

**Developmental Disabilities Council
Consumer Caucus Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2017
Ches Del Restaurant, Port Penn, DE
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Members Present: Joey Merritt, Chair, Lillian Gibbons, Barbara Monaghan, Bill Monaghan, Tara Bustard, Alvin Emory, Karen Gallagher

Staff: Pat Maichle

Guests: Carmen

- I. Introduction of Members – All Members know each other.
- II. Approval of Agenda – The Agenda submitted was unanimously approved with the change in #IV from “September” to “March”.
- III. Approval of Minutes – The Minutes submitted were unanimously approved.
- IV. September DDC Meeting – No Members had concerns or questions about the March DDC Meeting. There will be a guest speaker, Laura Stremel, who will talk about re-inventing organizations to accommodate the choice to work in the community. Members will come with prepared questions for Laura.
- V. Budget Process – The Joint Finance Committee Hearings are currently happening at Legislative Hall. The DHSS hearings were last week and Housing, Labor, Transportation, and Homeland will be next week. Alvin is prepared to testify at the DNREC hearing on Monday on behalf of the DDC. All Members were encouraged to attend the Hearings or to, at least, communicate with their Legislators about needs on the community.
- VI. Legislative Process – There are a few bills being worked in the General Assembly that are of interest to the DDC. One is the Organ Transplant bill and a Unit Count bill for Education. Also, Members are encouraged to communicate their concerns about accessible parking to their Legislators to build interest in the problems that everyone experiences. Everyone had had problems parking while in the community.
- VII. People First – Update – Joey reported that the Self Advocacy conference is scheduled for May 20th at Dover Downs. The theme is “Self Advocates: Into the Future!” There will be door prizes and giveaways.

Speakers include Liz Weintraub, Tia Nellis, David Taylor, and Mike Womer. Tim Shriver has not committed, yet, to be the keynote speaker. DPF are hoping for a great turnout with the support of the DDDS.

- VIII. Supported Decision-Making – Final Documents – The final report has been submitted to the DHSS Secretary along with all of the template documents that the committee worked on for SDM in Delaware. The law had been passed in the General Assembly last summer and the Governor signed it into law.
- IX. Other Business
- X. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned by 11:30 am. **The next meeting will be May 13, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at Ches Del in Bear.**