**Quarterly Public Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, March 17, 2022, 3-5pm**

**Members in Attendance**

Andy Reese, Representative of the Department on Disability Services

Anjie Shelby, DDC Chairperson

Berta Mata

Carol Grigsby, Advocacy and Public Policy Committee Co-Chair

Cheri Mallory

Elisa Peña Zavala

Jane Brown, State Plan Committee Chair

Ricardo Thornton, DDC Vice-Chair, Advocacy, and Public Policy Committee Co-Chair

Robin Shaffert, Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Stepanie Lanham

Uchenna Egenti

Yetta Myrick

Zoe Gross

**Absent Members**

Bernard Crawford

Derrick Simms

Laraven Gaymon

Montezz Green

Naisha Dembele

**Staff**

Alison Whyte, Executive Director

Kevin Wright, Employment and Advocacy Strategies Fellow

Luz Collazo, Program Analyst

**Others in Attendance**

(202)-412-1635

(202)-699-5133

Abbie Stewart, The Arc of DC

Andrea Jones

Astasia Clayborne, Refined Approaches

Bob Williams

Brenda Davis

Francisco

Gabriella, Spanish Interpreter

Greyses, ASL Interpreter

Iris Gomes

Lisa Matthews, Former DDC member

Liz Rihani

Luz, ASL Interpreter

Marissa Ditkowsky

Melissa, CART Writer

Renee Davis-Marcel

Tania, Spanish Interpreter

| **Topic** | **Minutes** |
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| **Welcome and Call to Order** | The meeting was called to order by Anjie Shelby at 3:07 pm. |
| **Explanation of Virtual Platform and Accessibility** | Alison Whyte briefly explained the interpretation features, transcript, and other accessibility features available through the Zoom platform for the meeting. |
| **Introduction of Councilmembers and DDC Staff** | Anjie Shelby introduced herself and invited DD Councilmembers and Staff to introduce themselves.  |
| **Council Business Vote**1. December 16, 2021, Minutes
 | Ricardo Thornton motioned to approve the December 16, 2021 minutes. Yetta Myrick seconded. All voted in favor. Minutes for December 16, 2021, were approved. |
| **Chairperson Remarks**1. Welcome new members!
2. COVID-19 Update
3. Overview of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities
4. FY21 and FY22 to-date Performance Oversight hearings
5. B24-0268, *DD Eligibility Reform Amendment Act of 2021*
 | Anjie Shelby discussed the following:1. We have a lot of new Councilmembers, and Ms. Shelby acknowledged them and welcomed them to their first public meeting.
2. COVID-19 is still around, and while cases aren’t terrible right now, people should still take precautions.
3. Ms. Shelby is an Auxiliary member of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities and shared with the DD Council that there are many overlapping priorities and opportunities for collaboration.
4. The DDC testified at the following hearings: FY21 and FY22 to date performance oversight hearings for the Department on Disability Services (DDS), DC Health, and the Department of Health Care Finance. Budget hearings are coming up for DDS, DC Human Resources, DHCF, and DC Health.
5. Briefly explained B24-0268 DD Eligibility Reform Amendment Act of 2021 has been passed, and moving on to the Mayor’s desk, and then to Congress before it can become law.
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| **State Plan Committee Updates**1. FY22-26 State Plan Progress
2. Employment First Initiative
3. Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM) Updates
 | Jane Brown talked through this year’s State Plan goals. Ms. Brown stated ways Councilmembers can get involved with this year’s State Plan activities:1. Highlighted recent and upcoming activities related to Employment First, DDAM, and Autism Acceptance Month.
2. Next Quarterly Public Meeting is Thursday, June 2, 2022, from 3-5 pm
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| **Advocacy and Public Policy Committee Updates**1. FY23 Budget hearings
2. Position papers – DD Eligibility
3. Vaccine and booster encouragement
 | 1. Carol Grigsby shared the Position Papers for DD Eligibility. Ms. Grigsby shared that the Advocacy and Public Policy Committee had reviewed and approved this position paper and they were proposing it for approval by the full Council. Ricardo Thornton motioned to approve the DD Eligibility Position Paper. Jane Brown seconded. All voted in favor. The Position Papers on DD Eligibility was approved.
2. Mr. Thornton discussed the Budget hearings on March 22nd for DDS, and other dates for DC Health and DCHR. Anjie shared that she would testify on behalf of the DDC for the DDS Budget hearing.
3. Andy Reese mentioned at the DDS Community & Provider Forum on March 18th, more information regarding the Budget hearing would be presented.
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| **Public Comments and Questions** |  No questions |
| **Presentation**Communication FIRST | Bob Williams did a presentation on his program, Communication FIRST. He took questions after his presentations. |
| **DD Council Executive Director Report**1. Staff updates
2. Councilmember Terms
3. Program Performance Report Submission and State Plan Feedback
4. Bios and Photos from Councilmembers
 | Alison Whyte presented the following:1. Alison gave updates that we were moving forward on hiring a person to fill the DDC vacancy for a Program Support Specialist. The top candidate would not start for a few months, but progress was being made.
2. Alison shared updates on Councilmember terms. There are some vacancies on the Council, and we are looking for some DC government agency representatives and people with DD and their families to serve.
3. DDC’s PPR was submitted in March that includes FY21 State Plan activities/goals achieved.
4. Asked Councilmembers to submit a bio and picture to post on DDC’s social media.
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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!
 | Disability Rights DC (Protection and Advocacy) Update, given by Jane Brown:* Art project from Coolidge High School students, called Reach for the Stars! was completed.

Georgetown (University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities) Update, given by Robin Shaffert:* March 18th, Creative Writing event for DDAM, led by Jalyn Marks
* Continuing to make vaccine promotion videos
* Getting set for the Budget Hearings on March 22nd

Advocates for Justice & Education Update, given by Berta Mata* No update currently

DDS Update, given by Andy Reese* Budget Hearing is Tuesday, March 22nd
* Home and Community Based Waiver Advisory Committee meeting is March 25th and they will discuss the new telehealth service.
* Expressed excitement for DDAM event - DC Disability Services in Ethiopian and Eritrean Community. Mr. Reese stated the event turned out wonderful.

Project ACTION! Update, given by Ricardo Thornton* Project ACTION! meeting on March 19th at 10am
* Cooking & exercising classed are available for anyone that is interested
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| **Public Comments and Questions** |  Family Ties of DC Update, given by Rhonda White* On March 19th, Family Ties of DC is going to do a presentation on the needs of families of people with disabilities.
* Family Ties of DC is available for parents to connect with a Peer Support Parent
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| **Conclusion and Adjournment** | Adjournment – Carol Grigsby motioned to adjourn the meeting. Andy Reese seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:06pm |