Developmental Disabilities Council

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2016**

**Margaret M. O’Neill Building, Dover, DE**

**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Pencader Corporate Center, Newark, DE**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Members Present:** Barbara Monaghan (Chairperson), Laura Greene, Terri Hancharick, Michael Harris, Brian Hartman, Esq., Katie Howe, Rick Kosmalski, Nancy Lemus, HarrietAnn Litwin, Katie Macklin, Karen McGloughlin, Daniese McMullin-Powell, Gary Mears, Beth Mineo, Sue Ellen Powell, Shawn Rohe, Steve Tull

**Members Absent:** Carol Barnett, Angela Ehst, Alvin Emory, Jr., Tina Fields, Diann Jones, Debra McCann, Carrie Melchisky, Joseph Merritt, Jr., Tracy Neugebauer, Steve Slotkin, Steven Yeatman

**Staff:** Pat Maichle, Kristin Cosden, Stefanie Lancaster, Emmanuel Jenkins

**Guests:** Victoria Counihan, Jill Elliott-Scannell, Bill Monaghan

# Call to Order – Barbara Monaghan called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes -** Karen McGloughlin noted a change on page six of the September meeting minutes referencing some of the Junior Partners in Policymaking (JPIP) participants from Sussex County. As written, the minutes incorrectly stated the participants’ county of residence. The minutes should read that there were six participants from New Castle County and none from Sussex County. With that change, Karen makes a motion to approve. Steve Tull seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.
2. **Approval of Agenda –** Katie Macklin made a motion to approve. Karen McGloughlin seconded that motion. The agenda was approved as submitted.
3. **5 Minute Public Comment Period –** No public comment at this time.
4. **Chair’s Report –** Barbara Monaghan reported that she was recently appointed by the Governor to serve on the Advisory Council on Walkability and Pedestrian Awareness (Pedestrian Council). This Council is tasked with advising the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) on matters related to making walking a safe, convenient, efficient, and comfortable means of transportation in Delaware. The first meeting will be held on January 26, 2016 at 11 a.m. at the DelDOT Administration Building.

Barbara also reported she recently spoke at the Bear-Glasgow YMCA Board meeting. She stated she was the first to use their new harness system, which allows individuals with physical disabilities to use the fitness equipment. Barbara used it on the treadmill.

1. **Staff Report –** Pat reported on the following:

* All members should have received a copy of the Joint Finance Committee Public Hearing schedule for the upcoming year. There are a few dates that are important to the disability community: February 9th – Department of Correction and Housing; February 10th – Department of Labor; February 11th – Department of Transportation; February 17th – Department of Education; February 18th – Kids Department; and February 23rd – Department of Health and Social Services. Pat asked Council to mark these dates on their calendars. Testimony is welcome either in person or via letter. Pat noted that the times listed on the schedule were subject to change. Pat recommended checking the schedule on the day of the hearing for any updates.
* A booklet of information from the Close Up Foundation – a partner with the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) – was shared. This foundation is the nation’s leading non-profit, non-partisan civic education organization driven by a mission to inform, inspire, and empower youth to be actively engaged citizens in our democracy. Pat stated that Council members who would like to read additional information, should visit [www.CloseUp.org](http://www.CloseUp.org).
* The DD Council received a grant from Quality Trust in September relating to Supported Decision Making. The Council is planning a summit on April 15, 2016 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Duncan Center in Dover. The speakers will be: Jonathan Martinis, Esq. from Quality Trust, Tina Campanelli, Esq. from Quality Trust, Samantha Crane from the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN), and Susan King who is a Parent and Guardian of a person with a disability. Kristin Cosden is currently drafting a flyer for the event. More information will be shared with the Council as it becomes available.
* The Public Policy Seminar will be held this year in Washington, DC on April 11-13th. If any member is interested in attending, please let Pat and Stefanie know so that we can get you registered.
* The Re-Inventing Quality Conference: Assuring Quality Lives for Everyone will be held from July 31 – August 2, 2016 in Baltimore, MD. If any member is interested in attending, please let Pat and Stefanie know so arrangements can be made.
* Emmanuel Jenkins updated the Council on the Council’s social media pages:
  + Since September, the Council has increased the number of “likes” to our page from 436 to 464.
  + On Twitter, the Council has tweeted 135 times; follows 66 organizations and has 143 followers.
  + The Council currently has an active hashtag - #LIFEConference2016. This will be used to capture any pictures, quotes, etc. at the LIFE Conference that will be held on Wednesday, January 20th at Dover Downs. The LIFE Conference Planning Committee is offering prizes to the person that has the most posts at the end of the conference.
  + Emmanuel has created a YouTube Channel for the DD Council. There are currently two videos housed on the channel relating to the DDC’s Oral Health Public Awareness Campaign. Karen McGloughlin suggested uploading videos from other agencies to their site as well. Beth Mineo stated that the Council can post the video from the Center for Disabilities Studies from the ADA Event in July.

1. **Financial Report**

**Financial Advisory Committee Report –** Steve Tull reported that things are moving along well. Steve noted that all funds from 2015 have been obligated and are being spent accordingly. Pat noted that the amount listed for the 2016 grant will not be finalized until the spring. Once notification has been received from our federal granting agency, Stefanie will update our documents accordingly.

1. **Current Business**
2. **Annual Report to AIDD –** Pat stated that Kristin successfully sent our report to our federal granting agency. The Council will most likely not hear anything until late summer. As updates are received, the staff will ensure Council is notified.
3. **Strategic Planning/5 Year State Plan –** NACDD, under the direction of the ACL, has been working on changing the reporting mechanism previously used to update our 5 Year State Plan. Kristin and Pat are currently awaiting further direction from our national organization. The approval is needed on our plan by August. Also, the DD Council, in collaboration with the Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) are planning a Joint Strategic Planning Retreat on April 7th at the Duncan Center in Dover, Delaware. This retreat is open to members and staff of the DDC, SCPD, and GACEC only. It is not a public event. The Retreat will be an all day event with a panel of speakers in the morning. Matt Denn will provide a welcome message. The remainder of the day will be used to review public comment to develop goals and objectives for our new state plan. The Council will also have a half day meeting on April 29th to finalize the goals, objective and actions steps needed for reporting.
4. **Cultural Competence/Targeted Disparity –** Cultural Competency and Targeted Disparity has been a real issue for the Council over the past few years. The Council has tried to target certain communities and populations but has been unsuccessful. Kristin will work with the contract language and RFP process to ensure that it clearly states that people with disabilities are to be included in this process. Pat has interacted with Judge Clark who has connected Pat with the Chief of the Nanticoke Tribe in Delaware. Pat will plan to attend their next meeting in February to find out what barriers that community faces relating to persons with disabilities.
5. **Legislative Update –** Pat reported that the State Council for Persons with Disabilities has taken the lead role in developing the Legislative Agenda. A collaborative list of topics to share with Legislators this year has been developed. This will be distributed at the LIFE Conference. After much discussion, it has been decided by the Legislative Planning Committee to not do a Legislative Day Event this year. Brian Hartman discussed a few bills that the Council will be following this year:
   1. A statute relating to a change in parental rights. It was previously reviewed in 2014 but was dismissed. A meeting with the Kids Department is planned.
   2. Bill reviewing Homeless Bill of Rights Act
   3. Legislation to establish a dental benefit in the Medicaid program
   4. Legislation to establish a penalty for not reporting abuse for mandates reporters
   5. Special Ed Savings Bill
6. **LIFE Conference –** The 2016 LIFE Conference will be held on January 20th at Dover Downs. There are currently 400 people signed up and climbing. Connie Garner will be the keynote speaker. Connie serves as Policy Director in the Foley Hoag Government Strategies Practice Group and Executive Director for Advance CLASS, INc. Her areas of expertise include health care, mental health and substance use disorders, disability, long term care, and education. Prior to rejoining Foley Hoag in 2012, she was the Executive Vice President for Policy at United Cerebral Palsy (UCP).
7. **Self-Advocacy –** Bill and Barbara Monaghan reported that Delaware People First is currently planning a Self-Advocacy Conference at the Dover Downs Hotel and Conference Center on April 16th from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Delaware People First group has reached out to Tim Shriver to request his participation as their keynote speaker. As of this meeting, the DPF has not yet received a response. Pat also stated that an RFP needs to be completed for a self-advocacy organization for this grant year. Kristin will begin drafting this.
8. **Committee Reports**
9. **Adult Issues –** Gary Mears reported that all members are brainstorming new ideas for projects to work on. The Oral Health Public Awareness Campaign contract has completed. The contractor is interested in participating in future events relating to this topic. The Oral Health Public Awareness Campaign video is available on the DDC’s You Tube Channel as well as the DDC website.
10. **Children and Families**
11. **Proposal Review: Community Conversations –** Rick Kosmalski reported that the request for proposals that was issued in July for Community Conversation Events received two very good submissions of proposals. This request is for $15,000 for a contractor to plan and coordinate at least three Community Conversation events (one in each county) with the goal of reaching a diverse group of 300 people with developmental disabilities, their families/caregivers and any other interested parties to help create strategies to promote and increase inclusion in Delaware’s schools. After some discussion, this proposal was approved by the Council.
12. **Policy and Law**
13. **Supported Decision-Making –** The Council is hosting a Supported Decision-Making Summit that will be held on April 15th from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Duncan Center in Dover. To assist with offsetting the costs for this event, the Policy and Law committee is requesting $8,000 for this event. This came as a motion to approve from the committee. This was unanimously approved by Council.
14. **Position Statement- Subminimum Wage –** After some feedback/comments received from Diann Jones, the committee has revised the current draft of the Subminimum Wage Position Statement. This came as a motion to approve from the committee. This was unanimously approved by Council.
15. **Update Current Position Statements –** The committee has reviewed the Council’s current positions statements. A few minor changes have been made to update the terminology and research that has been done. Brian Hartman would like the committee to review the second paragraph of the Community Living position statement. There is terminology stating people with disabilities have been “incarcerated, incinerated, herded and forgotten”. The Council supported his request and approved all updated position statements with the exception of the Community Living statement. The committee will review this in more detail at their next meeting.
16. **Membership –** Karen McGloughlin reported the following:
    1. Alvin Emory, Jr. has requested a leave of absence to help care for his wife. The Council approved this request for a six month period.
    2. Karen presented Mary Anderson with a plaque recognizing her commitment to the Council for twelve years. Katie Howe will now be representing the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Services on the Council as a required position.
    3. The newest members to the Council were welcomed: Nancy Lemus, Daniese McMullin-Powell, and Laura Greene. Jill Scannell from the Department of Education will be recommended to the Governor to replace Tracy Neugebauer, since Tracy has submitted her letter of resignation.
17. **Consumer Caucus –** Barbara Monaghan reported that this committee helps individuals speak for themselves and understand what occurs in the Council meetings. The committee meets every three months at the ChesDel Restaurant in New Castle. The next meeting will be held on February 13th from 9:30 until noon.
18. **Partners Oversight –** Karen McGloughlin reported that preparation is going well for the first Partners session that will be held on February 19th and 20th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Dover. To date, 19 applicants have been approved to attend. All DDC Members are encouraged to attend Partners sessions. As schedule will be sent to the DDC.
19. **New Business**
    1. **Katie Howe, DDDS, Pathways –** Katie Howe discussed the new Pathways program that DDDS now has in place. The Pathways program is a Medicaid program that is assisting young adults with disabilities in accessing employment related services not currently offered by any other state in the country. Employment Navigators are available to use a person-centered approach and a team process to meet the individual’s needs and achieve goals. Currently, there are 7 Employment Navigators statewide. To be eligible for this program, individuals must be between the ages of 14-25, who have a desire to work in competitive work environment and be Medicaid eligible. The full intent of the program is to expand the age group range that this program covers. Due to federal and state match requirements, this was not possible at this time. The program is designed to start working with these individuals two years prior to them leaving the school environment and entering the workforce. Individuals with all disabilities are eligible. Some of the services and supports offered with this program are: career exploration and assessment assistance, supported employment, benefits counseling, financial coaching, assistive technology, personal care and non-medical transportation.

Michael Harris stated he is concerned about individuals with disabilities not continuing to receive the necessary education/training needed such as learning how to read and write, use a calculator, etc. Brian suggested reaching out to Chimes to see if there agency can assist with providing some of the learning skills needed

* 1. **Future Speakers –** Pat reported that Andrea Hinson from Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) will be speaking at our March meeting regarding Medicaid for employees with disabilities. Joseph Merritt, Jr. will be speaking at our May meeting regarding his experience with getting out of a sheltered workshop and into the workforce. If you have suggestions for other speakers, please let Pat know and she will reach out to invite the suggested speakers to a future meeting.

**XI. Other Council Business –** No other business was reported at this time.

**XII. Adjournment –** The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.