

Developmental Disabilities Council

Full Council Public Meeting

**MINUTES**

September 24, 2020

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/onstage/g.php?MTID=ebd90d1b1a38ff82122d3d948ee514c30>

By Phone: 650-479-3208, access code: 172 015 5644#

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Carol Grigsby – Chair Alison Whyte, Executive Director

Ricardo Thornton - Vice-Chair Luz Collazo, Program Analyst

Lisa Matthews Emily Kranking, Fellow

Bernard Crawford Denise McCain, Staff Assistant

Kali Wasenko-Rao

Anjanette Shelby **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Amber Keohane Mark Agosto, Department on Disability

Robin Shaffert for Tawara Goode, University Services

Rhonda White, Quality Trust Molly Whalen, Rachel Letters, and Julia

Center for Excellence in Developmental Molu - Best Buddies of the National

Disabilities Capital Region

Cheri Mallory Marrissa Ditkowsky - Tzedek DC

Emily Ornstein for Andrew Reese, Kimberly McAnn

Department on Disability Services Brenda Davis

Rachel Kolliopoulos

**MEMBERS ABSENT** Malayan Lancaster

Ron Smith, Sarah Grime, HeatherWilliam Engler

Stowe, Yetta Myrick and Jane Brown

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

After establishing there was a quorum, Carol Grigsby, Chair, Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

**INTRODUCTION OF DDC MEMBERS AND STAFF**

Ms. Grigsby asked DDC members to introduce themselves followed by the DDC Staff. She also asked members of the public to type their names into the chat box. Following introductions, Ms. Grigsby extended a special welcome to Emily Kranking the new DDC Fellow, who shared that she is happy to join the DDC and help with the Five-year State Plan.

**EXPLANATION OF VIRTUAL PLATFORM AND ACESSIBILTY**

Alison Whyte, Executive Director, DDC provided an overview of today’s WebEx platform and noted that the meeting will be recorded and posted on the DDC website.

**OLD BUSINESS (June 18, 2020 Minutes)**

June Minutes

Kali Wasenko-Rao made a motion to accept the minutes of June 18, 2020. Lisa Matthews seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

FY 21 Budget

Ms. Whyte informed the membership that there would be two votes on the DDC Budget. The first vote would be on the budget for: Advocacy and Leadership Initiatives, Education Initiatives, Community Living Initiative, and Conferences and Event Sponsorship. The second vote would be on the budget for: Employment Initiatives; Cross Cutting Initiatives, Innovative Grants, State Plan Planning, NACDD Membership, Office and Council Operations, and Communication and Outreach. Ms. Whyte called for a motion to approve first budget vote.

Lisa Matthews moved to approve the budget for: Advocacy and Leadership Initiatives, Education Initiatives, Community Living Initiative, Conferences and Event Sponsorship. Kali Wasenko seconded the motion. Vote 1 - Roll Call: Yes - Amber Keohane, Emily Ornstein for Andrew Reese, Anjanette Shelby, Bernard Crawford, Cheri Mallory, Kali Wesenko-Rao, and Lisa Matthews. Recused - Carol Grigsby, Ricardo Thornton, Ricardo Thornton, Robin Shaffert for Tawara Goode, and Yetta Myrick. Absent - Heather Stowe, Jane Brown, Ron Smith, and Sarah Grime. The motion carried.

Cheri Mallory made a motion to approve the budget for: Employment Initiatives; Cross Cutting Initiatives, Innovative Grants, State Plan Planning, NACDD Membership, Office and Council Operations, and Communication and Outreach. Ricardo Thornton seconded the motion. Vote 2 – Roll Call: Yes - Amber Keohane, Emily Ornstein for Andrew Reese, Anjanette Shelby, Bernard Crawford, Carol Grigsby, Cheri Mallory, Kali Wesenko-Roa, Lisa Matthews, Ricardo Thornton, Robin Shaffert for Tawara Goode, and Yetta Myrick. Absent - Heather Stowe, Jane Brown, Ron Smith, and Sarah Grime. The motion carried.

DD Council Bylaws

Following a brief discussion, Ms. Grigsby called for a motion to approve the DD Bylaws with the following addition to: ARTICLE XL. COMMITTEES:

3. Advocacy and Public Policy Committee, The Committee will:

1. Annually develop an Advocacy and Public Policy Agenda to guide the policy work of the Council, *which may include regular testimony strategy for oversight and budget season.*

Cheri Mallory made a motion to approve the DDC Bylaws. Ricardo Thornton seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

**MOVING FROM CRISIS OPERATIONS TO NEW NORMAL**

Ms. Grigsby shared that though we are still in the crisis in terms of the way that we are living, and this is the new normal we must operate in for a while longer, we also need to move ahead with our committee structures and the job that will confront us in the coming year of developing our new Five-year State Plan. She sent out an email explaining how we would be moving forward with the committees - State Plan Implementation Committee and Advocacy and Public Policy Committee - and provided committee assignments. She thanked Lisa Matthews former Chair, State Plan Implementation Committee for her leadership over the past couple of years and thanked Kali Wasenko for being willing to serve as the new Chair of the committee. Ms. Grigsby is currently Chairing the Advocacy and Policy Committee, but hoping someone else will step into that leadership position in the new year.

Ms. Grigsby informed the membership that it is time to do Alison’s Performance Evaluation. She has received input from the DDC Executive Committee and invited others who would like to provide their input to send it to her.

**CURRENT STATE PLAN PROGRESS AND FUTURE STATE PLANNING**

We will be launching the Community Engagement process for the next Five-year State Plan which is due to our Federal partners on August 15, 2021.

Ms. Whyte reviewed the State Plan Dashboard and highlighted the work the DDC is doing in partnership with DC Autism Parents and the Learn the Signs Early Ambassador over the next year on a grant that will be focusing on developmental monitoring and family resilience during COVID. Yetta Myrick is the main lead on this project and she stated that it is a whole team of collaborators in the Early Intervention spere from Strong Start, Early Stages, Child Welfare, etc. who are coming together to do this work and she is excited about it.

**PRESENTATION: BEST BUDDIES OF THE CAPITAL REGION**

Molly Whalen, State Director Best Buddies for Virginia and DC thanked the DDC for the opportunity for her and her colleagues Rachel Letters, and Julia Molu to provide a presentation on the Best Buddies Programs at today’s meeting. Ms. Whalen also gave a shout out to Kali Wasenko-Rao for her work on the Best Buddies Ambassadors Program.

**DDC STAFF REPORT**

Membership Recruitment

To bring the DDC back into compliance with the DD Act membership requirements, we will increase from 19 members to 27. The DDC asks that everyone share that information and to look for recruitment recommendations of people with developmental disabilities and their family members within their own networks.

DDC Statement of Anti-Racism and Commitments

The Statement on Anti-Racism and Commitments was finalized and sent out to the community. In response to this, the DDC Staff are meeting internally on a monthly basis to revisit the comments that we made in that statement and to try and make sure that we are doing what we need to do to support and honor those commitments.

Latinx Conference on Disabilities

The Latinx Conference will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 11:00 am. Flyers in English and Spanish were disseminated to everyone and she asked that they share that information. She thanked Emily Ornstein who helped to develop the flyer.

Disability Community and Policing Working Group

This Disability Community and Policing Working Group has been meeting for the last couple of months to learning about police reform, police abolition, and other different movements in order to make recommendations specifically about what will support the disability community. The next meeting will be held on October 5, 2020.

Bernard Crawford and Lisa Matthews ask to be including on the list to receive an invitation for this meeting. Yetta Myrick asked how can they support this group if they can’t attend meetings and Alison stated that she would send any draft proposed recommendations or actions out to the whole group by email and they can respond to her directly.

Census 2020 and 2020 Election

The final day to submit information for the 2020 Census is September 30, 2020. For those who have not already submitted information, please do so because it directly reflects the funding that comes to DC for social services, education, etc. for making our communities strong.

As a side note, the DDC is working with Project ACTION!, Quality Trust, and UCEDD to create a brief list of questions for those individuals who are running for office in DC about their position and knowledge on developmental disabilities. Bernard Crawford shared information about how he voted by mail and encouraged others to do so as well.

**DD COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES UPDATES**

Robin Shaffert shared that the Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities has been working hard to understand and address the devastating and disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) community. They have done a survey of the impact on Direct Support Professionals and they will be doing a survey of the impact on parents of children with disabilities. The UCEDD recently received a grant to look at Supporting Parents with I/DD around the transition of their children and everyone will be hearing more about this from the UCEDD.

Ricardo Thornton shared that Project ACTION!’s Executive Committee has been meeting and they are still sending information out to those who have not been able to attend the meetings and encouraging them to vote. They are still planning a Candlelight Vigil and hopefully by the next time we meet, they will have a date for that.

Anjanette Shelby shared that the Mayor’s Commission on Persons with Developmental Disabilities held a teleconference that same day and they still want to partner with the DDC for next year. Their next meeting will be on the third Thursday of next month.

Yetta Myrick shared that the last Family Support Council meeting was on held on September 17, 2020 where the Department of Parks and Recreation’s Planning Team talked about some of their plans to make spaces accessible across the community at large. There also was a presentation from the Department of Healthcare Finance around their “Electronic Visit Verification Presentation” and she thinks this is something that should be on our radar too because they stated they would be rolling that out within the next month. Also, the DC Department of Behavior Health and the Department of Healthcare Finance put out a request for information that was not presented in plain language or in a way that was easily digestible, so the Family Support Council and the DD Council submitted an advocacy letter to them. The next meeting of the Family Support Council is scheduled for November 19, 2020.

Emily Ornstein shared that the Person-Centered Organization meeting will be held on October 6, 2020 from 1:00 pm – 5 pm. The Office of Policy Planning and Innovation is preparing to engage in Tech First Planning with District staff, providers, and other stakeholders to promote Tech First in the District. The expected timeline for launching this exploration is October 2020-September 2021. The IDD Waiver Amendment and the new IFS Waiver Application were both submitted to CMS for approval on August 3, 2020. DDS is continuing Friday Community Member and Provider Forums and the next meeting will be this Friday from 12pm - 1 pm. Questions can be submitted ahead of time via email or in the chat box during the forum.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was a brief discussion on the age limit for participating in Best Buddies.

Rhonda White, Quality Trust (QT) announced that they did a soft launch of Family Ties of DC and she is excited to report that today she received a message on the Database that someone has asked for a match. Family Ties of DC is moving forward, and she is looking forward to what we can continue to do for parents even in the midst of this pandemic.

Lisa Matthews announced that she has been asked by the Sibling Leadership Network to work with them on a Sibling Panel that will be held on November 18, 2020. The focus is going to be on “How Race is Impacted from a Siblings Experiences.”

**CONCLUSION AND ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Ms. Grigsby called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Yetta Myrick made a motion to adjourn. Ricardo Thornton seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next DDC Meeting will be held on December 17, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise McCain