

**Developmental Disabilities Council  
Adult Issues Committee  
Friday, February 16, 2018  
9:30 AM to 12:00 PM  
DDDS Fox Run, 2nd floor training room  
2540 Wrangle Hill Road, Bear, DE**

**Members present:** **Terri Hancharick**, Committee Chair, Parent Advocate; **Bernadette DeAngelis**, Advocate; **Andrew Braune**, Danio Diary; **Carol Barnett**, Division of Services for Aging Adults and Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD); **HarrietAnn Litwin**, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); **Vivian Turner**, CERTS

**Members Attending Via Phone** (do not count toward quorum): **Karen Gallagher**, Committee Vice-Chair, Self-Advocate;

**Members Absent:** **Alvin Emory**, Self-Advocate; **Laura Strmel**, St. John's Community Services (SJCS);

**Guests Present:** **Sandra Miller**, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); **Marissa Catalon**, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS); **Sue Brewster**, Department of Labor (DOL)

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

- I. **Call to Order-** A quorum being present, Committee Chair Terri Hancharick called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.
- II. **Approval of Minutes-** The committee voted unanimously to approve the January, 2017 minutes as amended (correcting the spelling of Sue Brewster's name from "Brewer" to "Brewster").
- III. **Approval of Agenda-** The committee voted unanimously to approve the February 16, 2018 agenda as written.
- IV. **Chair's Report-** Terri Hancharick reported that there is currently a bill in Congress that seeks to roll back the protections set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The bill number is H.R. 620 and is titled the ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017. This would be an extremely harmful bill to people with disabilities. Terri shared an article with the group, titled "Congress Wants to Change the Americans with Disabilities Act and Undermine the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities, by Tyler Ray and Vania Leveille, of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). In the article, the authors state that H.R. 620 would "...completely change the way in which a business is required to comply with the ADA. Instead of requiring that a business comply proactively, the bill would place the burden on the individual who is being denied access." Terri asked committee members to share any concerns that they may have with the bill with their representatives in Congress.
- V. **Staff Report-** Kristin Harvey provided an overview of the attendance and preliminary feedback received from the 2018 LIFE Conference. Kristin reported that there were 492 people in attendance at the 2018 conference. The number of individuals with disabilities who attend the conference is trending upward;

however, the LIFE Conference Planning Committee would like to see the numbers climb even more. Next, Kristin provided an update from the DDC's national organization, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD). Per the NACDD, the President's proposed 2019 federal budget contains no mention of the previously mentioned PIII Council. However, there are significant cuts to DD programs almost across the board. If the budget is passed by Congress as it is currently written, DD Councils would lose \$17 million in funding. This would leave DD Councils across the nation and its territories with \$56 million with which to accomplish projects of national significance as required by the DD Act. Lastly, Kristin stated that the 2018 Partners in Policymaking Program will kick off later in the day. She shared information regarding the scheduled dates and topics, and asked that anyone who is interested in attending a Partners session please let her know.

#### **A. Discussion with Sandi Miller of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)-**

The Adult Issues Committee requested that Sandra Miller of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Marissa Catalon of DDDS, and Sue Brewster of DOL attend their February meeting to discuss how their respective organizations and the DDC could potentially work together to address the following objective in the DDC's 2017-2021 State Plan:

*"Develop and/or approve and implement one education and resource program over the course of the first year of the Five (5) Year State Plan for individuals currently receiving core services in segregated settings. The program will help to identify individuals' interests and match those interests with employment opportunities, financial literacy training and programs that promote healthy lifestyle choices. Twenty (20) individuals currently receiving core services in segregated settings will be reached during years two (2) through five (5) of the Five (5) Year State Plan through the presentation of this curriculum."*

Some points made by the committee and their guests during this discussion are paraphrased below:

- We need to learn to work together and not duplicate efforts.
- Early Start to Supported Employment (ESSE) helped to head off a lot of kids who would've otherwise ended up working for sub-minimum wage.
- Only about 50% of students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) receive information about competitive and/or supported employment in time to act before they graduate.
- Information should be more widely distributed to community service agencies.
- Individuals served under DDDS' Long Term Support Services (LTSS) will not have a care navigator. However, DDDS is hiring two new staff to address this need.
- LTSS is now focusing on a younger population.

- Schools frequently “pass the baton” on post-secondary options to the parents. Unfortunately, many times, this is where “the ball is dropped”.
- We need to start somewhere to let employers know that individuals with severe multiple disabilities can also work.
- Suggestion: DVR should contact the Transition of Care Team at Al DuPont/Nemours to see how they can collaborate to share information among themselves and with individuals and families that they serve.
- If you put a kid in a program doing tasks which are not interesting to them, they are not going to do well. You can’t judge how well a young adult will perform in a job based on an unrelated work experience which they did not choose.
- Decisions are being made regarding the rest of a young adults’ work life based on how well/not well they perform doing tasks they find uninteresting and that they do not wish to do.
- Parents need to receive the message from an early age that their child can work, and to focus on what they can do instead of what they cannot yet do.
- Perhaps we should develop a middle school pilot project to create a school-based career interest identification group, more like a club, with both kids with disabilities and those without disabilities.
- We should create a mechanism to poll potential employers and ask them to candidly express what they feel may be barriers to hiring individuals with disabilities.
- The committee should consider joining together with the DDC Children and Families Committee on this objective, since the Children and Families Committee has been assigned a similar objective in the 2017-2021 DDC State Plan.
- DDC and DVR could possibly enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) stating that they will work together to share information freely and support each others’ efforts by working collaboratively to achieve shared goals. Kristin said she will check with Pat to see if this is feasible or allowable.
- The committee asked Kristin to take the ideas mentioned above and create a draft Request for Proposals (RFP). Kristin said she will write a draft for the committee to build on.

**B. DDC Project Updates from the Down syndrome/Alzheimer’s Public Awareness Campaign:**

Kristin reported on the progress being made on the committee’s Down syndrome and Alzheimer’s disease Public Awareness Campaign. Contractor Blair Hains was not able to attend the meeting, but provided updates via email. Blair reported that he is wrapping up filming for the informational videos. Once filming is complete, Blair plans to begin the editing process. He also plans to produce the rack cards and social media components as described in his proposal once all of the footage clears post-production.

**C. DDC Project Updates from the Healthy Sexuality Program:**

Project Coordinator Cory Nourie was unable to attend the meeting, but provided the following updates via email. Cory reports that thus far, Al DuPont/Nemours has held two sessions. The first, on January 31, 2018 was attended by 3 young adults and 2 parents. The second session, held on February 7<sup>th</sup>, was attended by 2 young adults and 2 parents. Cory stated that two individuals signed up for the session, but they exceeded the age limit for the program. It would be inappropriate to group teenagers and middle age adults in the same group. The committee suggested asking if the project scope could be amended to add a session for individuals with disabilities who are older than age 22. Kristin stated that Pat has approved a budget line item change in which the unused portion of the grant set aside for accommodations be used to fund an extra session for individuals over the age of 22. Upcoming sessions will be held in Dover on February 28<sup>th</sup> at George Massey Station and on March 21 at DuPont Pediatrics in Seaford. Cory asked that the committee please help share this information with their networks.

**New Business:**

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:21 PM.