

**Quarterly Public Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, March 16, 2023, 3-5 pm**

**Present:**

1. Martina Kraemer for Andrew Reese, DC Department on Disability Services (Rehabilitation Act)
2. Anjie Shelby, Community Member
3. Bernard Crawford, Community Member
4. Berta Mata, Advocates for Justice and Education
5. Cheri Mallory, Community Member
6. Jane Brown, DD Network: Disability Rights DC (Protection and Advocacy Agency)
7. Ricardo Thornton, Community Member
8. Robin Shaffert proxy for Tawara Goode, for DD Network: Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
9. Derrick Simms, Community Member
10. Yetta Myrick, Community Member

**DDC Staff**

1. Alison Whyte, Executive Director, DDC Staff
2. Carla McCaskill, Program Support Specialist, DDC Staff
3. Kevin Wright, Program Support Assistant, DDC Staff
4. Luz Collazo, Program Analyst, DDC Staff

**Others**

1. Alesha Holliday, Family Member advocate
2. ASL Interpreter Sarah Funke
3. ASL Interpreter Patrice Herring
4. CART Julia Dinwiddie
5. **Spanish Interpreter Gabriela Dominguez**
6. **Spanish Interpreter Tania Saldívar**
7. Christina Washington Homeland Security Agency
8. **Andrea Jones, parent advocate**
9. **Lisa Matthews, Former DC DDC member**
10. **Edward Dana, DDS**
11. **Nicole Preston, Special Olympics DC**
12. **Rhonda White, Quality Trust/Family Ties of DC/DC Family Support Council**
13. **Deborah Kale, Outreach Specialist for DC Assistive Technology Program DC**
14. **Mark Agosto, DDS**
15. **Danette Tarvin, Community Liaison Specialist DDS**
16. **Carol Grigsby, Former Council Member**
17. **Miguel Espinoza, Early Intervention Care Support Specialist from Health Services For children with Special Needs**
18. Malvolia Gregory, community advocate

**Excused/Absent**

1. **Elisa Peña Zavala,** Community Member
2. **Laraven Gaymon,** Community Member
3. **Montezz Green,** Community Member
4. **Naisha Dembele,** Community Member
5. **Stephanie Lanham,** Community Member
6. **Uchenna Egenti,** Community Member
7. **Zoe Gross,** Community Member
8. **Vacant, Person with DD or Family Member**
9. **Vacant, Person with DD or Family Member**
10. **Vacant, Department on Aging and Community Living (Older Americans Act)**
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, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (IDEA)**

| Topic | Minutes |
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| Welcome and Call to Order | The meeting was called to order by Anjie Shelby at 3:08 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. |
| Chairperson Remarks   1. Update from the Commission on Persons with Disabilities 2. Meeting days/times discussion 3. Celebration of Judy Heumann | 1. Vice Chair of Commission on People with Disabilities pending passing.  2. Anjie Shelby shared the survey results for meeting days/ time. Result to keep same meeting time and days.  3. Anjie Shelby shared a few words in memory of Judy Heumann:   * She was well known here in Washington, D.C. * She was a public servant in the Obama Administration and friend and mentor to many. To disability rights locally, nationally, and internationally. * May her memory be a blessing alongside with the Commission appreciates a job well done. As we continue to advocate for disability awareness rights. |
| Review of Previous Meeting Minutes   1. December 15, 2022, Minutes | Item: December 15, 2022, Minutes  Discussion/Corrections: None  1st Motion: Jane Brown  2nd Motion: Robin Shaffert  Vote: PASSED |
| Discussion and Presentation  What does it mean to be a DD Council Member? | Carla McCaskill presented what it means to be a DD Council Member. |
| Review of Committee Assignments | Alison reviewed committee membership assignments, and no changes were made. |
| Nominations/Election of Leadership Roles   1. Vice Chairperson 2. Co-Chair of APP Committee with Ricardo | The following were nominated:  Bernard Crawford for Vice Chairperson  LaRaven Gaymon for Vice Chairperson  Derrick Simms Co-Chair of the APP Committee  Hold the vote until the June meeting |
| State Plan Committee Updates   1. FY23 Grants 2. Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 3. Employment First Public Awareness Campaigns | 1. Jane Brown update provided State Plan Committee and announced DDC grant awards FY 23  * RCM of Washington, Inc. - **RCM of Washington Next Chapter Book Club** * Special Olympics District of Columbia, Inc. - **Family Engagement Council (Athlete Leadership Academy)** * Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities - **Family Ties of DC** * RCM of Washington, Inc. - **My Body, My Choice:** **Recognizing and respecting the body autonomy of people with disabilities School** * School Talk, Inc. - **Live Apart** * DC Social Hikes, Inc. - **DC Social Hikes** * Communication First, Inc. - **See Us Hear US**  1. Carla McCaskill announced upcoming events for DDAM and directed people to the [www.ddc.dc.gov](http://www.ddc.dc.gov) website. 2. Kevin share Employment First Public Awareness Campaigns ideas.  * Discussed potential workshops/events for the target audience of DSPs, SYEP interns, employers, and providers. * #ThroughMyEyes Campaign spotlights individuals each week on DDC social media during DDAM. * In honor of Judith Heumann and her amazing accomplishment, start the Judith Project. Spotlighting individuals who remind us of the wonderful Judith   J: Journey the Beyond Campaign  U: Uncomfortable Conversation Campaign  D: DSP/Direct Service Campaign  I: Inclusion Campaign  T: #ThroughMyEyes Campaign  H: How Can We Campaign |
| Advocacy and Public Policy Committee Updates   1. New Advocacy Agenda for FY23-24 | Alison Whyte and Ricardo Thornton provided a list of possible Advocacy and Public Policy Agenda issues.  Robin Shaffert added for consideration that transportation advocates have responded to DC Council’s proposal to make buses free and that paratransit should also be free if buses are free. |
| 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 Changes | 1. FY23 Budget Update  * FY23 Budget was approved on September 29, 2022 * District transferred to a new financial system on October 1, 2022 – District Integrated Financial System (DIFS) * Stipend delays – Alison will be inquiring about moving to gift cards instead of checks  1. Bridging Aging and Disability Networks Grant Update  * Aging and Disability Panel Discussion and Community Listening Session were a success! Over 70 people attended the event, including representatives from ACL. We heard great stories and gathered feedback that will inform our future work. * Networking between aging and disability networks professionals – April 27th * Family resource fair in the spring – May or June  1. We will hire a contractor in April/May 2023 to provide culturally competent engagement on public health issues, including promoting the COVID-19 vaccine and booster and long COVID with people with disabilities and their families from multiple diverse backgrounds. 2. Councilmember Terms and Changes- The following DD Council seats are vacant, and DDC staff have made recommendations to the Mayor’s Office on Talent and Appointments (MOTA) for people to fill each of these 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) * Five (5) community members (replacing people who have resigned or expired terms) |
| 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 | 1. Jane Brown and staff are assisting people and applying for DDA services under the new criteria. The staff has been reviewing documents, submitting applications, and advocating at meetings with DDA. Robin Shaffert announced Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities   Is releasing a couple of videos for DD Awareness Month.   1. No report 2. Currently providing training and please visit the website for more information. 3. DDS Budget Community Forum is on March 24, and our Budget Hearing will be on March 29, starting at 9 a.m. virtually. 4. Project ACTION! The meeting is this Saturday, March 18, 2023, from 10:00 -11:30 a.m. 5. No other report |
| Public Comments & Community Announcements | Malvolia Gregory was happy to attend her first meeting. |
| Conclusion and Adjournment | 1st Motion: Yetta Myrick  2nd Motion: Ricardo Thornton  The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. |