

**Developmental Disabilities Council
Policy & Law Committee Minutes
February 8, 2019
Appoquinimink State Service Center
9:30am – 11:30 am**

Members Present: Nancy Lemus, Terri Hancharick, Maitri Campbell, Daniese McMullin-Powell, Diann Jones, Bill Powell

Members Absent: Rick Kosmalski

Staff: Stefanie Lancaster

- I. Introductions, Approval of Agenda and Minutes** – No introductions were needed as all members present knew one another. The members unanimously approved the meeting agenda.

Daniese McMullin-Powell asked that it be noted in the meeting minutes that not being able to “reply to all” to documents shared with the committee makes the documents not accessible for her to review and provide feedback at the meeting. It was also discussed any documents shared with the committee be shared in Microsoft Word format. Stefanie will ensure that documents that need to be reviewed will go out in Word format in the future.

With this minor addition, the minutes were unanimously approved by the committee.

- II. 2019 Legislative & Policy Agenda document** – Terri Hancharick discussed that there is a need for educating legislators on some of the barriers facing people with disabilities as this is a new legislative session with several new legislators.

Many of the members have signed up to provide testimony for each of the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) meetings – housing, transportation, Medicaid, etc. Stefanie will send out the dates to the entire council for the remaining hearings.

Terri stated the Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) is planning to host a “Meet and Greet” event. Stefanie will reach out to Wendy Strauss to see if the DD Council can participate in this event. If we are unable to, the Council can always plan a similar type of event.

There was a discussion regarding the possibility of having a Co-Chair that is able to assist the Chair of this committee or to be able to run the meetings in the absence of the Chair. Nancy was nominated. A motion was made by Diann Jones, and Bill Powell seconded the motion. Nancy accepted the position.

The Committee also asked that Stefanie reach out to Sheryl Matney with the Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (ITACC) to ask if there is information from other states that lists the roles and responsibilities of the Chair of the Council as well as Chairs of committees. The Policy and Law Committee asked Stefanie to speak with the Personnel Committee regarding developing these policies and bringing them back to Council for final approval to include in the policy manual.

III. Review of position statements – recommendations of edits needed to each

- 1. Bullying**
- 2. Healthcare**
- 3. Housing**
- 4. Transportation**
- 5. Assisted Suicide**** The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) and the DDC collaboratively drafted a letter last year in which they shared Council's stance on this topic. Stefanie will reach out to SCPD to obtain a copy of the letter so that the committee can work on updating this for this year.
- 6. Human Rights**
- 7. Community Living****This is one of the top priorities for this session.
- 8. Subminimum wage****This is another of the top priorities for this session.
- 9. Sexual Assault** – Diann Jones stated that the Victim's Rights Task Force could provide some feedback on this position statement as it is developed.

All of the above position statements are currently posted on the DD Council's website. Daniese has requested that all documents be sent to members in Word format so that members will be able to track changes to the documents. Daniese's concern is the need to share with the entire committee, not just share changes recommended with only Stefanie.

It was mentioned that the documents should be placed in bullet point format versus paragraph format. One of the documents is currently 7 pages long. The position statements need to be concise and to the point. A proposed format would be to first share some education pieces in the beginning of the position statement, then list the Council's viewpoints as bullet points.

IV. Other Business From the Group – Several items were discussed during this portion of the meeting:

- 1.** The committee would like to review and interpret the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) law at the next committee meeting. The committee feels that the state is causing interference if the committee is unable to discuss documents between meetings. They feel the restrictions imposed by FOIA are impeding the progress of the work the Council does for people with disabilities. It was requested to invite someone from Disabilities Law Program (DLP) to attend the next committee meeting to provide input. All members were in favor of

this. John Whitelaw was requested to be invited to the next meeting. Stefanie will extend the invitation on the committee's behalf. It was also requested that Stefanie share the Open Meeting Law and FOIA information with the committee for discussion at the next meeting.

2. Stefanie discussed recent letters of support that were shared from SCPD and asked what the committee or Council does with these. Does the Council then in turn write a letter of support for each? Daniese stated these are all shared with Laura Waterland. Then SCPD meets to review. They develop a list of questions or concerns. The Chair then signs his name to the letters. It was asked that the Chair, Vice Chair or someone from the DDC staff attend the SCPD Policy and Law meetings to show our support of these items until an Executive Director is in place to do so. The meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the afternoon at the Smyrna Rest Stop Area Conference Room.

3. Diann Jones stated she wanted to self-disclose to the Policy & Law Committee that she has requested an ADA reasonable accommodation be in place – due to her disabilities she is unable to drive sometimes – allowing her the ability to call into meetings and vote as long as a physical quorum is present in the room.

The reason the Policy and Law meeting was moved from Friendly's to Appoquinimick State Service center was due to the fact that staff and the Chair of this committee felt the noise level at Friendly's would not allow Diann to hear & fully participate. The Committee discussed any other location that may be more conducive to having someone phone in to the meeting. After some discussion, it was decided to try Friendly's restaurant again for the next meeting.

4. The Committee discussed the recommendation of possibly restructuring the number of committees the Council currently has to help alleviate the amount of meetings due to lack of quorum as per the recommendation received from our federal granting agency. The concern is that members may have meeting fatigue due to the number of committees they serve on. After some discussion, the Policy and Law Committee determined that their recommendation at the March Council meeting will be to move the Financial Advisory Committee and the Membership Committee under the Executive Committee.

5. Stefanie stated that Moni Edgar, from United Cerebral Palsy – Client Assistance Program, would like to come speak to the Policy & Law Committee regarding possible collaboration with the Council to host a Self-Advocacy Conference. It was decided to invite Moni to the next meeting to discuss her ideas. Stefanie will extend an invitation to her.

V. **Next Meeting Date** - The next meeting date is scheduled for March 8th at 9:30 a.m. at Friendly's Restaurant in Middletown. Staff will reserve the area to the right as you enter the door of the restaurant for this meeting.

VI. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.