



District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

441 4th Street, N.W.
City-wide Conference Center
Room #1117
Washington, D.C.

July 19, 2012
3:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tina Campanella, Chair
Dr. Shearon Smith
Haley Kimmet
Antonia Brathwaite Fisher
Mary Lou Meccariello

Ricardo Thornton
L. Thomas Mangrum, Jr
Cathy Anderson
Susan Maclean
Nena Moore for Jane Brown

STAFF

Mat McCollough, Executive Director
Sudie Johnson, Program Analyst
Denice McCain, Staff Assistant

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Steven Benefield
DC Homeland Security and Emergency
Management Agency

Jessica Tatum
Summer Intern

Karyn Stenzler
Full Circle Employment

Trudy Jones
Inclusion Research Institute

Elie Simato
Personal Assistant

Patricia Bailey
Parent

Jason Farr
Institute for Educational Leadership

Silvia Garrick
Office of the Peoples Counsel

Margie Hatch
Institute for Educational Leadership

Raeisha Williams
New Livings

Leslie Harrison
DC Homeland Security and Emergency
Management Agency

Erik Jones
Guest

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Lynne Person
District of Columbia
Long Term-Care Ombudsman

CALL TO ORDER

Tina Campanella, Developmental Disabilities Council Chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She then asked that everyone introduce him/herself and provide the name of the organization that he/she was representing.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES (April 19, 2012)

A motion was made to approve the minutes of April 19, 2012. The motion was seconded and passed.

CHAIR REPORT

Supporting Families Community Practice – The Chair informed the membership that we have been invited by a group in Virginia to participate in a proposal that they are putting together in response to a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) under Projects of National Significance published by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The FOA is focused on Communities of Practice for Supporting Families of Persons with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities; an area cared about deeply in the District of Columbia (DC). She went on to say we have done an awful lot of work around Family Support and the Communities of Practice is really to revive that and give support going forward and hopefully we will get a revised initiative going here in DC. She then advised that more information on the proposal was included in a letter from DDC Executive Director, Mat McCollough, which was included in today's handouts.

DDS Recruiting Members for the State Independent Living Council – The Chair stated the DDC Executive Director has been sending out reminders about the State Independent Living Council's (SILC) recruitment efforts for new members and she believes the City is still engaged in the practice of engaging residents of the City only (which might limit the number of people who might be eligible to apply for this). However, she encouraged those who are not already serving on too many other committees/boards and have an interest in the SILC to think about applying for membership. She also asked that if anyone knows of other people with disabilities who haven't had an opportunity to serve on a board or committee that they encourage them to go out and get involved because that is what the DDC should be all about. Additional information on SILC's recruitment efforts was included in the handouts.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jessica Tatum – Summer Youth Employee – The DDC Executive Director introduced Jessica Tatum the DDC's summer youth employee, and asked that she tell a little about herself. Ms. Tatum stated that she is 18 years old, and that she graduated from Calvin Coolidge High School this year. She wants to become a cosmetologist and enjoys drawing. The Executive Director interjected that Jessica has been learning about the DDC, the Americans with Disabilities Act and other things that impact people with developmental disabilities and their civil rights. He then thanked her for doing an excellent job over the summer.

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Events Follow-Up & and Upcoming Community Forum – April 23-25: Disability Policy Seminar – The Executive Director opened the floor to those individuals who attended the April 23-25, *Disability Policy Seminar* and wanted to talk about their experience. Richard Thornton, DDC Member stated the conference was very nice and gave a lot of good information. On the third day participants from DC went to the Wilson Building and met with the three different City Council Members' Staff and Mr. Thornton got to participate in two out of three meetings.

The Chair stated that in regards to Medicaid, everybody's worried; everybody sees on the news the cost cutting and that sort of thing. She then asked if there were any discussion about alternatives and thoughts about the future of Medicaid.

Mary Lou Meccariello, Executive Director, Arc of DC Inc., responded that what she got from most of the speakers was it is very hard to determine what would be because it is such a huge piece. The recent Supreme Court Decision was a good thing but if you go on-line and read the Arc's webpage there are still some concerns around the Medicaid piece. It is not truly defined as to how much that will support Medicaid. So it is still a huge issue for the election and then you have states who are suffering badly and a lot of them don't want to increase their Medicaid funding which is going to be another big issue. It is hard to tell how it will play out.

Following a brief discussion on Medicaid funding issues, the Chair stated she would encourage everyone to pay attention because these are issues that will dramatically change the way services are paid for and may dramatically change what services are provided in the community.

June 27-29: APSE National Conference in Crystal City – The Executive Director informed the membership that there were several counselors from the Department on Disability Services/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) in attendance at the APSE Conference as well as Terry Spencer, Parent and Amy Wallish, Benefits Counselor, Full Circle Employment Solutions. He continued by stating this is the supported employment conference for folks with developmental disabilities and Voc Rehab Counselors. As many of you may know, DC is trying to get more funding for the Employment First Policy which was a huge concept at the conference.

Cathy Anderson, Director, Department on Disability Services/Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) reported that about eight staff persons from DDA attended the conference and they thought it was an excellent conference and they picked up some really good information.

DDC Funded Programs Update - DC Advocacy Partners Program - Jason Farr, Program Associate, Institute for Educational Leadership's (IEL) Center for Workforce Development, provided the following update on the DC Advocacy Partners program. It is a leadership training program designed for self-advocates and family members of children with intellectual/developmental disabilities and participants meet one weekend out of every month over a period of nine months. Each session features key national and local speakers, interactive exercises, video clips, resources, and homework assignments. Homework assignments consist of things such as contacting the Mayor's Office about certain issues or signing-up for newsletters (advocacy types of things). After which the participants are required to provide a report on how those things went.

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Partner Participants were also recorded performing different skits so that they could watch themselves speaking. At their last meeting Richard Devylder, Senior Advisor Accessible Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation, presented on emergency preparedness and on the next day IEL had the Partner Participants put together an emergency preparedness plan and do some role playing. IEL has also been working with each Partner Participant on a long-term project that runs throughout the entire year which they will present at the last session. Examples were presented by Thomas Mangrum, DDC Member and Partners Participant who wants to talk to youth with disabilities about technology because they will need to know how to use it in order to get a job and he doesn't want them to fall behind. Ricardo Thornton, DDC Member and Partners Participant, is thinking about going into the schools to talk to the teachers about special ed and to use himself as an example; however, he may switch to public and motivational speaking.

A graduation ceremony will be held on September 15, 2012 at the National Transition Youth Center and invitations will be sent to all the speakers, members of the DDC, several other groups, and the Partner Participants will be able to bring one or two other people to join them. The Partner Participants will receive a certificate signed by DDC Chair and the President of the Institute for Educational Leadership.

The project application for next year has been revised based on need to stress the importance of sticking to the time commitments and taking the program seriously. Applications are due by November 1, 2012 and hopefully the next class will be selected by December 1, 2012. The new program will begin in January.

Mr. Farr stated IEL has done a lot with the website and the new application can be accessed there for those who are interested or know of someone who may be interested in applying. The website address is www.dcpartners.iel.org.

GET INVOLVED DC – Trudy Jones, Project Coordinator, Inclusion Research Institute (IRI) stated the idea behind the *Get Involved DC* Program is to assist, teach, and train young adults with developmental disabilities to make decisions for themselves in terms of getting involved in the community through service and recreation activities. She then provided the following update. The participants held the June monthly mixer at the Old Dominion Brewhouse where they had dinner, spent time mixing and mingling, and getting to know each other. Following discussions, the participants decided they were going to do some activities on their own without any input which Ms. Jones thought was great. One group decided they were going to the movies; another decided they would go to Six Flags; and another decided they would go to the Kennedy Center for an event which is independent of the event that is coming the following week.

There are participants who have done community service including three who helped to decorate the Church for an event that happened in April. There is also a young man who is going to do some volunteer work with Serve DC and Ms. Jones is investigating other community opportunities for this group including one where the entire group can do a collaborative community activity. People don't know how important it is to do something that's free, and give of themselves to the community. She thinks this will enhance this population and make them feel good. It is also

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something that they can probably use on their resume as a future reference to say that they participated in this. The next monthly mixer is scheduled for Tuesday, July 24, 2012 at 5:00 pm at Kennedy Center's Millennia Stage where the participants will see a play in honor of the 22nd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Everyone has been told how to get there and about the free shuttle bus to the Kennedy Center. She thinks this is befitting and it is always great when we can promote those types of issues. Everyone seems to really enjoy this program and IRI will continue to try to reach out to young adults with developmental disabilities to find other ways to help them get more involved. She disseminated flyers for the upcoming event to the membership and asked if they know of others who may be interested in attending, to please give her a call.

Self Determination and Advocacy Program – The DDC Executive Director stated he was not sure if the Project Manager for this program or someone from Advocates for Justice and Education (AJE) would be attending today's meeting. However, he knows that a few of the DDC Members have attended their program and asked if they would like to say a few words. Toni Brathwaite Fisher, DDC Member stated she attended their program session last Saturday and stayed for the first session which was on Health Transition and being able to interact with healthcare providers. The presenter did a good job of developing a rapport with the group.

The Executive Director interjected that he attended a program that AJE sponsored with Mamie D. Lee School. There were roughly 14 high school students attending AJE's session. The session was on Communication (introducing yourself, introducing your friend, and having that self-confidence to simply communicate) and a lot of folks had trouble with talking in public. It was definitely a good program to simply observe.

Recent Developments

The Executive Director provided the following update on recent developments:

- *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, which is a landmark human rights agreement, is being considered by the Senate Foreign Relation Committee. Additional information on the Convention was included in the handouts.
- The Executive Director has been contacted by the DC Presidential Inaugural Committee in terms of accessibility and emergency preparedness for individuals with disabilities. He and Jessica Hunt, Special Projects Coordinator, Office of Disability Rights, will definitely push safety and accessibility because the last time we had an inauguration there were 1.1 million people on the National Mall and the greater the crowd the more difficult it is for people with disabilities.
- The Executive Director informed the membership that in the past few months the DDC Staff disseminated the DDC Newsletter the "*Herald*" which focuses on the accomplishments of DDC. A copy of the newsletter is included in the handouts.
- The Executive Director was recently appointed to the Commission on Human Rights which is part of the Office on Human Rights; more information on this appointment is included in the handouts.
- The Executive Director was also recently elected to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) with a term of one year, which begins October 1, 2012.

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- Also included in the handouts for the memberships is a copy of a blog that the Executive Director conducted on May 7, 2012.

The Chair congratulated the Executive Director on his appointments to the Commission on Human Rights and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

DDC COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Chair informed the membership that copies of the DDC Committee Reports are included in the handouts for later review. However, she opened the floor to members of those committees to make comments.

State Plan Implementation Committee (SPIC) - Ms. Fisher stated she is a member of the SPIC and was asked by the committee Chair, Susie King, to provide her report because she was unable to attend today's meeting.

She began by stating that included in the handouts is a copy of a request for DDC support from Project Action! to assist them in accomplishing their activities and efforts. The SPIC has reviewed that request and has identified/highlighted the activities they feel the DDC can make a commitment to do. She then provided a listing of those activities. She went on to say the SPIC also realized that there are several other agencies/entities who sit around the table that may be able to join the DDC in supporting Project Action!. She asked that they take a look at the request to see if they are able to make a commitment based on the list of items that Project Action has identified. In terms of how responses would be coordinated, she is not sure how the DDC wants to handle this since the request came to them initially, but suggested that perhaps everyone could coordinate with Sudie Johnson, Program Analyst, DDC, on any commitments they are able to make based on the list of activities that Project Action! has identified. In conclusion, she provided a brief summary of the SPIC Meeting Minutes which were included in the handouts.

The Chair stated in follow-up to this report she would like to reiterate for everybody present that Project Action! is getting all of these things done now on a pro bono basis. For example, Quality Trust does all of the management of the membership and the finances and those sort of things and there is no intention for them to stop doing that. However, she thinks we just need to coordinate better with Project Action! as to where they are getting help so that the helpers are more coordinated as well. She then thanked Ms. Fisher for her presentation.

Public Policy and Outreach Committee (PPOC) - Mary Lou Meccariello a member of the PPOC, stated she did not get a chance to send her comments to the PPOC, Chair but just wanted to update the membership on a few important pieces of legislation that have come up since their last meeting in April. The first being the District of Columbia City Council's unanimous passage of the first Respectful Language Modernization Act of 2012. This was a huge deal and it was a combined effort with the DDC, the Arc, Quality Trust, University Legal Services, University Center for Excellence in in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), and all of the other advocates. There were no questions from the City Council; the next step would require the Mayor's signature and then the thirty day Congressional waiting period and then it is on its way.

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She continued by stating another thing (which most of us around the table participated in) she wanted to remind people, was we had quite a challenge towards the end approving the Mayor's 2013 Budget that related to one of the DC City Council Member's recommending that the Home and Community Based Waivers be capped this year to save money in the budget and that authority at DDS be transferred to the Department of Healthcare Finance. Thanks to everybody involved and all of the emails, letters and everything else, the Mayor and City Council Member David Catania were able to work out a compromise so that everything stays the same.

The Arc sits on the Mayor's Committee on Workforce Development and on the Housing Committee which are newly appointed committees with an interesting group of people around those tables that don't necessarily sit at this table. She thinks this is a good opportunity to get some direction to bring back as an advocacy piece.

Lastly, she advised that the State Rehab Council has finally completed their State Plan which took a yeoman's effort since there were a lot of changes at the Department on Disability Services/Rehabilitation Services Administration. The plan was very laden and there were a lot of good people at that table who were pushing for jobs and transition, assessment in community living, etc. and it turned out to be a good plan. She also advised that Mat Rossen, who is the Director of DC Arc's Advocacy and Public Policy, is also the Chair of the State Rehab Council.

The Chair stated she would like to underscore what Mrs. Meccariello said -- both of those victories would not have happened without the level of collaboration and intense participation by so many people from the community. She thinks it was very important that the advocates were at the table with us, along with all of the advocacy groups, while figuring out how we could all work together and go forward with that same sort of thing. Hooray for all of us! She then thanked Mrs. Meccariello for her presentation.

PROGRAM ANALYST REPORT

DDC Spending Report - Sudie Johnson, Program Analyst, DDC, provided a brief overview of the DDC Financial Report which was included in the handouts. Following her overview she informed the membership that the DDC is on task with our spending as we had desired and now we are looking to the outcomes of our projects.

Five-Year State Plan Reorganization to Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD): Due August 15th – Ms. Johnson stated as everyone knows, last year we submitted our State Plan and had a Peer Review. As a result of that review, AIDD was quite concerned about us spreading ourselves too thin. There were a lot of things identified in the plan as goals that were actually activities and the AIDD wanted us to go back and take a look at the plan and base it on a common theme with outcomes. DDC Staff reviewed the plan, revised the goals and grouped them into common themes which resulted with three goals. Those three goals were the ones that were identified as a result of surveys conducted by the DDC. Employment and Advocacy were the top two themes and the other was Public Awareness. These changes were forwarded to the State Plan Implementation Committee for review. Ms. Johnson continued by stating the reason they

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targeted those three areas is because the AIDD is requiring that we stay within certain perimeters and do well with what we have. The revised goals and common themes were included in the handouts.

Another key component for AIDD is the Evaluation Plan which not only measure outputs, but measures the systemic changes that are occurring. No longer can we sit back and ask did you attend and provide a yes or no answer; we need to know did you attend, what you got out of it and what you are doing as a result. You have those follow-ups to justify and know that we are getting the outcomes because these are discretionary funds which can be taken away at any time. The deadline for submission of the revised goals to AIDD is August 15th.

The Chair thanked Ms. Johnson for the update and then asked that the membership to review the revised goals and submit any comments to Ms Johnson so that she may share them with SPIC.

August 7th DDC Community Forum – One Year Follow-up – Reconnecting with the Community –
The Executive Director stated that it was a part of our Five Year State Plan that we would continue getting feedback from the community through a community forum and this one forum is open to everyone. He also stated that due to the fact that we need to make some changes to the Five Year State Plan, we need to make sure that we are in-line with what the community needs and this is one of his priorities.

Besides the community, he would also be interested in getting feedback from all of the folks that have been doing the DC Advocacy Partners Program, Get Involved DC and Self-Determination and Advocacy Programs. The Forum will be held at the Martin Luther King Library on August 7, 2012, Room A9, from 5:30 and 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that there is an Evan's status hearing which will be held July 24, 2012 at 10:00 am and if anyone wants more details about where it is or how they can participate, to please see her or the Executive Director and they will give more specific information.

She also announced that Quality Trust's *Cruisin' for a Cause* will take place July 22, 2012 on the Odyssey of Washington from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. It is their major fundraiser but it also has a sort of sub-text, trying to bring together a typical group of people with and without disabilities, who may not otherwise celebrate and join together, so they can get to know one another. She also wanted to tell those in the room, who she knows will participate and to let them know how much Quality Trust appreciates their community support.

Haley Kimmet announced that she was accepted into a leadership program for female professionals with disabilities that is traveling to Jordan for two weeks in September and will be doing her best to represent her organization (TASH), the DD Council and the developmental disabilities community.

The Chair congratulated Ms. Kimmet on her acceptance.

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Toni Brathwaite Fisher, Associate Director of Georgetown University/University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (GU-UCEDD) announced that they have submitted their five-year grant application for 2012 – 2017 and have received word that their application was approved and funded and they wanted to thank the people around the table for their letters of support.

Mary Lou Meccariello made the following announcements: this is the second year that the Arc of DC has participated with the DC Public School system for their project called “Beyond High School, Navigating the System”. The first year they served about thirty kids and this year they served over 160 kids in 7 or 8 different schools. She went on to say it has been a really successful program and thanked the DDC for funding the printing of the books. If anyone needs copying, brochures, signs, trophies, plaques, etc. for conference or meetings, please use *Signed, Sealed, Delivered*, a business the Arc of DC operates and all of the funds go directly to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc’s National Convention and International Forum will be held October 25-28, 2012 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, DC. If anyone is interested in volunteer opportunities, four (4) hours of volunteering at the Convention will earn you one free day at the Convention.

The *Assistive Technology Resource Center* housed at RSA will be moving to 220 I Street, NE and will be sending out notifications to everyone informing them of their open house.

Leslie Harrison, DC Homeland Security and Emergency, disseminated handouts with some helpful tips for sheltering in place during an emergency and asked that the DDC contact them if they need any training, handouts, brochures or things of that nature. She can be reached at 202-727-6161.

Silvia Garrick, Office of the Peoples Counsel, announced that they would be hosting an *Energy Efficient Workshop* on August 23, 2012 here at 441 4th Street, NW in the Old Council Chambers, 11:30 to 12:00 noon.

Ricardo Thornton announced that Project Action! is having a meeting July 21, 2012 from 10:00 to 12:00 noon. He had a chance to testify on Capitol Hill on behalf of inclusion, institutions, and reminded them that there are 92,000 people still living today in institutions. He also met Senator Harden.

Cathy Anderson announced that the *Home and Community Based Waiver for People with Intellectual Disabilities* is with the DC City Council for their review and that is a huge accomplishment. Once they have their sign off, the Waiver will be submitted to the Federal Government.

The Chair thanked the public for coming and asked that the membership take a five minute break before heading into the Executive Session. The membership so obliged by taking a five minute break.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was then adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date is October 18, 2012, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,



Denice McCain
Staff Assistant