

**Developmental Disabilities Council**  
**Policy & Law Committee Minutes**  
**May 18, 2018**  
**Friendly's, Middletown, De.**  
**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Members Present: Rick Kosmalski, Chair, Maitri Campbell, Daniese McMullin-Powell, Bill Powell, Deb McCann, Terri Hancharick.**

**Staff: Pat Maichle**

**Guests: Catherine Pringle**

- I. Position Statements
  1. Discussion of Future Statements- Personal Care Attendants (PCA's) need to be addressed in a statement with the importance of these professionals. We can begin a draft of this thought. The workers who support people who live at home need to be paid a living wage (Medicaid LTSS). Committee Members will provide beginning statements to begin the draft to Pat to start this work. Rick will do a little research on the pay for these workers and where the funds come from to pay them.
- II. Strategic Planning – Review P&L Work to Plan
- III.
  1. Review of Plan to Include Travel – The Committee reviewed the current state plan and made one suggested addition to wording to the objective SA5. A new draft with all suggested changes will be brought to the full Council for review and vote at the July DDC meeting.
    1. Partners as Trainers – Rick Kosmalski and Angela Mitchell would like to be trained as trainers for Partners. A new class will be arranged in the near future.
    2. Self-Advocacy – The Council needs to seek out a Self-Advocacy organization to answer a new proposal for 2019.
    3. Partners in Policymaking 2018 – The class for 2018 has been meeting since February. They have been a great class so far. They completed their mock testimony this past week.
- IV. Legislative Update – H.B. #204 is up for voting this session that will allow for additional funds for pay to direct support professionals who work in group homes and day facilities. The Members feel strongly that pay for personal care attendants need to be included in the bill. Rick will contact Laura Waterland to see what can be done to make this happen.

- V. Voting – Rev Up and Registration – Emmanuel has been directed to put a weekly notice up from Rev Up to get people to register to vote and then to vote. Rev Up has developed a number of documents that can be used for this purpose. He will also work with the Department of Elections to post their documents that will inform voters on their rights. In addition, Dept. of Elections will be at our Membership events in Sussex County to register people to vote and to show them the voting booths.

Transportation is still a barrier to people being able to vote on election day. Paratransit is not flexible for transporting people to and from the voting facilities. We continue to advocate for changes. We will discuss a plan to work on this at the June meeting.

VI. Issues:

1. Assisted Suicide – This issue continues to be present and active in DE. We need to continue to be strategic about our advocacy.
2. Medication Lists in Facilities – Deb talked about how confusion occurs when people leave medical facilities with a somewhat different list of medications than what was prior to the admission or after the admission. She wants to make an official complaint about this because it's hard on people and their families.
3. Housing – Housing has and still is a barrier to people living in the community. Daniese suggests that we write a letter to our Congressional representatives requesting that more vouchers be made available for states so that people can live as they choose.
4. Sub Minimum Wage – A letter from MA U.S. Senator Warren was shared with the Committee that asks for research at the federal level of how many states still allow sub-minimum wage. DE needs to pay attention to this issue. It is time to pay people with disabilities at least minimum wage for work that is completed.
5. Rick requested that we include sexual assault as a discussion topic for future meetings. We need to get back into the conversation and advocate for victims. DDDS is also getting involved in this conversation, as well.
6. Community of Practice will be added to the list of discussion items.

- VII. Jr. Partners in Policymaking 2019 – An RFP will be issued in the near future to solicit a new vendor for this program. GSS is helping with this process.

VIII. Other Business From the Group

- IX. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting is scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 at Friendlys.

- X. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned by 4:00 p.m.