**Quarterly Public Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, June 22, 2023, 3-5 pm**

**DD Councilmembers Present:**

1. Andy Reese, Representative, Department on Disability Services
2. Anjie Shelby, Chairperson, Community Member
3. Bernard Crawford, Community Member
4. LaRaven Gaymon, Community Member
5. Ricardo Thornton, Vice Chairperson, Community Member
6. Yetta Myrick, Community Member
7. Zoe Gross, Community Member

**DD Council Staff Present:**

1. Alison Whyte, Executive Director
2. Kevin Wright, Program Support Assistant
3. Luz Collazo, Administrative Support Specialist

**Other Participants Present:**

1. Alessandro Trujillo, Special Olympics
2. ASL Interpreter (Patrice and Wendy)
3. Carol Grigsby, Community Member
4. Erica Thomas, RCM of Washington
5. Laura Devine, DC Social Hikes
6. Lindsey Wilkes, Community Member
7. Maria Stangherlin, DC Social Hikes
8. Ngoc Trinh, DC Office of Disability Rights
9. Nicole Preston, Special Olympics
10. Noah Beaufford, School Talk
11. Ralph Antonioli, Community Member
12. Rhonda White, Quality Trust
13. Sarah Grime, School Talk
14. Spanish Interpreters
15. Tanya (last name unknown), Community Member
16. Rosemary McDonnell, Homeland Security and Emergency Management

**DD Councilmembers Absent:**

1. Berta Mata, Advocates for Justice and Education
2. Cheri Mallory, Community Member
3. Derrick Simms, Community Member
4. **Elisa Peña Zavala,** Community Member
5. Jane Brown, DD Network: Disability Rights DC (Protection and Advocacy Agency)
6. **Montezz Green,** Community Member
7. **Naisha Dembele, School Talk**
8. **Stephanie Lanham,** Community Member
9. Tawara Goode, DD Network: Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
10. **Uchenna Egenti,** Community Member
11. **Vacant, DC Health (Title V - Maternal and Child Health Program)**
12. **Vacant, Department of Healthcare Finance (Title XIX of Social Security Act)**
13. **Vacant, Department on Aging and Community Living (Older Americans Act)**
14. **Vacant, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (IDEA)**
15. **Vacant, Person with DD or Family Member**
16. **Vacant, Person with DD or Family Member**

| Topic | Minutes |
| --- | --- |
| Welcome and Call to Order | Anjie Shelby, Chairperson of the DD Council called the meeting to order at 3:07pm. |
| 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. There was not a quorum of DD Councilmembers. |
| Chairperson Remarks   1. Update from the Commission on Persons with Disabilities | Anjie Shelby shared that the Commission on Persons with Disabilities met and is looking for new members. They are participating in the planning of the Annual Olmstead Conference, and the theme will be, “Discharge: It’s Just the Beginning.” |
| Review of Previous Meeting Minutes   1. March 16, 2023 Minutes (Vote Required) | There was not a quorum of DD Councilmembers, so no vote could be taken. Ricardo Thornton, Vice Chairperson suggested that Anjie send out a message to each Councilmember encouraging them to attend meetings. |
| Election of Leadership Roles (Vote Required via secret ballot)   1. Vice Chairperson 2. Co-Chair of APP Committee | Anjie Shelby announced that there will be an election for Vice Chairperson of the DD Council via a secret ballot that Alison will send out after the meeting. The people running for this position are Bernard Crawford, LaRaven Gaymon, and Derrick Simms. Bernard and LaRaven were present and gave statements about why they wanted to be elected. There are no candidates for the Co-Chair of the Advocacy and Public Policy Committee. |
| State Plan Committee - Grantee Updates   1. Quality Trust – Family Ties of DC 2. Special Olympics – Family Engagement Council & Athlete Leadership Academy 3. DC Social Hikes – Hikes for Inclusion 4. RCM of Washington – My Body, My Choice and Next Chapter Book Club 5. School Talk DC – Lives Apart | Luz Collazo (DD Council staff) for Jane Brown, Committee Chair gave an overview of the State Plan Committee activities and grantee projects. The following grantees provided updates:   1. Quality Trust – Family Ties of DC – Support Parents have received multiple trainings and supports, including the Parent Summit. Parent matches are made throughout the year. In 2022, the majority of matches were African American mothers from Wards 7 and 8. 2. Special Olympics – Family Engagement Council & Athlete Leadership Academy – Capital Hill Training and Advocacy Day enabled people with disabilities to educate lawmakers in Congress. DC advocates also visited local elected officials in the Council of DC, advocated for inclusion in their schools, and worked toward sustainable funding. The demographics of participants are 95% African American, 3% Latino, and 2% other, and most participants are from Wards 5, 7, and 4. 3. DC Social Hikes – Hikes for Inclusion – They’ve organized many hikes with neurodivergent young people to build relationships and encourage body movement. Demographic information was collected in registration and will be shared in the final report. 4. RCM of Washington – My Body, My Choice (MBMC), and Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC) – MBMC promotes healthy relationships and sexuality by teaching people with disabilities about body autonomy, boundaries, and sexuality through 10 sessions. NCBC has been going strong for 5 years and the grant has helped the group get new books. Both programs serve adults, and the demographics will be shared in the final report. 5. School Talk DC – Lives Apart – Hosted a screening of 7 oral histories/videos collected from former Forest Haven residents and will create 4 more within the grant period. Demographic information was collected and will be shared in the final report.   DD Councilmembers and other meeting participants engaged in questions and answers with grantees. |
| Advocacy and Public Policy Committee Updates   1. New Advocacy Agenda for FY23-24 | Ricardo Thornton, Committee Co-Chair shared a draft list of items for the Advocacy Agenda for FY23-24, organized by State Plan Goal areas. The Committee plans to meet in the future to finalize the agenda. LaRaven Gaymon shared that the issue of not having enough Personal Care Aides (PCAs) is a big problem and needs to be addressed. |
| DD Council Executive Director Report   1. FY23 Budget Update 2. Bridging Aging and Disability Networks Grant Update 3. Public Health Workforce Funding Update 4. Councilmember Terms and Membership 5. NACDD Betty Williams Award | Alison Whyte gave the following updates:   1. District transferred to a new financial system on October 1, 2022 – District Integrated Financial System (DIFS), and there are a lot of new processes to learn. There have been delays in getting stipends to DD Councilmembers. If you are requesting a stipend, Alison needs your W9 if you haven’t already sent it. You will get your stipend check in the mail. 2. Bridging Aging and Disability Networks grant work has been busy. There was an Aging and Disability Panel Discussion and Community Listening Session in March 2023 and networking between aging and disability networks professionals in May 2023. Coming up there will be a presentation on future planning at the DDS Provider and Community Resource Fair, followed by a Three Part Future Planning for Families Series – August 1, 8, and 15, from 12-1:15 pm. 3. We are recruiting a public health professional to support public health practices with people with disabilities and their families from diverse backgrounds and professionals in the public health system. 4. We’ve made recommendations to the Mayor’s Office on Talent and Appointments for the following seats: Department of Aging and Community Living (Older Americans Act), DC Health (Title V - Maternal and Child Health Program), Department of Healthcare Finance (Title XIX of Social Security Act), Office of the State Superintendent of Education (IDEA), Local non-governmental organization – Health Services for Children with Special Needs (replacing School Talk DC), and Five (5) community members (replacing people who have resigned or expired terms). 5. Congratulations to Ricardo Thornton for winning the Betty Williams Champion of Equal Opportunity Award from the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities! |
| 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. Project ACTION! 6. Other Government | Organization Representatives   1. School Talk is kicking off Jump Start supporting 30 students with disabilities in the Summer Youth Employment Program. This summer they are opening an art studio for music production and graphic design. The restorative justice team is providing assistance in schools to transform discipline policies. 2. DDS provided the following update: Expansion of services began October 1, 2022, and they’ve had 210 new applications, which is an increase in the typical number of applications at this time of year - 70. Of the 210, 119 have been found eligible, 50 are still pending, and some have been determined ineligible. DDS launched participant-directed services and 3 people are taking advantage of that now. For Medicaid recertifications, 100% of DDA Medicaid recertifications have been completed. Due to the end of the public health emergency, there will be changes to companion services. People can’t do companion full-time anymore, and DDA will be trying to get back to mixing companion with other day services. DDS will be celebrating LGBTQ Pride month at the monthly Community and Provider Forum. LaRaven Gaymon shared that she met with the Capital Pride Alliance and encouraged them to make Pride more accessible to people with disabilities. 3. Project ACTION! will meet on July 1, 2023. All are welcome! Ricardo advocated in Congress about the workforce crisis, and this was a hot topic. |
| Public Comments & Community Announcements | The Office of Disability Rights is hiring an ASL Interpreter and Attorney Advisor.  Ricardo shared that he wants to see the whole Council come together and be able to vote on our business. Anjie agreed and said she would connect with Alison to send a message. |
| Conclusion and Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 5:01pm. Bernard Crawford made the motion to adjourn, and Ricardo Thornton seconded the motion. All voted in favor. |