**Public Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, September 23, 2021, 3-5pm**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81507761403?pwd=MFdSMVRYZzEwU1JmTmpLSEdQVlU1dz09>

**Call-in option:** 301-715-8592, **Meeting ID:** 815 0776 1403, **Passcode:** 056780

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Andy Reese, DC Department on Disability Services (DDS)

Angie Shelby, Co-Chair of Advocacy and Public Policy Committee

Bernard Crawford

Carol Grigsby, Chair

Cheri Mallory

Jane Brown, Chair of State Plan Implementation Committee, Disability Rights DC

Kali Wasenko

Lisa Matthews

Naisha Dembele

Ricardo Thornton, Vice-Chair

Robin Shaffert for Tawara Goode, Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Yetta Myrick

**ABSENT MEMBERS**

All DDC members were in attendance.

**STAFF**

Alison Whyte, Executive Director

Emily Kranking, Strategic Communications Fellow

Kevin Wright, Advocacy and Employment Strategies Fellow

Luz Collazo, Administrative Support Specialist

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Austin Naughton, Ward 2/DC Democratic Party Volunteer

Bennietra Ait Hafid

Christopher Grayton, DC Yellow Cab

Denise McCain, Former DDC Staff

Juliet Chriss

Lindsey Wilkes

Mathew McCollough

Montrel Tennessee

Sarah Grime

Sherry McDaniel-Thomas

| Topic | Minutes |
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| Welcome and Call to Order | Meeting called to order by Chair Carol Grigsby at 3:05 pm. |
| Explanation of Virtual Platform and Accessibility | Alison Whyte explained the accessibility features of the Zoom meeting platform. |
| Introduction of Councilmembers and DDC Staff | Chair Carol Grigsby invited DD Councilmembers and staff to introduce themselves. |
| Appreciation of Denise McCain | The DDC Council members, staff, and the DC community communicated their appreciation to Denise McCain for her contribution to the DDC mission during her years of service as DDC Staff and government employee in DC. |
| Council Business Votes   1. June 17, 2021 Minutes | Bernard Crawford moved to approve the June 17, 2021 minutes. Yetta Myrick seconded the motion. All Councilmembers in attendance vote in favor of approving the minutes. |
| Chairperson Remarks   1. DD Councilmember Issues 2. ED Evaluation for FY21, ending Sept. 30th 3. Other Updates | Chair Carol Grigsby presented the following updates:   1. To acknowledge the passing of Councilmember Amber Keohane and former Deputy Director of DDS, Cathy Anderson, the group took a moment of silence. 2. Executive Director Evaluation – Carol asked Councilmembers to send any feedback by the end of the month. 3. Councilmember recruitment and leadership – Carol shared that Alison is working with the Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) to get new Councilmembers appointed and reminded the group that the Chair position is up for election at the end of the year. Anyone interested in these positions may contact Carol and Alison. |
| State Plan Committee Updates   1. FY17-21 State Plan Progress 2. FY22-26 State Plan Approval and Submission | Jane Brown, Chair of the State Plan Committee presented the following updates:   1. The DDC Five-Year State Plan 2022-20226 was approved by DC DD Council on July 29, 2021, after the 45-day public comment period. 2. The Administration for Community Living (ACL)/ Office of Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) extended the deadline for submitting the new Five-Year State Plan FY22-26 to September 30, 2021. DDC staff will submit the plan by the deadline. 3. Alison Whyte presented the FY17-21 State Plan progress report, highlighting Act Early DC, Cultural and Linguistic Competence Community of Practice, DD eligibility reform advocacy, vaccine uptake work, and the Latinx Conference. |
| Advocacy and Public Policy Committee Updates   1. Position Statements 2. Maintaining Advocacy Agenda for FY22 | Anjie Shelby, Co-Chair of the Advocacy and Public Policy Committee presented the following updates:   1. The APP Committee is working on five position papers: DD eligibility reform, policy reform, and three others focused on the effect of COVID-19 on employment, education, and community living. The committee hopes to have drafts for the December meeting. |
| Public Comments and Questions | Several people shared comments about the vaccine, their experiences with the vaccine, and how to get the vaccine out to more people.  Montrel Tennessee announced that the Family Support Council has vacancies, and anyone interested should reach out to him, [montrel.tennessee2@dc.gov](mailto:montrel.tennessee2@dc.gov).  Austin Naughton announced that he is starting a Democrats with Disabilities caucus, and anyone interested should reach out to him, [austin.naughton@gmail.com](mailto:austin.naughton@gmail.com). |
| DD Council Executive Director Report   1. Latino Conference on Disabilities – September 30th 2. COVID-19 Vaccine Engagement Updates 3. Membership Updates 4. FY22 Budget | Alison Whyte presented the following updates:   1. COVID-19 Vaccine Updates - The DC Developmental Disabilities Network (DC DD Network) presented to the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Conference about vaccines and discussed why people did or did not get the vaccine. They also collected data at the DSP Conference. Participants in the meeting also discussed their experiences with the vaccine, and the vaccine confidence videos created by Georgetown UCEDD. 2. The 3rd annual Latino Conference on Disabilities will be on September 30th and will have an in-person and virtual option for participation. The topics will be COVID-19 vaccines, self-care, and Autism. There will be a vaccination clinic run by Mary’s Center happening during the conference. 3. Continuing work with the Mayor’s Office on Talent and Appointments (MOTA) to get the 23 members that will bring us into compliance with the DD Act. 4. Alison explained the FY22 draft budget and invited comments, or questions. A meeting will be scheduled before 10/1/21 to vote on the proposed budget. |
| Presentation  DDC Social Media Overview and Strategy | Emily Kranking, the DDC Strategic Communications Fellow, presented on the DDC’s social media, and invited everyone to follow the DDC posts. |
| DD Council Organizational Representatives Updates   1. DD Network – Disability Rights DC (DRDC) at University Legal Services and Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) 2. SchoolTalk DC 3. Department on Disability Services (DDS) 4. Department on Aging and Community Living (DACL) 5. Project ACTION! | Jane Brown with DRDC commented on great collaboration with the DDC and the Georgetown UCEDD.  Robin Shaffert with the Georgetown UCEDD shared that they are moving office spaces, they are launching a new LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) program, and have been promoting the vaccine through videos.  Sarah Grime with SchoolTalk reported that they are working with 10 schools to offer workshops on videography, music production, and other career development topics.  Andy Reese with DDS reported that their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund proposal was approved by CMS. It includes retention support for direct care workers, including DSPs, vaccine incentives for DSPs, support and technical assistance for behavioral health providers, training for DSPs, and a provider rate study at DDS. DDS is launching a telehealth initiative next month and is investing in technology and remote supports. DDS will be hiring a Housing Coordinator to find more independent living options for people receiving DDA services. The Mayor issued a vaccine mandate for all health care workers, including DSPs. DDS must submit their waiver renewal in November 2022 and will begin stakeholder engagement for that.  Dari Pogach with DACL reported that they are bringing case management and home-delivered meal services in-house for FY22.  Ricardo Thornton with Project ACTION! reported that they just had a conference, and everyone had a good time. The theme was All means all, inclusion, and diversity. They honored DC advocates. |
| Public Comments & Community Announcements | Yetta Myrick shared information about the Act Early DC Parent Cafes happening in October 2021.  Anjie Shelby reminded people that she also serves on the Commission of Persons with Disabilities, and the DDC can collaborate with them. |
| Conclusion and Adjournment | Yetta Myrick moved to adjourn the meeting. Cheri Mallory seconded. All DDC members voted to adjourn the meeting at 5 pm. |