

Paul Blaustein, Chair Person
Mercedes Witowsky, Executive Director

COUNCIL MEETING Thursday, October 25, 2018

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday October 25, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Hamilton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 9:57 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: Discussion

The minutes from the August 9, 2018 meeting were distributed.

Action:

Motion made by Kevin Nunez to approve the minutes as presented,
Seconded by Todd Emmons. The minutes were approved and will be added to the website.

Announcement:

- ❖ Gary Brown was introduced as the new Communication Officer to the Council.
- ❖ Myrta Rosa thanked the Council for their support of her attending this year's TASH Conference scheduled for November 28 – 30, 2018 in Portland Oregon.

Public Comment

- ❖ None at this time

Presentation:

Office of Ombudsman: Paul Aronsohn

The office of Ombudsman is available to work with individuals and families to help them voice the assistance they need when navigating the DD system.

Paul was thanked for his presentation and update.

SPAN – Special Education Volunteer Advocates (SEVA): Carolyn Hayer

The SEVA Program is a Council Grantee that provides training and supports to families with IEP Meetings. Presentation was provided on first year accomplishments. Carolyn Hayer and Jeannette Mejias were thanked for their presentation and update.

SHA – Building the Foundation for Housing Opportunities: Diane Riley

The SHA Housing Guide for individuals with developmental disabilities is a 3-year Council grantee that assists with navigating housing options with innovative elements. Currently, a smaller version of the guide is being developed to cover how to get services when you are new to the system.

Diane Riley was thanked for her presentation and update.

20 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 | P.O. Box 700, Trenton, NJ 08625-0700

Tel.: 609-292-3745 | Fax: 609-292-7114 | TTY: 609-777-3238

WWW.NJCDD.ORG

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Consumer Caucus

The Consumer Caucus takes place the night before the full board meeting. Todd Emmons, Council Member, started the discussion by sharing his experience while living in a developmental center and how there is need for DDD to speak to advocates to share their story of the bad treatment they may have encountered.

Committee Reports

- ❖ Executive Committee and Chair Report was given by Paul Blaustein
- ❖ Policy Committee Report was given by Ellie Byra

Voting of Council Position Paper(s)

The following position paper was updated:

The Rights of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Action:

Motion made by Ellie Byra to approve the presented updated position paper on The Rights of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

Seconded by Bill Testa. The updated position paper was approved and will be added to the website.

- ❖ Planning Committee Report was given by Kevin Nunez
The committee will be meeting after today's Council Meeting.

Executive Director Report given by Mercedes Witowsky

Action:

Motion made by Bill Testa to approve the presented 2019 budget submitted by the Executive Director;

Seconded by Todd Emmons. The budget was approved as presented.

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Motion by Kevin Nunez to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Peg Kinsell and carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

Next Consumer Caucus is March 27, 2019 @ Hilton Garden Inn

Next Council meeting is March 28, 2019 @ Hilton Garden Inn

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ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members

Paul Blaustein	Ellie Byra	Andrew McGeady	Todd Emmons
Myrta Rosa	Gary Rubin	Kara Sellix	Kevin Nunez
Helen Steinberg	Peg Kinsell	Tara Montague	

Excused Members

Walt Fernandez	Safiyah Muhammad	Elizabeth Dalzell
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DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies

Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

Joseph Young, Director, Disability Rights New Jersey

No Representative, Office of Special Education Programs

Felicia Walton, Division of Family Health Services

VACANT, Division of Voc. Rehab. Services

Jonathan Seifried, Acting Assistant Commissioner Division of Developmental Disabilities

VACANT, Division of Disability Services

Phyllis Melendez, Division of Medical Asst. & Health Services

Public Member

William Testa, Executive Director, Arc of Morris County

Guests

Paul Aronsohn, Office of the Ombudsman

Dan Keating, Executive Director, ABCD

Tom Baffuto, Executive Director, Arc NJ

Matthew McMullen

Lauren Agoratos

Diane Riley, SHA

Carolyn Hayer, SPAN

Jeannette Mejias, SPAN

Lisa Wissbach

Arlene Hagopian

Norman Smith

Esther E. Hahmann

Laura Kelly

Peter Phillips

Tracy Schober

Michele Tyler

Karen Rea

Council Staff

Mercedes Witowsky

Jacinta Williams

Gail Furrer

Kyoko Coco

Frank Latham

Bob Titus

Jaymes Brill

Gary Brown

Dennie Todd

Jennifer Brown

Rebekah Novemsky

Brenda Considine