have been injured. She also shared information about her new John M. Migton Foundation, "Boxwood Junction".
- ❖ Mercedes Witowsky was present and updated the members of the RFSPC efforts in outreach. The next DD Advocacy Summit is scheduled for March 27, 2018.

## **Presentation: Update from Council Advocate**

Jennifer Brown was thanked for her presentation.

## **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
- ❖ Executive Director Report given by Kevin Casey.

## **Final Comments:**

- ❖ Kevin Casey, Executive Director, has announced that he plans to retire by May 1<sup>st</sup>, but willing to stay on until a replacement is found.
- ❖ Myrta Rosa, Council Vice Chair, commented that she appreciates the new governor using the term, “different ability”, opposed to “disability”.
- ❖ Paul mentioned that he would like to extend the meeting for extra discussions. Think about your preference and let him know.
- ❖ Kevin Nunez and Paul Blaustein, thanked Kevin Casey for his service.

## **Adjournment**

Motion made by Kevin Nunez to adjourn the meeting,  
Seconded by Todd Emmons, meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Brister, Executive Assistant

**Next Consumer Caucus is May 23, 2018 @ Hilton Garden Inn**  
**Next Council meeting is January 24, 2018 @ Hilton Garden Inn**

## **ATTENDANCE**

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

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

### **Excused Members**

Walt Fernandez	Tara Montague	Leah Ziskin
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### **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

Felicia Walton, Division of Family Health Services

***VACANT, Division of Voc. Rehab. Services***

***No Representative, Division of Developmental Disabilities***

Dianna Mauroe, Division of Disability Services

Phyllis Melendez, 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

Michaëlle Hall, Parent

Patrick Fay, CAU

Rebekah Novemsky, FSPC

Joan Migton

Jennifer Binck, DSP

### **Council Staff**

Kevin Casey, Executive Director

Jacinta Brister, Executive Assistant

Gail Furrer, Fiscal

Jaymes Brill, People First/Youth Leadership Coordinator

Kyoko Coco, Family Support Coordinator

Frank Latham, Grants Manager/Presenter

Bob Titus, Legislative Coordinator

Jonathan Waller, Communications

Dennie Todd, DD Specialist/H&W

Jennifer Brown, Advocate Liaison

Brenda Considine, Children & Youth Sub-Committee Staff