**Developmental Disabilities Council**

Full Council Meeting, April 23, 2020

WebEx: <https://dcnet.webex.com/meet/alison.whyte> and

By phone: 650-479-3208, access code: 472 038 216#

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING**

Carol Grigsby, Chair, Andrew Reese, Sarah Grime, Lisa Matthews, Bernard Crawford, Yetta Myrick, Kali Wasenko-Rao, Anjanette Shelby, Heather Stowe, Amber Keohane, Tawara Goode,

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ricardo Thornton, Ron Smith, Cheri Mallory, and Jane Brown

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Alison Whyte, Executive Director and Denise McCain, Staff Assistant

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mat McCollough and Jessica Hunt, Office of Disability Rights; Rhonda White, Quality Trust; Julia Wolhandler, DC Public Library; Marissa Ditkowsky, Tzedek DC; Robin Shaffert, Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities; Melissa Bird, District Census 2020; Yufanyi Nshom and Crystal Hall, Department on Disability Services; Adrienne Rodriguez, Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Vivian Guerra, DC Department of Transportation; Mercia Bowser, Community Member; Jill Lamoreaux, ASL Interpreter; Hans Fernstermacher, Jeenie Interpreting; Donald Myers, Community Member; Maedi Carney, Community Member; Susan Wollenweber, Community Member; and several participants joined by phone but were not identified.

**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 3:20 pm. This quarterly meeting normally would have occurred in March, but due to the Covid-19 crisis and the need to conduct it remotely scheduling was slightly delayed. She thanked everyone for their patience as we worked through some technical issues and advised that this meeting would focus mostly on the current crisis (Covid-19). She then asked DDC members to introduce themselves followed by DDC Staff. In the expedience of time, she asked that other participates identify themselves through the WebEx Chat Box.

**OLD BUSINESS (November 19, 2019 Minutes and DDC Retreat Notes)**

Ms. Grigsby reminded the membership that the Retreat Notes and the minutes from our November meeting were disseminated to the membership prior to this meeting for review and barring any question and/or corrections she would like to call for a motion to approve the November 19, 2019 minutes. Kali Wasenko-Rao made a motion to accept the minutes of November 19, 2019 minutes. Yetta Myrick seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried.

Ms. Grigsby informed Alison Whyte, Executive Director, DDC prior to this meeting that there was some missing text at the top of page 2 of the January 2020 Retreat Notes. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that approval of the Retreat Notes would be held over until the June 2020 DDC meeting.

**UPDATE ON DDC COVID-19 ACTIONS**

Ms. Grigsby provided the following update on things the DDC has been involved with since this crisis began: the DDC prepared and submitted a statement on COVID-19 to the DC government and the DC City Council; put together a list of community resources (mainly online) of things that can be used by families to stay involved and engaged throughout this crisis that will be updated as we receive new ideas; and issued a Notice of Funding Availability of up to $50,000 in grant funds to reduce isolation and increase communication in the disability community. The DDC Executive Committee has been expanded to create a Crisis Committee which includes the existing three DDC Executive Committee members (Ricardo Thornton, Lisa Matthews, and herself) and four additional DDC members (Kali Wasenko, Tawara Goode, Anjanette Shelby, and Yetta Myrick). The creation of this committee will allow the DDC to move more quickly in terms of grant approvals and voting on and signing things such as advocacy statements which cannot wait for a full DDC vote. Alison Whyte, Executive Director, DDC will talk about other DDC advocacy later in the meeting.

**MAYOR’S ACTIONS ON COVID-19 & DISABILITY COMMUNITY**

Andrew Reese, Director, Department on Disability Services (DDS) provided updates on the following: The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services approval of the District’s Appendix K and work with the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) on transmittal for providers that explains how payments will be made; the number of people receiving DDS/Developmental Disabilities Administration services who have tested positive for COVID-19 and the number of deaths; guidance in the Mayor’s Stay-at-Home Oder that addresses folks who are in a variety of different kinds of placements under the care of the city; updated guidance from DC Health for Res Habs and ICFs that provides specific guidance about procedures of what is required in regards to face coverings and use of PPE; and changes regarding COVID-19 testing for those at high risk.

Heather Stowe, Department on Aging and Community Living (DACL) provided the following update: She thanked DHCF for waiving some of the rules in regards to completing and processing applications for the Elderly and People with Disabilities Waiver during this public health emergency; DACL’s work with a task force to try and ensure that they are capturing all the vulnerable groups in the city to make sure that community groups get additional resources to ensure that they can get food to people; and their death total.

Ms. Grigsby thanked Mr. Reese and Ms. Stowe for their updates and then called for a moment of silence for those who have been lost during this COVID-19 pandemic.

**COVID-19 UPDATES FROM DD COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

Tawara Goode, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) provided the following updates: The Association of University Centers on Disabilities has asked all of the UCEDDs to collect stories on the impact of COVID-19 on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities so that they can use that information to influence policymakers on the Hill; the UCEDD’s decision to expand the data collection process under the umbrella of their research and evaluation core function and 5-year plan; their Patient Centered Outcome Research Institute grant focusing on young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with mental health needs; and their project looking at the specific impact of COVID-19 on this population on a national level.

Sarah Grime, SchoolTalk DC provided the following updates: SchoolTalk is serving youth and their community’s through different platforms, such as, Microsoft Teams. They have been providing content and highlighting what youth are doing during COVID-19 to elevate their voices. Their Restorative Justice Team is also continuing to serve the youth.

Yetta Myrick, Family Support Council co-chair, provided the following update: Voting members only of the Family Support Council will be meeting next Thursday. The next public meeting of the Family Support Council will be held May 14, 2020 through a conference call. Also, she or co-chair Joan Christopher has been participating in the weekly disability organization calls that the DDC has been hosting and they have provided resources to Ms. Whyte for the resource list.

Adrienne Rodriguez, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) provided the following update: A State Advisory Panel Meeting will be held April 30, 2020 at 4 pm via Microsoft Teams. OSSE will present on FAQs regarding special education guidance that OSSE has given for schools and parents. During this pandemic season, they have been getting questions from community stakeholders, schools, and folks with disabilities and they are here to support and to answer questions.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Ms. Whyte first expanded on the COVID-19 DDC activities presented by Ms. Grigsby at the beginning of the meeting, including participation with the DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities to discuss COVID-19, before providing the following report:

By-Laws – At the DDC members’ only retreat held in January the DDC By-Laws and Accessibility Agreements were reviewed, but not yet finalized. She has a record of those comments and will continue to move the work forward as soon as we can to get the revised By-Laws in place.

Staffing Update – A new DDC staff person has been hired to fill the position that Sudie Johnson held before she retired. That individual will come on board May 11, 2020 and will be officially introduced at our June meeting.

Supporting Families Community of Practice and CLC CoP – Much of this work is on hold until the Mayor’s Stay-at-Home order is lifted. The LifeCourse Showcase Conference will be held virtually this year due to the pandemic and anyone interested in attending can let her know. She will post this information on the DDC social media. The Cultural and Linguistic Competency Community of Practice is drafting and anti-racist statement to address the systemic racism in healthcare that COVID-19 has highlighted.

Updates from NACDD and ITACC – She is a part of the weekly calls being held with NACDD to keep all DDCs updated with information from the Administration on Community Living, and other policies, legislation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Melissa Bird, Executive Director, District Census 2020, reported a 49.3% response rate on the census so far. She expressed a willingness to return to a future DD Council meeting if needed, to help address more directly how people with disabilities can be assisted in being counted.

Vivian Guerra, District Department of Transportation (DDOT) provided the following update: The circulator bus will remain free during this public health emergency; plans are under consideration to temporarily extend sidewalks; Heidi Case was elected Chair of the Multimodal Accessibility Advisory Council (MAAC); and DDOT’s long-term transportation plan. For issues such as the absence of a curb ramp or other ADA issues, folks can contact DDOT’s ADA Coordinator, Cesar Barreto.

Marissa Ditkowsky, Tzedek DC, stated they are a non-profit that provides representation to low-income DC residents dealing with often unjust, abusive, and illegal debt collection practices, etc. She runs the disabilities community project at Tzedek DC that provides services to low-income DC residents with disabilities and she is here today to let people to know that they exist. She placed her information in the chat box for those who would like to contact her.

Yetta Myrick announced that the DC Autism Parents hosted a brief webinar on special ed and COVID-19. Kimberly Glassman from Gruber Law Offices gave a 10-minute webinar to give parents who have children in special ed some tips as they go through the pandemic. This information was recorded and in the chat box.

Jessica Hunt, Office of Disability Rights announced there would be an Olmstead Community Integration Working Group Town Hall Meeting held on April 28, 2020 from 1:00 pm - 2:30pm to discuss how the DC government will support people who need long term services and supports. She placed the Eventbrite Invitation in chat box and stated for those who have questions, they can contact her directly.

Rhonda White, Quality Trust (QT) announced that they were going to officially launch the Family Ties of DC this year, but because of COVID-19 they are now trying to find a way to do a soft launch. QT will be doing Family Town Halls around COVID-19, and an opt-in forum for parents and caregivers to allow parents to share their needs and questions and QT will provide resources to make sure they are catering to the needs that people have.

**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 the meeting. Anjanette Shelby seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next DDC Meeting will be held on June 18, 2020. Location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise McCain