Developmental Disabilities Council

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 9, 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), Carol Barnett, Angela Ehst, Tina Fields, Laura Greene, Michael Harris, Brian Hartman, Esq., Katie Howe, Diann Jones, Rick Kosmalski, HarrietAnn Litwin, Katie Macklin, Gary Mears, Beth Mineo, Sue Ellen Powell, Shawn Rohe, Steve Slotkin

**Members Absent:** Alvin Emory Jr., Terri Hancharick, Nancy Lemus, Debra McCann, Karen McGloughlin, Daniese McMullin-Powell, Carrie Melchisky, Joseph Merritt Jr., Steve Tull, Steven Yeatman

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

**Guests:** Barbara Griffin (DDC Intern), Andrea Hinson, Victoria Counihan, , Patty Davis Oliva, William Monaghan Jr.

# Call to Order – Barbara Monaghan called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Barbara noted that a quorum was present.

1. **Approval of Minutes –** HarrietAnn Litwin noted a few changes: Under the heading titled “Approval of Minutes”, the C in New Castle County needed to be capitalized; Under the heading for “Approval of Agenda”, there needs to be another t added to “submitted” and Under the Chair’s Report, the sentence regarding Barbara trying the new harness system at the YMCA needs to be another bullet point with the word “YMCA” added. With these changes, Katie Macklin made the motion to approve and Tina Fields seconded. Diann Jones abstained. The minutes were approved by Council noting the above changes.
2. **Approval of Agenda-** Brian Hartman made the motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Katie Macklin seconded. The agenda was approved by Council.
3. **5 Minute Public Comment Period –** There was no public comments at this time.
4. **Chair’s Report –** Barbara Monaghan reported that Delaware People First is having a Spring Into Health and Fitness Conference at Dover Downs on April 16, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. There will be “go bags” available. Pat has shared the flyer via email.

Barbara also stated that both Bill and Barbara Monaghan and Tina Fields spoke at recent Joint Finance Committee (JFC) Hearings to give their testimony and that it went very well.

1. **Staff Report –** Pat reported the following:
2. The Federal Government is reworking the formula used to calculate how much funding each state’s Developmental Disabilities Council and P& A’s will receive. This formula will not affect our Council due to our state being a minimum allotment state. The new formula needs to be approved by OMB.
3. CPR and First Aid Training will be held for primarily the Hispanic Community on March 5th and March 19th. This is a project funded by the Council. Our intention is to connect with those members of the Hispanic community who are people with disabilities or family members and to gather information from them for our New State Plan.
4. March 21st is World Down Syndrome Day. The 321 Foundation is having an event that will be held on March 19th at BCP in Smyrna. Please join them to celebrate this day if you are available.
5. Pat passed around copies of a program from the Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Council regarding their Arts program. This could be considered as we develop our new plan.
6. The April Executive Committee meeting that was originally scheduled for April 13th has been rescheduled to April 20th at 9:30 a.m. at the Appoquinimick State Service Center.
7. The Victim’s Rights Task Force will be holding their annual tribute on April 12th at Delaware State University at 6:30 p.m. At the event, there will be keynote presentations from Jill Lindenhofen. Jill is a victim of bullying who has become a champion for bullying prevention in schools. Carol Todd will also be speaking sharing her story of how her daughter took her own life after a never ending struggle as a victim of cyberbullying and exploitation. All DDC members are invited to attend.
8. Emmanuel updated Council on the current number of DDC Facebook likes. As of January’s Council meeting, there were 464 likes. As of today, there are 484 likes. Twitter status is the same as it was in January. When using Twitter, it only allows for a certain number of characters to be used. Emmanuel will work on a few ideas on how to increase those numbers within next month.
9. March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month. The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) in conjunction with the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) has started a Social Media Campaign called “Side by Side”. This campaign is encouraging people to upload photos and videos of themselves interacting with people with disabilities to show that we are all equal. The hashtag for this is #sidebysideDD16.
10. Kristin reported that Partners in Policymaking had the first class of the 2016 session. There is a very diverse group of people with disabilities included in this program. Guy Caruso was the speaker at this first session. The March sessions will be held March 18 and 19th. Council members are welcome to attend all of the sessions, however Kristin requested that they RSVP.
11. **Financial Report**

**Financial Advisory Committee Report –** Stefanie Lancaster reported that the Council has received the approved amount for the 2016 grant. The total amount of the grant is $487,511 which is $14,889 more than the 2015 grant that was received. Therefore, the increase was budgeted to add to the allocated amount for projects. As the spreadsheet shows (that all members received in their handouts), there is currently $55,472 remaining to be obligated of the 2016 grant funds. If any member should have any questions, please let Stefanie know.

1. **Current Business**
2. **Strategic Planning/5 Year State Plan –** Pat reported that the Council will be holding a full day Strategic Planning Retreat at the Duncan Center on April 7th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This Retreat will be comprised of appointed members of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD), Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) and Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) members. This is not a public event. This Retreat is needed to gather ideas for new goals and objectives to help guide the funding for projects over the next five years. Please let Stefanie know if you plan to attend. All members are encouraged to attend. There will also be a half day Retreat for only the DDC members on April 29th from 8 a.m. until noon.
3. **Cultural Competence/Targeted Disparity –** Karen Bell, the contractor for the Strategic Planning project, will be providing an explanation to all members for these concepts. All of the projects within our new state plan must be culturally competent and target a specific group of individuals. This is a new requirement by our Federal granting agency.
4. **Legislative Update -** Brian Hartman reported that there are a few bills that are being introduced or that the Council should monitor:
   1. The Nurse Protection Act
   2. Termination of Parental Rights Law
   3. Supported Decision Making Legislation (will soon be introduced)
   4. Accessible Parking
   5. Special Education Bill
   6. An amendment to the Housing Discrimination Law. This amendment will not allow for discrimination based on amount and source of income.
5. **LIFE Conference –** Pat discussed that this year’s conference went very well. There were over 500 people in attendance. As a heads up for the 2017 LIFE Conference, the venue may change. Currently, Dover Downs is only venue available in Dover to hold such a large number of people. The Planning Committee is finding it very difficult to find enough sponsorship contributions to cover the rising costs. Other venues throughout the state are currently being looked at. More information will be shared with the Council as it becomes available.
6. **Self-Advocacy –** This was discussed during the Chair’s report.
7. **Public Policy Seminar –** The Public Policy Seminar will be held April 10-13th in Washington, DC. Pat Maichle, Barbara Monaghan, Terri Hancharick, and Nancy Lemus plan to attend. A meeting is set to speak to some of our Congressional leaders at Capital Hill on April 13, 2016.
8. **Annual NACDD Conference/TA Institute –** The Annual NACDD Conference and Technical Assistance (TA) Institute meeting will be held from July 6th through the 8th in Washington, DC. Please let Stefanie know as soon as possible if you would like to attend so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.
9. **ADA25 –** At this time, Victoria Counihan who is the DDC’s Deputy Attorney General, along with the AG Legal Advisor, Patty Davis Oliva, asked that someone on Council make a motion to go into Executive Session. Brian Hartman made the motion. Michael Harris seconded that motion. All non-voting members were asked to go into the hallway at both sites of the meeting. Council came back into General Session. Upon review of the suggested edits to the letter, a vote was taken by all about whether to send the revised letter to the Families Speaking Up group. All members except one, Laura Greene who abstained, voted yes.
10. **Committee Reports**
11. **Adult Issues**
12. **Environmental Scan RFP – Review and Vote –** Gary Mears reported that the Adult Issues committee is requesting the review and vote for an Environmental Scan RFP. This RFP will be requesting $49,000 to provide funding for a contractor to develop and implement an environmental scan. The focus of this scan will be to identify and survey Delawareans who meet the federal definition of a developmental disability (occurring before age 22 and impacting two or more major life areas) who are now age 60 and over. The survey will seek to identify individuals and also discover where they live; income and source of income; services they receive; what type of transportation they use and what type of recreational activities they enjoy. Brian Hartman suggested that a question be added to find out what unmet needs there may be and what these individuals would like to have. After some discussion, it was noted that the Committee should revise some of the wording and that the Adult Issues Committee will quantify how many people they are trying to reach as a performance measure. With those changes noted, this was approved by Council.
13. **Children and Families –** Tina Fields asked that Rick Kosmalski help her with the report. Rick reported that the Community Conversation Inclusion project is currently being worked on by the contractor, Blair Hains. This program is designed to help raise awareness on what inclusion should look like. More information will be shared with Council as it is developed. This project is taking up a lot of the committee’s time but they are pleased with the progress thus far.
14. **Policy and Law**
15. **Update Current Position Statement – Community Living –** Pat reported that the Committee has added the statement from Ari Ne’eman of the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network (ASAN) as it relates to the sentence regarding “every second of every day someone in the world is excluded, segregated, tortured or even killed for the crime of being disabled”. Brian and Diann abstained from the vote to approve. Council approved the revised statement.
16. **Membership –** Stefanie Lancaster reported that DDC will be holding a New Member Orientation and Ethics Training on March 23rd from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Margaret O’Neill Building 2nd floor conference room. If any member has not signed up already and would like to attend, please let Stefanie know.
17. **Consumer Caucus –** Bill Monaghan reported in Joseph Merritt’s absence. Bill stated that several topics were discussed at the last Consumer Caucus meeting. This committee allows for more details to be provided regarding what is discussed at full Council meetings. The next planning meeting is May 21, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at the ChesDel Restaurant.
18. **Partners Oversight –** This was discussed previously by Kristin Cosden in the Staff Report.
19. **New Business**
    1. **Andrea Hinson – Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities –** Andrea Hinson presented information to the Council regarding the Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities (MWD) program. This program is available to assist individuals with disabilities by allowing them to work without losing health benefits provided by the Medicaid program. This program is allowable by the federal legislation called the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Act of 1999 (TWWIA). Individuals must be between the ages of 16 and 64 years of age with a disability as defined by the Social Security Administration. Individuals can be employed part time or full time and must be paying FICA. This program has been available since 2010 but has not seen much growth. Information regarding income guidelines was provided to all members. For more information, please contact Mrs. Hinson at 1-302-857-5045.
    2. **Future Speakers –** Pat Maichle asked Council members if there were any suggestions for upcoming speakers. No one had any suggestions at this time.
20. **Other Council Business –** Pat reminded Council members of the Supported Decision Making Summit on April 15th. Please send Stefanie Lancaster or Emmanuel Jenkins an email to register by April 1, 2016 if you would like to attend.

**XII. Adjournment –** The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

“Executive session may be held to discuss legal advice, pursuant to 29 Delaware Code Section 10004.”