**Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council**

**Children and Families Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 1, 2016 from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM**

**DDDS Fox Run, 2nd Floor Training Room**

**2540 Wrangle Hill Rd., Bear, DE**

**Call-in information: 302-526-5475**

**Code: 6940783#**

**Members Present:** **Barbara Monaghan**, Self-Advocate, Interim Committee Chair**; Nancy Lemus,** Parent Advocate; **Bill Monaghan**, Self-Advocate; **Steve Yeatman**, Parent Advocate;

**Members Absent:** **Rick Kosmalski**, Parent Advocate **Shawn Rohe**, Parent Advocate; **Alex Eldreth**, Autism Delaware; **Carrie Melchisky**, Parent Advocate

**Guests Present: Blair Hains**, The Marketing Department Worldwide/Belike Communications; **Nancy Ranalli**, Easter Seals of Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore, **Angela Mitchell**, parent advocate; **Laura Greene**, self-advocate

**Attending via teleconference**: No committee members or guests attended this meeting via teleconference.

**Staff Present:** **Kristin Cosden**, Social Services Administrator, Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)

1. **Call to order**- Interim Chairperson Barbara Monaghan called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM.
2. **Approval of Minutes**- A quorum being present, Barbara requested a motion to approve the minutes. Steve Yeatman made a motion and Bill Monaghan seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve the minutes.
3. **Approval of Agenda**- A quorum being present, the committee approved the agenda as written.
4. **Chair’s Report**- Barbara Monaghan declined to give a report, due to her short time as Interim Chair. Barbara took over as Interim Chair after the resignation of former Committee Chair and DDC member Tina Fields.
5. **Staff Report**- Kristin Cosden reminded the committee that the DDC’s 2017-2021 State Plan is still out for public comment until Thursday, June 9, 2016 at close of business. She stated that anyone wishing to comment could contact her via email, fax, US Mail or in person. Kristin noted the in-person comments would be recorded to ensure accuracy of transcription. Kristin also shared news from committee member Alex Eldreth, who was unable to be present at the meeting due to an unexpected work priority. Alex would like to assume Chair responsibilities for the committee. After discussion, the committee agreed that Alex is a wonderful nominee. Barbara Monaghan will remain as Interim Chair until the DDC Chair Elections in September 2016. At this time the committee agreed to nominate Alex for the Council’s vote for Chair of the Children and Families Committee.
6. **Current Business:**
7. **Update and Presentation- Progress and Findings from the Community Conversations/Inclusion Project- Blair Hains, The Marketing Department Worldwide**

Blair stated that the Inclusion Community Conversations project is mostly complete. The website, decommunityconversations.com, remains open for individuals to provide comment through June 3, 2016. After that time, Blair will close the comment option on the website in order to collect the data and include it in his final report. Blair stated that he anticipates having the report to Kristin no later than June 30, 2016.

In his PowerPoint presentation, Blair provided an overview of the Community Conversations sessions. There was one session each held during the month of May in Sussex County (Rehoboth Beach) and Kent County (Dover). There were also two separate sessions held during the month of May in New Castle County (Newark and Wilmington, respectively). Blair stated that the best turnout for the sessions occurred at the Wilmington session.

Altogether, 25 individuals attended the sessions. The groups were mostly comprised of parents, grandparents and professionals (educators, Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists). Common themes which emerged included, but were not limited to, a concern over a lack of communication between parents and schools and a wide variance of inclusion practices between districts.

Forty-eight (48) individuals had accessed the decommunityconversations.com website and provided answers to the questions posted. There is no character limit for responses. The majority of the responders chose the English version, and there were a few who chose to answer the questions in Spanish. Blair noted that the website will remain as the property of the DDC for three years, until the domain name expires. Blair stated that he would be happy to discuss maintenance of the website with DDC staff.

1. **Update and Information Sharing from the Access to Medical Facilities Project- Special Guest, Nancy Ranalli, Easter Seals of Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore**

Nancy stated the contract for the Access to Medical Facilities Contract is now complete, and that she hopes to work with the Council again on future projects. Nancy shared some of the challenges she encountered while organizing the workshops, noting that two of the originally-scheduled workshops had to be canceled due to lack of registrants. Nancy provided the PowerPoint presentation and promotional materials at the Delaware People First Conference, titled “Spring into Health and Wellness” in April 2016. 48 people attended the workshop and received materials. Promotional materials included a wallet card with both the DDC and Easter Seals logo on one side, and information for health care providers on the other side regarding how to find information on adapting their offices to be fully accessible. Nancy also provided folders which were given to each participant. The folders included a copy of thewallet card, presentation, information on People First Language and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

1. **2017-2021 State Plan- Review of objectives assigned to the Children and Families Committee**

Kristin provided a copy of the draft DDC 2017-2021 State Plan with the objectives assigned to the Children and Families Committee highlighted. The committee discussed the objectives and provided their feedback, which Kristin stated she would incorporate into the State Plan and Work Plan.

1. **New Business**
2. **Next meeting-** Kristin noted that she would be out of town on business on July 6, which coincides with the committee’s scheduled July meeting. The committee agreed to move their next meeting to Monday, July 11, 2016 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Kristin stated that she would notify Emmanuel Jenkins of the change so that the state Public Meeting Calendar could be updated. Kristin also stated that she would research and secure a meeting location for the changed meeting date, and would notify the committee once a reservation was made.
3. **Any other items the committee would like to discuss-** Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 3:41 PM.