

**Paul Blaustein, Chairperson**  
**Mercedes Witowsky, Executive Director**

## **COUNCIL MEETING**

### **Thursday, March 28, 2019**

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday March 28, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Hamilton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order 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 October 25, 2018 meeting were distributed and reviewed.

#### **Action:**

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

#### Announcement:

- ❖ Mercedes Witowsky informed the board members of the passing of Ethan Ellis on March 27, 2019. A moment of silence was held in his honor. Members were asked to contact Gary Brown for their contribution to Ethan for the next issue of *Peoples and Families* magazine.

### **Public Comment**

- ❖ Peter Phillips was present and thanked the Council for its support in advocating with DHS for an alternate fiscal intermediary for the DDD program. He also encourages everyone to be public advocates for the DSP wage.
- ❖ Cecelia Feely was present and would like to recommend the Council invest in the "intelligent person vehicle". She will be submitting a letter of interest for a driverless vehicle.
- ❖ Kevin Nunez, Council Member, shared his new role as Advocate Ambassador for the New Jersey Independent Advocates and Partners. (NJIAP)

### **Presentation:**

#### **Improve Adult Health Care for Patients w/I/DD: Deborah Spitalnik, PhD, Executive Director, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities**

An RFP was approved for the healthcare objective of the Council 5 Year Plan for the period February 2018 through December 2019. An update was provided by Dr. Deborah Spitalnik.

## **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: Deinstitutionalization**

#### **Action:**

Motion made by Bill Testa to approve the presented updated position paper on Deinstitutionalization.

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

Motion passed with 1 abstention, Joyce Jelley

- ❖ Grant Committee Report was given by Kevin Nunez
- ❖ Planning Committee Report was given by Kevin Nunez

## **Advocate Caucus**

The Advocate Caucus takes place the night before the full board meeting. Gary Rubin, Council Member, discussed what happens when board members terms expire and ways to keep them involved.

## **Staff Reports**

- ❖ Executive Director Report given by Mercedes Witowsky  
Jodi Fox was introduced as the new Fiscal Manager now that Gail Furrer has retired.
- ❖ Jaymes Brill, People First Coordinator gave a project update.
- ❖ Frank Latham, Youth Leadership Coordinator gave a project update

## **Action**

Motion to adjourn to closed session was made by Todd Emmons, seconded by Kevin Nunez and carried. The meeting moved to Closed Session.

Meeting came out of closed session and adjourned at 3:00 PM

Minutes prepared by Jacinta Williams, Executive Assistant

**Next Consumer Caucus is May 22, 2019 @ Hilton Garden Inn**

**Next Council meeting is May 23, 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	Elizabeth Dalzell	

### **Excused Members**

Walt Fernandez	Safiyyah Muhammad	Tara Montague
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### **DD Act Agencies Representatives & Government Agencies**

Joyce Jelley, Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities

Jill Hoegel, Disability Rights New Jersey

Kim Murray, Office of Special Education Programs

***No representative for Division of Family Health Services***

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

Jonathan Seifried sent Robert Artis for Division of Developmental Disabilities

Peri Nearon, Executive Director, Division of Disability Services

***No representative for Division of Medical Asst. & Health Services***

### **Public Member**

William Testa, Executive Director, Arc of Morris County

### **Guests**

Tom Baffuto, Executive Director, Arc NJ

Bill Ditto

Peter Phillips

Sara Aziz

Erin Ross Burgess

Jeannie Lopez

Annette Smith

Deborah Spitalnik, Boggs Center

Ryan Roy

Eric Joice

Laura Kelly

Norman Smith

Esther E. Hahmon

Corey Atanda

Cecilia Feeley

Walter Kalman

Gail Furrer

### **Council Staff**

Mercedes Witowsky

Jacinta Williams

Jodi Fox

Kyoko Coco

Frank Latham

Jaymes Brill

Gary Brown

Bob Titus

Rebekah Novemsky