

**Developmental Disabilities Council
(DDC) Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
Online meeting ONLY due to State of
Emergency/Coronavirus 10 AM to 12 PM**

Members Present: Michael Harris (Chairperson), Maitri Campbell, Cynthia Fairwell, Karen Gallagher, Derrick George, Isabel Rivera-Green, Laura Greene, Terri Hancharick, Katie Howe, Nancy Lemus, Katie Macklin, Debra McCann, Daniese McMullin-Powell, Dale Matusевич, Carrie Melchisky, Joseph Merritt, Beth Mineo, Chris Oakes, Laura Waterland

Members Absent: Moni Edgar, Alvin Emory Jr.

Staff Present: Kristin Harvey, Stefanie Lancaster, Emmanuel Jenkins

Guests: Ken Feaster

- I. **Call to Order** – Michael Harris called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – The April Council meeting minutes were reviewed. Dale Matusевич made a motion to approve April Council Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Terri Hancharick. Minutes were unanimously approved.
- III. **Approval of the Agenda** – After a short discussion regarding adding committee update back to the agenda moving forward, it was decided that the project update and the committee update would be combined. A motion was made by Dale Matusевич to approve the amended agenda. This motion was second by Isabel Rivera Green. The agenda was unanimously approved.
- IV. **Chair’s Report** – Michael Harris stated that this is the second Council meeting where there was not an issue with reaching quorum for our Council meeting’s. This may want to be something that the Council continues to pursue to be able to use this platform in the future. Michael would like to use some of this time when people are working from home during the coronavirus pandemic to have some trainings available for the Council members. Michael stated during the Council meeting that he is going to try to keep everyone on task so we are able to get through the agenda in a timely fashion.
- V. **Staff Report** –
 - a. **Project updates** – Stefanie Lancaster reported the following:

LIFE Conference – The 2021 LIFE Conference Planning is underway. The LIFE Conference Planning Committee met with Lorraine on May 12, 2020 to discuss having to go virtual with the Conference for 2021. During this meeting, the committee also discussed the financial implications. Even though we are discussing the possibility of going virtual, at this moment we are still planning to hold the 2021 LIFE Conference in person.

Train the Trainer- There is no further updates for this project since last month Council meeting.

Partners in Policymaking – Due to the hotel being closed due to COVID-19, the DDC staff met with Donna Marie King to discuss other options for the Partners program. It was decided to push the start of the Partners in Policymaking Program back to January 2021. Pushing the program back to January will allow us enough time to ensure that each participant has the accommodations they need to be successful. With the program being pushed to January, it will run for the full eight months. The Junior Partners in Policymaking program will overlap some with the Adult Partners program. However, the DDC Staff is full confident in the abilities of the contractor, Donna-Marie King, to successfully run both programs concurrently.

Healthy People with Disabilities website – The Live Your Best Life Website is now LIVE. The DDC staff is currently working with Donna-Marie King to order some promotional items that we will be available to distribute at various events the DDC attends to promote this website.

Healthy Sexuality contract - Planned Parenthood had to cancel the workshop that was scheduled to be held on May 5, 2020 due to lack of registrations. The next workshops are scheduled for May 20, 2020 and June 4, 2020. These workshops will be held virtually. If any Council member would like to participate, please let DDC staff know.

Down Syndrome and Alzheimer's Public Awareness Campaign – Aloysius, Butler, and Clarke (AB&C) have developed a social media campaign that will be shared with some of our community partners. When the social media posts are available, they will also be shared on the DDC Facebook page. In addition, the contractor is also working with The News Journal to record an interview focusing on Down syndrome and Alzheimer's. Due to The News Journal furloughing individuals due to COVID 19, this may take longer than expected. Once there are updates to this, Stefanie will share with the Council.

Disability Pride Day proposal – This proposal is still with Government Support Services (GSS). Stefanie will continue to work with them to get this proposal awarded to the grantee.

Self-Advocate proposal - This proposal has been granted to the vendor. The vendor will start working on the project soon.

Community Engagement update – Emmanuel informed the Council of the following:

- *A phone call received over the last month from a parent looking for signage for her yard because her child is on the Autism Spectrum. This mother was directed to the appropriate organization to help fill this request.
- *Emmanuel reminded the Council about the Virtual Meet and Greet that will take place on May 15, 2020, from 6 PM to 7:30 PM. After Emmanuel did a promotion, registration started coming at a steady pace.
- * The first episode of the video series Let's Talk about It has been completed. For this episode Emmanuel interviewed Dan Madrid from the State Treasurer's office, and the Kosmalski family to talk about Able Accounts and Stimulus packages for people with disabilities. For the next episode Emmanuel will interview Izzy Kaufmann from Planned Parenthood to discuss the Healthy Sexuality contract. Emmanuel would like to see the Council be involved in future videos and actually do some of the interviews and coming up with the topics to talk about. One of the future episodes will include promoting the Live Your Best Life website.

Director's Report – Kristin Harvey reported the following:

- Kristin reminded the Council to register for the Virtual Meet and Greet.
- Kristin mentioned that the staff is still joining the weekly call with our national Association. These weekly calls are focused on COVID19 and concerns about reopening. These weekly calls also include a policy update from the NACDD Policy Director, Erin Prangley.

- The Policy and Law committee has created a small Workgroup in collaboration with several organizations, which include the University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies, State Council for Persons with Disabilities, The Developmental Disabilities Services and the Disabilities Law program. The focus of this group is to discuss the concerns impacting people with disabilities because of Covid 19 and the concerns about program funding being cut to help balance the state's budget deficit.
- Kristin shared because of Covid 19 there will not be an opportunity for the public to provide input to the General Assembly for the proposed budget for the 2021 State Fiscal Year. Kristin mentioned that Beth Mineo had a great idea to be proactive instead of reactive. So, the State Council for Persons with Disabilities will create a letter to send to the General Assembly that the Council will be able to sign on to.
- Due to Coronavirus, the ADA 30th celebration will be done virtually. Each community partner will celebrate in their own way. The ADA celebration committee will still hold meetings periodically to share ideas and to support each other's efforts to celebrate the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities act. A calendar representing each agency's activities planned will be shared with the Council once it has been finalized. Some of the ideas that the DDC Staff proposes are to live streaming the movie on Netflix called Crip Camp; interview Judy Hughman who stars in the movie Crip Camp; show the movie Intelligent Lives and the movie Heart and Soul.
- Kristin shared with the Council that the Minnesota DD Council pre-records the staff reports to save time on the agenda. She explained that it would be done and one recording and the Council would receive it one week before the Council meeting. Michael stated it may not be enough information for the Council to decide so this was tabled until a later date.
- Stefanie also shared that the National Conference, the NACDD Conference, has officially been canceled for this year due to Covid 19. The Technically Assistance portion will still be held virtually. Kristin and Stefanie both plan to attend.

VI. Financial Report – Stefanie stated there are not many updates to the report at this time. She will work to complete the purchase order to encumber the funds for the Self-Advocacy project in the next week.

VII. Current Business

a. Presentation by Beth Mineo from the Center for Disabilities Studies and Dale Matusevich from the Department Of Education

Dale Matusevich shared with the Council that The Department of Education has designated \$252,000 through the Cares Act, to expand broadband and internet across the state to ensure families have access to internet and broadband services. This has been expedited to have towers put in place by the end of July. In addition to the \$250,000, they have also designated \$314,000 to help families to be able to access the Internet service. The Department of Education hopes to assist 250 households per month through this effort. Dale stated that the districts are already working to identify those families that are in need of technology and the Internet service. DOE is working with Comcast and other Internet providers to be able to pay for the services for families.

Beth Mineo shared information with the Council to help them explore ways the DDC can help get technology in the hands of people with disabilities. Beth explained how the Center for

Disabilities Studies Assistive Technology Program helps individuals get the technology they need. After some discussion, a motion was made by Derrick George to create a technology work group to finalize the details relating to this initiative. This motion was second by Isabel Rivera Green. The motion passed. This workgroup will focus on putting technology in the hands of individuals with disability.

b. Items requiring a vote:

- **Position Statements:**
 - **Protection from Mistreatment** – This position statement was approved unanimously.
 - **Inclusion** – This position statement was approved unanimously.
 - **Individual Supports** – This position statement was approved unanimously.
 - **Policy and Law Committee recommendations for chair and vice chair** – The Council accepted the nominations that were submitted by the committee which states that Nancy Lemus is the Chair of Policy & Law and Derrick George is Vice-Chair.
 - **Nominations for vice chair** – The Council will submit their nominations to Stefanie. Stefanie will create a voting ballot from the nominations that she receives. The vice chair will be voted on at the June Council meeting.
 - **Funding recommendations for next phases of the following DDC projects in accordance with the State Plan:**
 - \$35,000 for 2021 Junior Partners in Policymaking program
 - \$25,000 for next phase of Live Your Best Life.org website
 - \$25,000 for next phase Down Syndrome/Alzheimer’s Public Awareness Campaign
 - \$20,000 for the next phase of the Healthy Sexuality for PWD project
- All of the above recommendations were approved unanimously by Council.

c. Council sharing of information and concerns –

Michael Harris shared concerns regarding hospitals not allowing family members in to see family members who are currently hospitalized. Disabilities Law Program has taken on this topic and is working to address this concern in Delaware.

Daniese McMullin-Powell share current statistics relating to the deaths in nursing homes and facility based settings due to COVID19. She shared her concern of the need for more personal protective equipment for those in those settings as well as the attendants who care for them.

Katie Howe shared that there are currently 38 people in provider settings that have tested positive of which 5 have passed away.

VIII. New Business – (if time allows) – This section was not able to be discussed due to time constraints.

IX. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

*****In accordance with 29 Del. C. 10004 (e)(2), this agenda was posted at least seven days in advance of the meeting.
***This agenda is subject to change to include the addition or deletion of items which may arise at the time of the meeting.**

*****Agenda items listed may be considered out of sequence.**