



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

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, July 27, 2017

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday July 27, 2017 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Hamilton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 10:54 am by Stephanie Pratico, 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:

- ❖ Kevin Nunez is featured in a newspaper article for the Burlington County Times advocating for better wages and benefits for Direct Support Professionals.
- ❖ Chris Miller announced that registration is still open for the Council sponsored “What Is Your Advocacy” conference being held at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton on August 19, 2017. Transportation is available. Please visit the Council website at www.njcdd.org.
- ❖ Stephanie Pratico, Council Chair announced that she will be resigning beginning August 1, 2017. She thanked the members and staff for their support and wishes the Council much success.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the May 25, 2017 meeting were distributed. The amount of the grant funds for Special Education grant needs to be amended.

Action:

Motion made by Bill Testa to approve the amended minutes,
Seconded by Kevin Nunez and approved. The minutes will be amended and added to the website.

Public Comment ~ AM

- ❖ Rebekah Novemsky was present and handed copies of letter of concern from families, advocates, and DSP workers to Kevin Casey and Stephanie Pratico, regarding the negative impact the new transition of direct support to the Public Partner, LLC System. (PPL)
- ❖ Lauren Agoratus was present commented she wrote an article for a magazine regarding the changes and effects of the new direct support system.
- ❖ Amy Lerner was present and shared her frustration with the new direct support system.

- ❖ Joan Migton was present and shared that as the alternate member of the Family Advisory Council, they are being left out of discussions being made around family services.
- ❖ Michelle Hall was present and wasn't able to get answers from Easter Seals when she received her letter.

Action:

Motion made by Joe Young to communicate directly to the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services and the State Auditor its dissatisfaction with the transition to the new fiscal intermediary for self-directed service, particularly the failure to pay self-directed employees in a timely manner;

Motion seconded, by Alice Hunnicutt. Kevin Casey will draft a letter by tomorrow morning to address this issue and forward to the Executive Committee for approval.

Chris Miller commented for the record, that there were no representatives from the Division of Developmental Disabilities or Division of Disability Services present at today's meeting.

Action:

Motions made by Joe Young, to have Kevin Casey send a letter to Commissioner Connelly of the Department of Human Services, requesting representative of the following agencies be present during Council Meeting: Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities and Division of Disability Services;

Motion seconded by Kevin Nunez. Kevin Casey will draft the letter and send out.

Voting:

The Council vice Chair position has come up for nominations. Kevin Casey advised the candidates of the duty of the position and the statutory process that the Council Chair is appointed by the Governor. The Vice Chair will need to take the place of the Chair in an "Acting" position until a new one is chosen. The Vice Chair position is up for nomination on an annual basis. Current vice Chair, Chris Miller was thanked for his service. The following names are on the ballot; Myrta Rosa and Todd Emmons. Stephanie Pratico asked for further nomination. At this time, Paul Blaustein will be added to the ballot as a write in.

The new Council vice Chair is Myrta Rosa. Congratulations to Myrta.

Committee Report

- ❖ Executive Committee / Chair Report were given by Stephanie Pratico.

The committee is recommending an increase to the mini grant funding amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and allowing one grant a year. 17 in favor with 1 abstain, Chris Miller.

❖ Policy Committee Report was given by Ellie Byra.
The committee recommends approving a resolution to the Governor's Plan No. 001-2017, "A Plan for the Transfer of Mental Health and Addition Function from the Department of Humans Services to the Department of Health". This resolution is asking legislation to stop the reorganization without any discussion. The Assembly has added this to the agenda for Monday, July 31, 2017. All are in favor. The resolution will be sent to all members of the Legislature in the State of New Jersey.

❖ Planning Committee Report was given by Chris Miller and Kevin Casey.
Chris Miller is stepping down as the Chair of the Planning Committee and Kevin Nunez is appointed as the new Chair. Anyone interested in being on the committee please see Kevin Nunez and Kevin Casey.

The committee decided that all grant recommendations will be brought before the full board before deciding. At this time, the committee is recommending the extension of the following two (2) grants:

- Rutgers :Transportation Issues and Obstacles Grant; have committed to the project scope and continues to make progress as listed in the handout.

Action:

Motion made by Gary Rubin to approve the second year request in the amount of \$56, 358

17 Yes votes, Bill Testa abstain

- CAU: The Advocates and Family Guide to Services – Mental Health Toolkit; has completed the book and would like to now make additional translation versions. The handout submitted does not support the recommendation.

Action:

Motion made by Joe Young to table the readoption and funds at the next board meeting until the Planning Committee has reviewed it.

Motion seconded Safiyyah Muhammad. Kevin Casey will ask CAU to attend a Planning Committee Meeting for further review.

Action:

Motion made by Kevin Nunez to instruct Council staff give formal procedures of voting by the October board meeting.

Motion seconded by Kara Sellix. A formal procedure will be drafted for distribution.

There are three (3) RFPs the committee would like to recommend for submitting:

1. Disability Housing Advocacy

We recommend asking a vendor to develop and implement a training strategy to address deficits in New Jersey's affordable, accessible and inclusive housing for individuals with developmental disabilities, but also navigating the complex housing support system.

17 Yes votes, Kevin Nunez abstain

2. Transportation

We recommend seeking a vendor to develop and implement a comprehensive advocacy strategy, including the development of training and material as well as address the current weaknesses in the system.

Action:

Motion made by Safiyyah Muhammad to amend the RFP to be more detailed in language around adult transitioning adult transportation.

14 Yes votes, Joe Young and Chris Miller abstain

3. Health

We recommend asking from applicants who train medical, dental and behavioral clinicians to develop and implement a curriculum that introduces the needs of adult persons with I/DD and their families.

14 Yes voted, 1 No vote, Kevin Nunez abstain

- ❖ Executive Director Report given by Kevin Casey.

Working Lunch

Presentation: Council Media Events

Jonathan Waller, Communications Manager, and was thanked for his presentation.

Public Comment: ~ PM

- ❖ Peter Phillips was presented and commented the frustration with self-directed services he opted to put his daughter in. He is encouraging the Council to speak with the Division of Developmental Disabilities to accept dual system similar to Pennsylvania.
- ❖ Margaret Modero was present and suggested to include individual visits to other places in the Transportation RFP.
- ❖ Rhonda Luecht was present and commented that she attended a meeting earlier in the morning with the PPL and is asking for the Council to help with the enrollment process.
- ❖ Patricia Paraskevacos was present and she is a single mom with a son who lives on his own and has support but in this new transition, parents aren't notified and support coordinators aren't given any information.
- ❖ Mr. Luecht was present and was interested in who made the decision for the change, Department of Human Services, Division of Disability Services, or Division of Developmental Disabilities?
- ❖ Zinke McGeady was presented and would like to see that the mandated training be waived. There is lack of communication with the new system.
- ❖ Beverly Thomas was present and commented that she put money out to pay the people who support her daughter so that her daughter doesn't lose them.

Other/New Business

❖ None at this time

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Brister, Executive Assistant

Next Consumer Caucus is October 25, 2017
Next Council meeting is October 26, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Self-Advocates, Family Members

Stephanie Pratico	Ellie Byra	Andrew McGeady	Chris Miller
Leah Ziskin	Todd Emmons	Myrta Rosa	Gary Rubin
Safiyah Muhammad	Paul Blaustein	Kevin Nunez	Helen Steinberg
Elizabeth Dalzell	Kara Sellix		

Excused Members

Walt Fernandez	Tara Montague	Peg Kinsell
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DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies

No Representative, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

Joseph Young, Executive Director, Disability Rights New Jersey

Kimberly Murray, Office of Special Education Programs

Pauline Lisciotta, Division of Family Health Services

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

No Representative, Division of Developmental Disabilities

No Representative, Director, Division of Disability Services

Harry Pizutelli, Division of Disability Services

No Representative, Division of Medical Asst. & Health Services

Public Member

William Testa, Executive Director, Arc of Morris County

Guests

Gail Frizzell

Beverly Thomas

Carole Miller

Joan Migton

Peter Phillips

Cecilia Feely

Michaelle Hall

Tom Baffuto, Executive Director Arc of New Jersey

Dan Keating, Executive Director, ABCD

Pam Keller

Sufyaan Muhammad

Lauren Agoratus

Matthew McMullen

Amy Lerner

Michele Elmers

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