



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

COUNCIL MEETING **Thursday, October 26, 2017**

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday October 26, 2017 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Hamilton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 10:52 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*.

Announcements/Approval of Minutes

Announcement:

- ❖ Paul introduced himself as the new Council Chair and reminded members their responsibilities on council committees. He also asked for members to become more involved with the Family Support Planning Councils as they need our support. Suggestions were made to DDD for updates to be in a shared meeting with families and provider agencies rather than two separate meetings. Paul also shared with members what he would like to accomplish while chair of the Council. Finally, an action plan, each member will have something to do as they leave the meeting, with hopes of achieving more assistance in helping everyone, like his predecessor.
- ❖ Public comment will be allowed during the meeting with final comments before adjourning.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the July 27, 2017 meeting were distributed.

Action:

Motion made by Todd Emmons to approve the minutes,

Seconded by Bill Testa and approved. The minutes will be added to the website.

Presentation: The Advocate & Family Guide to Services

Joanne Oppelt and Jeremy Lefever, Community Access Unlimited

Committee Report

- ❖ Executive Committee Report was given by Ellie Byra
The committee is recommending approval of the revised bylaws as distributed.

Action:

Peg Kinsell seconds the recommendation.

The Bylaw revision has been approved.

- ❖ Chair Report was given by Paul Blaustein
Paul would like to get together after Election Day to review information with the new governor. He has asked that Mercedes Witowsky, Chair of Family Support Planning Council, to attend as well. Governor liaisons will be contacted.

- ❖ Policy Committee Report was given by Ellie Byra

- ❖ Planning Committee Report was given by Kevin Nunez and Kevin Casey
Funding for the following recommendations is available.
The committee is making a motion for the following recommendations:
 - Transportation:
Instruct the Council Staff to put out the RFP for development and implementation, for adult services
Action:
Vote: 19 Yes
Abstain: Kevin Nunez

 - Housing Grant:
Awarded to Supportive Housing Association in the amount of \$75,000 in Council funds, for a total of \$94,000.
Action:
Vote: 19 Yes

 - Health and Wellness Grant:
Awarded to The Boggs Center in the amount of \$89,555 in Council funds, for a total of \$111,943.
Action:
Vote: 15 Yes
Recused: Joyce Jelley, Phyllis Melendez

 - The Advocates and Family Guide to Services, 2nd Year:
Community Access Unlimited has approval to complete the book and necessary translation versions.
Action:
Vote: 15 Yes
Abstain: Kevin Nunez
Recused: Myrta Rosa, Gary Rubin, Joseph Amoroso, Alice Hunnicutt

- ❖ Executive Director Report given by Kevin Casey.

Final Comments:

- ❖ Mercedes Witowsky, Chair and Rebekah Novemsky, Vice-chair of the Regional Family Support Planning Councils were present to share some of the struggles they have as a council. They are asking for additional staff for the RFSPC, assisting with public relations and outreach efforts, additional assistance with government and legislation efforts, determine a budget for council needs, and support the disability advocate summit to have strong ongoing efforts. They thank the council for their efforts and support
- ❖ Kevin Nunez thanked council staff for their support in assisting his as a board member.
- ❖ Peg Kinsell commented that Brenda Considine received an award as the writer of Common Ground. Congratulations to Brenda.
- ❖ Myrta Rosa commented that she is proud to be serving as the Council Vice-chair.
- ❖ Paul Blaustein announced that January's Consumer Caucus and Council meeting will be held here, the Hilton Garden Inn.

Adjournment

Motion made by Ellie Byra to adjourn the meeting,
Seconded by Alice Hunnicutt, meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Brister, Executive Assistant

Next Consumer Caucus is January 24, 2018 @ Hilton Garden Inn
Next Council meeting is January 25, 2018 @ Hilton Garden Inn

ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members

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

Excused Members

Walt Fernandez

DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies

Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

No Representative, Disability Rights New Jersey

Kimberly Murray, Office of Special Education Programs

No Representative, Division of Family Health Services

Alice Hunnicutt, Director, Division of Voc. Rehab. Services

No Representative, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Joseph Amoroso, Director, 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

Joanne Oppelt, CAU

Sufyaan Muhammad

Joan Migton

Matthew McMullen

Cecilia Feely

Monica Rojas, Rutgers Student

Walter Kalman, CAU

Michaëlle Hall, Parent

Mercedes Witowsky, FSPC

Rebekah Novemsky

Celine Fortin, Arc of NJ

Lauren Agoratus, Family Voices NJ

Jennifer Bincle, DSP

Jeremy Lefever, CAU

Sufyaan Muhammad

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