**Quarterly Public Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, June 16, 2022, 3-5pm**

**Members in Attendance**

1. Anjie Shelby, DDC Chairperson, Community Representative
2. Ricardo Thornton, DDC Vice-Chair, Advocacy and Public Policy Committee Co-Chair, Community Representative
3. Carol Grigsby, Advocacy and Public Policy Committee Co-Chair, Community Representative
4. Andy Reese, Representative of the Department on Disability Services, (Represented by Proxy, Martina Kraemer)
5. Tawara Goode, Representative of the Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (Represented by Proxy, Robin Shaffert)
6. Naisha Dembele, Representative of a local non-profit organization, SchoolTalk DC
7. Berta Mata, Representative of a local non-governmental organization, Advocates for Justice and Education
8. Derrick Simms, Community Representative
9. Stephanie Lanham, Community Representative
10. Uchenna Egenti, Community Representative
11. Yetta Myrick, Community Representative
12. Zoe Gross, Community Representative

**Excused or Absent Members**

1. Elisa Peña Zavala, Community Representative

2. Jane Brown, State Plan Committee Chair, Representative of Disability Rights DC, Protection and Advocacy Agency

3. Cheri Mallory, Community Representative

**Staff**

1. Alison Whyte, Executive Director

2. Luz Collazo, Program Analyst

3. Erin Olson, 2022 Summer Intern

4. Kevin Wright, Program Support Assistant

**Others in Attendance**

Mat McCollough, Office of Disability Rights

Kay Mikayla Heston, 2022 Summer Intern

Gabriela, Spanish Interpreter

Tania Saldivar, Spanish Interpreter

Roy

Yvonne, CART Captioner

Aviva Ben Shitrit, ASL Interpreter

Lissa Treger, ASL Interpreter

Marissa Ditkowsky

Gary Carter

Jalyn Marks

Yared Mengistu

Elizabeth Reddick

(202)-412-1635

Angela McCollum

| **Topic** | **Minutes** |
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| **Welcome and Call to Order** | The meeting was called to order by Anjie Shelby at 3:19 pm. |
| **Explanation of Virtual Platform and Accessibility** | Alison Whyte briefly explained the access features of the meeting including ASL interpreters, real-time captions, and Spanish interpretation. |
| **Introduction of Councilmembers and DDC Staff** | Anjie Shelby introduced herself and invited DD Councilmembers and Staff to introduce themselves. Alison invited members of the public to introduce themselves in the chat. |
| **Council Business Vote**1. March 17, 2022 Minutes
 | Ricardo Thornton announced the voting for the approval of minutes. Carol Grigsby motioned to approve the March 17, 2022, minutes. Yetta Myrick seconded. All voted in favor. Minutes for March 17, 2022, were approved. |
| **Chairperson Remarks**1. Call for Ad-Hoc Committee to begin Bylaws, Stipend Policy, and Anti-Racism Statement review and updates
2. DDC Summer Social
3. Update from the Commission on Persons with Disabilities
4. Councilmember’s Roles and Responsibilities
 | Anjie Shelby discussed the following:1. We must create an Ad-Hoc Committee for Bylaws. We agreed to review them every two years, and they are up for review in 2022. The Ad-Hoc Committee should be at least three people who will review the Bylaws and its addendum, the Stipend Policy, and then propose changes to the full Council. Yetta Myrick, Cheri Mallory, Ricardo Thornton, and Anjie Shelby volunteered for this Ad-Hoc Committee.
2. It has been two years since the DD Council has had an in-person retreat. Especially with the new members, it would be nice to have a Summer Social, perhaps outside, so that everyone can meet and get to know each other.
3. Update from the Commission – they are talking about transportation, including Ubers, parking, etc. Let Anjie know if you have any input to bring up with the Commission.
4. Councilmembers serve the Mayor and the mission and values of the DD Council. Anjie encouraged all Councilmembers to stay involved, attend Committee and Council meetings, and contribute their thoughts and expertise.
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| **State Plan Committee Updates**1. FY22-26 State Plan Progress
 | Luz talked through this year’s State Plan goals on behalf of Jane Brown. 1. Highlighted the mission and values of DDC, what the State Plan Committee does, and how DD Councils work
2. The Committee recently provided recommendations to the IDEA Accessibility Project of the Advocates for Justice and Education at the committee meeting on 6/2/22.
3. The Committee is making recommendations for the State Plan revision, due on 8/15/22.
4. The Committee is also working on reviewing grant information.
5. In-Progress State Plan activities:
	1. Strengthen self-advocacy organization - Project ACTION! Meeting, 6/18 at 10 am
	2. Develop leadership – Kevin is doing some peer-to-peer presentations with students at River Terrace
	3. Supported self-advocates to testify and give presentations on the meaning behind Bill 24-268, DD Eligibility Reform Amendment Act 2021 (October 2021, May 2022)
	4. Training on Bias (May 2022) and Training on DD Suite (grants management software, June 2022)
	5. 4th Annual DC Latinx Conference on Disabilities- 9/21/22.
	6. Employment First Summit - October 20-21, 2022
6. Reviewed how to get involved with committees and upcoming meetings and events.
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| **Advocacy and Public Policy Committee Updates**1. FY23 Budget Update
2. Position Papers
3. Update on DD Eligibility
4. Vaccine and booster encouragement
 | 1. Council of DC passed a budget for FY23. Some increases in Direct Support Professional wages were included, as well as funding for the DD Eligibility Reform Amendment Act, which will expand eligibility to people with developmental disabilities who do not also have an intellectual disability with an IQ below 70.
2. DD Eligibility position paper was passed at the last meeting. Other position papers are in process. There is a blueprint and template that the council and Alison created last year. You do not have to be on a committee to help.
	1. Ricardo and Alison are working on health equity paper- not yet completed if anyone wants to help. It will emphasize the importance of vaccines. Ricardo also mentioned the importance of vaccines to everyone in attendance.
	2. Anjie worked on the employment paper - the committee did some revising at their meeting the previous Tuesday.
	3. Naisha and Laraven are working on policing paper and Abby with The Arc of DC can help.
	4. Yetta drafted education, and Berta demonstrated interest

Anjie opened for public comment. There was no public comment. |
| **DD Council Executive Director Report**1. Employment First
2. Bridging Aging and Disability Networks Grant
3. Staff updates
4. Councilmember Terms and Changes
5. Bios and Photos from Councilmembers
6. June 21, 2022 Primary Election - Voting Resources
7. FY22 Budget Update
 | Alison Whyte presented the following:1. Alison talked about Employment First; one of our big goals. Kevin Wright is the lead on planning the Employment First Summit, which will be 10/20-21 at MLK Library because October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Kevin leads the planning committee for Employment First - reach out to him or Alison if you’d like to connect. They are planning a listening tour, the Summit agenda, communication strategies, and strategic planning and goal setting with agency leaders. Erin Olson, the DDC Summer Intern is working on a data review of employment of people with disabilities in DC. Opened for comment: Laraven and Derrick both wanted to get more involved. Ricardo is excited that the Summit will happen at the library because he has worked there for 44 years. He also asked if it was for youth, adults, or everyone; Alison answered that it is for everyone. Zoe provided a link to easy-read resources about Employment First.
2. The DDC recently received a new small grant – the Bridging Aging and Disability Networks Grant – more details to come later.
3. Staff updates: Erin Olson is our 2022 Summer Intern at the DDC from Wellesley College, providing support with position papers. We will have a Program Support Specialist joining in early July.
4. There are four vacancies on the Council for Parent/Family Member/Guardian of child or adult with a disability, DC Health Representative, Department of Healthcare Finance Representative, Office of the State Superintendent of Education. Also looking for upcoming vacancies for Person with DD (former Forest Haven resident), Parent/Family member/guardian of person with DD, and Person with DD. Reach out to Luz to discuss filling those positions.
5. Send Alison your bios and photos if you have not yet.
6. Next week is the primary election for DC on June 21st. Alison shared voting resources for voting and how to get involved with making voting more accessible. Yetta shared additional voting resources.
7. FY20 Grant has been fully obligated and spent. FY21 Grant: $135,000 has carried over into FY22. 25% has not been spent and the deadline is September 30, 2022. FY22 Grant: 42% of funds have been spent. The deadline for spending is September 30, 2023. Council approved spending $55,000 in each of the 3 goal areas in FY22 and estimated about $90,000 would carry over into FY23. We also have COVID vaccine access and public health workforce funding - about $120,000 - to spend until September 30, 2024 ($25,000 must be spent by September 30, 2022, which will go toward staffing). ACL often offers No Cost Extensions, but we haven’t heard anything from them yet. Opened for comment - several Councilmembers expressed confusion. Alison recommended discussing further in committee meetings.
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| **DD Council Organizational Representatives Updates**1. DD Network – Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services and Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
2. SchoolTalk DC
3. Advocates for Justice and Education (AJE)
4. Department on Disability Services (DDS)
5. Department on Aging and Community Living (DACL)
6. Project ACTION!
 | 1. Robin (Tawara’s proxy) shared celebration of completing the first year of the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Training Program. They are recruiting for the program if anyone is interested in joining. Participants earn a stipend during the program. Georgetown UCEDD worked on the DD eligibility advocacy with DD Council in May and the issue will be discussed again at the Department on Disability Services Forum on the 4th Friday of June. Robin also stressed the importance of vaccines - Children as young as six months will be able to get vaccinated soon. Robin shared the UCEDD’s social media and invited people to connect. Disability Rights DC did not have a report.
2. No report.
3. Berta said to go to the website for AJE where training is being shared. They are still finishing details, but all information is available there.
4. Martina (Andy’s proxy) said that DDS didn’t have a report.
5. No report
6. Ricardo shared that there is a Project ACTION! meeting on Saturday, and Alison can share the link to it. The goal of Project ACTION! is to let your voice be heard.
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| **Public Comments and Community Announcements** | No comments from the public. Alison shared a video from the Anti-Bias Training - this conversation series is part of our state plan work on cultural and linguistic competence. Angela mentioned how the video can be related to the experiences of some people with disabilities. Ricardo asked if people should contact Alison or Erin about position papers. Alison answered that both her and Erin can be contacted. Laraven will have a podcast episode soon about disability and sexuality. Roy asked if there is a plan for a resource fair for people with disabilities. Alison discussed the Mayor’s Expo, which happens in October and is a great place to get resources. Luz shared the link from the Mayor’s Office on Talent and Appointments (MOTA) to apply to be a Councilmember; people can also contact her for more information. Mat McCollough shared that the Office of Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing is a new department within the Executive Office of the Mayor and Keri Cooke is the Director. This office is looking to hire at least seven new people. The new office will be in the Mayor’s Office of Community Affairs. Anjie Shelby reminded everyone that the DD Council would have meetings in September and December. |
| **Conclusion and Adjournment** | Adjournment – Ricardo Thornton motioned to adjourn the meeting. Carol Grigsby seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm |