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.
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.

ion
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
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            Safiyyah Muhammad          Elizabeth Dalzell

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          Arlene Hagopian
Dan Keating, Executive Director, ABCD          Norman Smith
Tom Baffuto, Executive Director, Arc NJ          Esther E. Hahmann
Matthew McMullen                   Laura Kelly
Lauren Agoratos                   Peter Phillips
Diane Riley, SHA                  Tracy Schober
Carolyn Hayer, SPAN               Michele Tyler
Jeannette Mejias, SPAN             Karen Rea
Lisa Wissbach

Council Staff
Mercedes Witowsky          Jaymes Brill
Jacinta Williams          Gary Brown
Gail Furrer                  Dennie Todd
Kyoko Coco                   Jennifer Brown
Frank Latham               Rebekah Novemsky
Bob Titus                  Brenda Considine