

Meeting Minutes
Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) Advocacy and Outreach Committee
Friday, March 27, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

***Zoom online meeting only, pursuant to Governor's orders and State of Emergency due to COVID-19**

*As of Friday, March 13, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. E.S.T., all public meetings of executive branch public bodies governed by 29 Del. C. sub-section 10001 et. seq. (including boards, commissions, task forces, and any other similar public body) may be conducted electronically, either by means of telephone call or video-conference call. The technology used must permit members of the public body to hear the comment of and speak to all those participating, and members of the public to hear the comments of and speak to such members of the public body contemporaneously. Public participants must also be permitted to electronically access presentation materials and submit questions or comments. During any public meeting conducted by electronic means, each member of the public body will identify him or herself before speaking so that members of the public are able to hear the comments of the members of the public body. Notice requirements of public meetings will continue as required by law and will include the electronic information necessary for participation. Meetings already noticed shall be updated as soon as practicable with the information necessary for members and the public to participate electronically.

Members Present: Terri Hancharick, parent advocate, Committee Chair; Karen Gallagher, Committee Vice-Chair, Self-Advocate; Jacky Saez-Rosario, Disabilities Law Program (DLP); HarrietAnn Litwin, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); Laura Strmel, St. John's Community Services; Meedra Surratte, Parent Information Center of Delaware (PIC of DE)

Guests Present: Izzy Kaufman, Planned Parenthood of Delaware (PPDE)

Staff: Kristin Harvey, DDC Staff, Stefanie Lancaster, DDC Staff

- I. **Call to Order** – A quorum being present, Chairperson Terri Hancharick called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – The December 2019 meeting minutes were approved as written.
- III. **Approval of Agenda** – The March 27, 2020 meeting agenda was approved as written.
- IV. **Chair's Report** – Terri Hancharick shared that she has learned the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) is exploring ways that they could support keeping non-profits that serve individuals with disabilities afloat during COVID-19. She also shared that Endless Possibilities in the Community (EPIC) is seeking a new Executive Director. Terri said that she will share the job posting with the group.
- V. **Staff Report** – Kristin Harvey shared that she has been working with the Division of Public Health (DPH) Office of Preparedness, the State Health Operations Center (SHOC), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III Coordinator, and the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) to keep these organizations apprised of concerns with the COVID-19 response in the Delaware disability community. Kristin also shared that she sits on DPH's Office of Preparedness Medical Ethics Advisory Group, and that this group has drafted new Crisis Standards of Care (CSC). The most recent draft of the CSC eliminated language that was discriminatory or vague, and that could be detrimental to people with disabilities. Concerns are being shared nationwide about people with disabilities being subjected to "medical rationing" (e.g. who gets a ventilator). The DE CSC currently remain in draft form and are not shareable.

Kristin said she will reach out to Dr. Rick Hong, Medical Director for the DPH Office of Preparedness, who is spearheading the creation of the CSC. Kristin will ask Dr. Hong for a status update and will share this news.

VI. Current Business:

- **Project Updates, Discussion:**

- A. Down syndrome and Alzheimer’s Disease Public Awareness Campaign-Stefanie Lancaster:**

Stefanie Lancaster reported that she is in frequent contact with the contractor for this project, Aloysius, Butler and Clarke (AB&C). AB&C recently sent out a list of potential speaking engagements for the far future, when social distancing requirements are relaxed. AB&C has also provided an updated partners list. Stefanie and Kristin are planning to speak with the AB&C team in the next week to discuss how to “pivot” the DDC’s outreach and public speaking opportunities to more online and social media opportunities. AB&C also plans to work with the previous contractor for this project, Blair Hains, to gain access to the decommunityconversations.org website in order to post existing videos and materials on the site, and to add any new information as it becomes available.

- B. Healthy Sexuality Project, Izzy Kaufman, Planned Parenthood of Delaware (PPDE)**

Izzy reported that due to new restrictions on social gatherings brought about by COVID-19 and Delaware’s State of Emergency, their planned activities for April had to be postponed. These included a session at the Stockley Center in Georgetown, as well as one in Dover and one in New Castle. Izzy is working with her colleagues and with Stefanie and Kristin to gain their thoughts on adapting the workshops to an online format. At a recent meeting, Kristin stated that she has asked PPDE to focus on sex positivity for people with disabilities and supports and information for people with disabilities who would like to become parents. A panel discussion featuring people with disabilities who are parents was discussed as a future activity.

- C. Healthy Recreational Options for People with Disabilities Website-Stefanie Lancaster**

The Healthy Recreational Options for People with Disabilities website is coming to fruition. In discussions with Donna-Marie King, the DDC’s contractor for this project, Stefanie said that the website name live-your-best-life-delaware.org has been chosen. Donna-Marie also shared with Stefanie that she has changed the website platform to WordPress, to assist with issues of adaptability. Stefanie reported that she and Kristin are scheduled to meet with Donna-Marie (virtually) next week in order to view and approve the final beta version of the website. Stef stated that she hopes the website will be launched by the next committee meeting.

- **Determine committee mission**

The committee did not come to any final decisions regarding wording for their mission statement. All present agreed that it should focus on community living, ensuring opportunities, and living a happy and fulfilling life in accordance with the person with a disability's wishes. Laura Strmel suggested that she share St. John's Community Services (SJCS) mission statement as a starting point. The committee agreed that would be helpful.

VII. New Business:

A. Any other new business

- HarrietAnn Litwin shared that the Delaware Department of Labor has closed its "brick and mortar" doors to the public due to the COVID-19 outbreak and social distancing requirements put in place by Delaware's State of Emergency. While their physical office space's doors are closed, HarrietAnn said that DOL and its subset, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) continues to be open and serving the public by appointment, or via use of technology. Many DOL employees are working from home, but HarrietAnn said that there is always someone in the office, particularly in the Unemployment Insurance Division.
- Meedra Surratte reported that the Parent Information Center of Delaware (PIC of DE) is sorting through mountains of new information regarding the provision of special education instruction and resources while Delaware's students are at home due to the State of Emergency. Meedra stated that the information coming from the federal government is changing sometimes by the hour, but that she and her staff are monitoring the situation to track compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Karen Gallagher thanked everyone who has been checking in with her during this period of statewide social isolation. She said that she is doing very well at home. Karen asked why we can't just keep meeting via Zoom in the future. The rest of the committee enthusiastically agreed with this statement.
- Terri pointed out that this situation will be helpful in advancing a Bill that was in the works prior to the outbreak, spearheaded by the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD). Terri said that showing remote meetings can be held and still be accessible to the public will help provide momentum for the Bill to be passed.
- There being no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 AM.