

## **FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
City-wide Conference Center  
Room #1107  
Washington, D.C.

April 25, 2013  
3:00 PM

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Tina Campanella, Chair  
Erin Leveton for Cathy Anderson  
Kathy Gosselin  
Mary Lou Meccariello

Ricardo Thornton  
Susan Maclean  
Shearon Smith

#### **STAFF**

Mat McCollough, Executive Director  
Sudie Johnson, Program Analyst  
Denice McCain, Staff Assistant

#### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Annie Alatishe, DC Advocacy Partners  
Adijat Alatishe, Student  
Dana Fink and Jason Farr, Institute for Educational Leadership  
Elizabeth Jennings, National Disability Institute  
Karyn Stenzler, Full Circle  
Donna Meltzer, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
Gabe Savage, Advocates for Justice and Education  
Brent W. Drummond, Advocates for Justice and Education  
Trudy Jones, Inclusion Research Institute  
Janice Wise Diggs, DC Advocacy Partners

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Tina Campanella, Chair, Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC), welcomed everyone and advised there was not yet a quorum; however, she would like to get the meeting started. She then called the meeting to order. Following introductions, the Chair further advised that the first item on the agenda is "Review & Approval of the January 17, 2013 Minutes" and since this item requires action, she will return to it once a quorum is reached. She proceeded with the next agenda item, which was the Chair's Report.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

DDC Members Providing Testimonies Before Councilmembers During Agency Performance and Budget Hearings – The Chair began by stating the District of Columbia Agency Performance Oversight Hearings ended sometime in early March and relative to that, she wanted to thank

**MINUTES**  
**April 25, 2013**

everyone who testified before the City Council at those hearings. She went on to say, she knows Project Action! members (in particular Richard Thornton) were very active in making sure that they signed up and were present at those hearings. As expressed by the City Councilmembers, hearing directly from people with disabilities and their family members is always a good thing. We are grateful to all of the advocates and especially to the leadership of Project Action! for being focused on making sure that those meetings were covered. She then provided the following report:

The District of Columbia's Budget was released in early March and there have been public hearings about what is in the budget. Relative to this, the Office of Disability Rights (ODR) and the Department on Disability Services (DDS) Budget Oversight Hearings are both scheduled for Monday, and she hopes that those who are interested in testifying will sign-up to do so. For those who are not comfortable testifying at this point, she advised that just being in the audience makes a statement as well. The ODR Hearing will begin at 10:00 am and the DDS Hearing is scheduled to begin at 2:00 pm.

The Chair noted that, although the DDC has focused on these two committees (Human Services and Health), there are a variety of other things going on in other committees (such as Education) that concerns people with disabilities. In addition, the DDC Committees have not been as active as they need to be because we have lost members who were in leadership positions and these were the type of reports that they would typically give to us that focuses on the policy and legislative issues that are going on.

In March, the DDC held a joint celebration, as we have for many years, which was the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Event. The DDC was represented as well as Project Action!, the Arc of DC, Quality Trust, Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (GUCEDD), University Legal Services (which is our Protection and Advocacy Agency), and the Department on Disability Services (DDS). The event was well attended, especially by community members and it was very evident to the Chair that the process of having this event over multi-years has sensitized people to many of the issues. We were able to highlight on the agenda a number of people with disabilities who were quite accomplished, that in and of itself sends a very strong message to our City Council, as well as our elected leaders about our vision for the future. She thanked everyone who played a role in putting this event together because it could not have happened without a lot of community support and collaboration.

Tomorrow is the Project Action! meeting. She wanted to mention this now because the DDC has made a commitment to provide support to Project Action!. The DDC Executive Director has been attending these meetings and taking notes. In addition, there have been a number of other community members present at these meetings to facilitate some of the discussions. It is an open meeting and Project Action! likes to have a lot of community participation and at this point are looking for as many people as possible, who can come out and support that and participate in the process.

Social Role Valorization Program Event – The Chair informed the membership that included in the DDC handouts is an announcement about another workshop. It is the Social Role Valorization, which in typical language means, talking about the stigma and prejudice that people with disabilities sometimes experience because of how society thinks about their disabilities. The goal of this workshop is to raise awareness about potential negative stereotypes that people with disabilities can experience in the community. It will also teach people ways in which they can counter balance those things so that they are aware of what they do, how they speak about people, and how that can either hurt or help as they go forward.

**MINUTES**  
**April 25, 2013**

This two-day workshop is also a pre-requisite to a longer workshop that will be held towards the end of the year (August or September). A more experiential hands on practicum around how to use the ideas around social role valorization to make an assessment of whether or not a social service agency is doing everything it can, to really enhance the position and presence of people with disabilities that work with in the community.

Anyone interested in attending the upcoming workshop to be held May 29-30, 2013 should contact the DDC Executive Director or Sudie Johnson, Program Analyst, DDC, for more information. The membership was also asked to share this information with other people who they think might be interested, or for whom it might be a good opportunity.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

DDS and the DDC Collaboratively Submitted a National Community of Practice: Supporting Families Throughout the Lifespan Grant Application - Mat McCollough, DDC Executive Director, informed the membership that the Department on Disability Services and the DDC submitted a grant application to the National Community of Practice: Supporting Families Throughout the Lifespan to become a state team. The grant is being offered through National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, NACDD.

Donna Meltzer, Chief Executive Officer, NACDD, interjected that 15 grant applications have been submitted for the *Supporting Families Throughout the Lifespan Grant* and everyone is excited about that. A review panel is actually meeting tomorrow and it is their job to reduce that number from fifteen to seven. Next week the panel will bring in some other advisors to review the seven applications and will then choose five out of those seven who will receive funding. She believes that the deadline to get back to the grantees is May 1, 2013, although that might be a little bit too ambitious, but the idea is to get this done by the end of next week. Technical assistance will be provided to all fifteen grantees and for those who were not chosen to receive a grant, NACDD is going to work with them on some of the initiatives that were included in their grant applications. This is because NACDD does not want to lose the efforts of the DD Councils that wrote phenomenal grant applications even if they cannot be chosen because there is not enough money to go around for all 15 of the applicants. She then wished the DDC good luck with their application.

The Executive Director then continued with his report.

Attendance at Disability Policy Seminar & Meeting with City Councilmembers – The DDC took part in the Disability Policy Seminar held April 15-17, 2013 here in DC. The group of (6) six individuals included Thomas Mangrum, DDC Member, Sudie Johnson, DDC Staff, Toni Fisher, GUCEDD, Jane Brown, Director, University Legal Services (our Protection and Advocacy Agency), Alicia Jackson Gray, DC Advocacy Partner, and Mat. On the last day of the Conference, the group met with our City Councilmember Staff from the offices of Councilmember Marion Barry (Employment), Councilmember Muriel Brower (Housing and Home and Community Services) and Councilmember Yvette Alexander (Healthcare Finance). This will be discussed further by Sudie Johnson. A copy of the program was included in the handouts for those who were unable to attend.

Co-Sponsored the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair Housing Symposium - The DDC co-sponsored the Fair Housing Symposium held on April 18, 2013 that is generally done by the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Equal Rights Center and the Office of Human Rights. The fact that housing is one of the top three DDC priorities within our Five-Year State Plan, the

**MINUTES**  
**April 25, 2013**

Executive Director thought it would be great for the DDC to jump on board this year. Amazingly, the DDC was quite influential this year because a quarter of the attendees came from the disability community. The symposium was highly successful and he thanked all of those who supported that endeavor. He informed the membership that we are planning to do this going forward so there will always be a disability element to the Fair Housing Symposium because the greatest population that is generally affected by Fair Housing is the disability community itself.

Presentation at the National Conference, Health Disparities Research at the Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, and Disability – The Executive Director made a presentation at the National Conference on “Health Disparities Research at the Intersection of Race, Ethnicity, and Disability”. He stated it was sort of like a homecoming because all of the sponsors were representatives of University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. The conference was solely about health disparities; what the disability community faces in terms of community living, employment, etc. It was also an opportunity to make all the researchers become more familiar with what is facing the disability community because generally when folks do research they do not necessarily include disabilities along with race, ethnicity and gender. There needs to be a greater intersection of those three elements going forward. He shared a copy of the program with the membership.

Release of the Spring Edition of the Herald Newsletter – The Executive Director (ED) informed the membership that the Spring Edition of the Herald Newsletter was included in the handouts.

Annual Performance Report to AIDD – The DDC has submitted our Program Performance Report, which emphasized our progress with the implementation of our programs. We also discussed the different community forums and basic outreach the DDC has done to ensure that our partners and people with developmental disabilities and their families know what the DDC represents and is trying to do in terms of improving the quality of life for our population.

Attendance at the APSE National Conference (June 24-27, 2013) – The ED informed the membership that he and Ms. Johnson are planning to attend the APSE National Conference and as many of the membership may already know, APSE deals with supported employment but more importantly, their focus is on employment first initiatives and best practices. Knowing that DC became an Employment First State last September, there is a small work group working to establish the initiatives we should focus on. His hope going into FY '14 and the future is to use some of the DDC funds to really support and build capacity dealing with *Employment First* Initiatives.

**PROGRAM ANALYST REPORT**

Financial Report - Sudie Johnson, Program Analyst, Developmental Disabilities Council, informed the membership that a copy of the Financial Report could be found in the handouts. She then provided a summary of that report, which included the total budget, non-personnel expenditures, open purchase orders, projected expenses, initial carryover funds, projected sequester amount, and the projected 2013 carryover after sequester. In conclusion, she stated the DDC would spend all of the funds it projected to spend by the end of September 30, 2013.

Summary of the Disability Policy Seminar and Meeting with Councilmembers Staff on Employment, Housing and Healthcare Finance – Ms. Johnson stated she did not attend the Disability Policy Seminar and someone else would have to provide an update on that however, she did travel with the group to visit our City Councilmembers. She then provided the following report:

**MINUTES**  
**April 25, 2013**

- The group met with Garret King from Councilmember Marion Barry's office to discuss employment and the group was assured that employment was front and center for Councilmember Barry for all District residents, including people with disabilities.
- The group then met with Katherine Kountzman from Councilmember Muriel Bowser's Office to discuss Housing and was assured that affordable and accessible housing is a major issue that is on Councilmember Bowser's radar.
- On the groups' third and last stop, the group met with Melanie Williamson from Councilmember Yvette Alexander's Office to discuss Healthcare Finance and to share their concerns and support for people with disabilities. Some of the concerns included: rules/regulations regarding wheelchair versus scooters (including warranty); inability of individual choice in the selection of goods and services (which chair he/she prefers); override/authorization for "brand" named medicine; continuation of payments for community-based services; the use of home and community based supports versus 24-hour care; support of long-term services without forcing people into poverty, etc. Ms. Williamson assured the group that she would share these concerns with Councilmember Alexander.

**DDC FUNDED PROGRAM UPDATES**

2013 DC Advocacy Partners Program – Janice Wise-Diggs, DC Advocacy Partners provided the following update. The DC Advocacy Program is a nine-month leadership training program designed to empower self-advocates with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the District of Columbia (DC). The goal is to help individuals gain leadership skills and learn to navigate around local systems such as, education, employment, etc. and also being able to testify before the DC Council about needs and services that they require. In addition to every partner having to attend the sessions, they also have monthly homework assignments and work on a long-term project that is designed to create systems change throughout the District for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Ms. Diggs then provided a brief summary of the last four sessions of the DC Advocacy Partners Program. This information was disseminated to the membership.

In conclusion, she stated their door is always open for those who would like to stop by during any of the remainder sessions and she asked that everyone mark their calendar for the Partners graduation ceremony that will be held September 14, 2013.

Get Involved DC! Program - Trudy Jones, M.A., Project Coordinator, Inclusion Research Institute (IRI) provided the following update. This program is in its second year and they are planning to focus more on the group becoming independent. In this regard, a letter inviting participants to serve on a planning group was developed and sent out. The idea of the planning group will be to have our participants who have volunteered, to serve and put together a schedule of events from their prospective versus having Dr. Cameron, or someone else, putting it together. We had about six individuals respond that they would like to serve on the committee and that group met in December. The following meeting for January was canceled due to inclement weather. The group did meet again in February at TGI Friday's, where the group got some more input from new people who had come on board. During discussions, the group went over the tentative schedule that was created and a decision was made, independently by the group, to do their recreational and community service in March. Individuals did community service on their

**MINUTES**  
**April 25, 2013**

own, some went on vacations on their own, and others did a combination of events. Some also continued to recruit others to join the group. For April, the group had scheduled going to the movies and to the Verizon Center but because of the bombing in Boston that week and the heightened security and closure of Gallery Place Metro Center these events will be rescheduled. What they intend to do in the month of May is to try to have two activities in order to compensate for that. In terms of the first community services project, Ms. Jones is currently awaiting confirmation of perhaps a food bank adoption. The participants will meet at a food bank on a given day and they would not only donate food but also do what they can to assist in packaging food. The hope is that they will be able to do this type of thing more frequently throughout the year so that the community service component is more on going versus a one-time activity. Their plans also include going to the movies, attending a free event at the Carter Baron, and going to the National Aquarium in July. For August, they will provide community services to the DC Public Schools System to help get a school ready for its opening in September. In conclusion, Ms. Jones stated that September will be the final wrap-up and one of the things she is hoping for at the conclusion of this program, is for this group to be able to carry this program on independently. That is the end goal for the group, independent decision-making and they will have access to her for any assistance they may need.

Becoming Economically Strong Together (B.E.S.T.) Program – Elizabeth Jennings, Director, Training and Technical Assistance, National Disability Institute, thanked the DDC for inviting her and for their support. She went on to say that the B.E.S.T. Project is an opportunity for students who are transitioning, for adults (which they are calling the self-advocacy group), and for professionals to seek training on financial education. She then provided a brief summary of an update on the B.E.S.T. Program which was disseminated to the DDC Membership.

Following her report and a brief discussion, Ms. Jennings informed the membership that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which is a new office in the federal government, has established a request for organizations to explain how they would build financial capabilities of people with disabilities. This funding could be used by groups all over the country to do some work again on this issue. The National Disability Institute would want folks to partner with them.

Social Role Valorization Program This update was provided earlier during the Chair's Report.

**DC EMPLOYMENT FIRST INITIATIVE WORKGROUP UPDATE**

The Executive Director informed the membership that this group is meeting tomorrow and part of the reason he wanted to bring this up was because a new DC APSE Chapter is being established and he encouraged members to join. By joining, members would be able to give their insight into whether this workgroup should do the *Employment First* initiatives going forward because it is not all about the working professionals and community members should be involved as well.

The Chair stated the *Employment First* Workgroup is a leadership group with an emphasis on pooling all of the interested parties throughout government to really begin this collaborative process of trying to make a difference at that level. DSPC is at the table, OSSE is at the table, and all of the other agencies that have a stake in promoting employment are at the table. She also thinks that people with disabilities, their family members, as well as professionals, can make a difference by joining the APSE chapter because that is where the ground work is going to really be done and taken forward.

**SEQUESTATION'S IMPACT ON DC AND ITS RESIDENTS**

The Executive Director informed the membership that he has included in the handouts two resources, one from the White House entitled, "*Impact of March 1<sup>st</sup> Cuts on Middle Class*

**MINUTES**  
**April 25, 2013**

*Families, Jobs and Economic Security*: The District of Columbia and the other done by the National Council on Disability entitled, “*What Will Sequestration Mean for People with Disabilities?*” The Executive Director asked Ms. Meltzer if she would like to address the sequester in terms of people with disabilities.

Ms. Meltzer thanked the Executive Director for including these materials in the handouts and then provided the following brief summary. “The sequester was almost a punishment, if you will, upon congress for not being able to compromise and figure out where they could cut some money out of our national budgets and get our debt under control. This was a forced consequence of not being able to do that. There are clearly some impacts upon people with disabilities in our communities across the nation and the good part about the sequester, is that it impacts everybody in the same way. You cannot say we are taking the bigger hit or it is going to impact my family more or my friends more. Everybody had to take a hit and actually it turned out not to be quite as bad as everyone had originally feared as to how deep the cuts might go”.

Therefore, in the end she thinks specifically for developmental disabilities programs (the DD Councils, the GUCEDDs and the P&As) the cuts were not nearly as deep as we had feared. Initially we feared it would be as much as 10% and a lot of DDCs across the country planned for that and started holding back a little on some planned activities and grants, or hiring of staff for future projects. Those who planned ahead managed to do ok and what the actual 4.44 % cut really resulted in was, we just could not do as much. However, the good news is that we are now in the process of moving beyond the sequester and looking at what budgets are going to look like not just for DD programs but for all programs for the 2014 fiscal year. The President put forward his budget to Congress almost two weeks ago and the good news is that it restored a lot of the funding that was taken away from us in the sequester. In the Presidents’ budget, he recommended that funding for DD programs go back to the pre-sequester levels of fiscal year 2012. That does not mean that we have the money in hand but it means we are starting in the best place possible and have a very good chance of seeing our money restored to the 2012 level or somewhere in between.

**GOOD NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair advised that the DDC has lost some of its members, which is not a good thing because, it only had a small number of members to begin with. We also have members whose appointments have expired and they are continuing to serve in those roles. In this regard, Mat and Sudie are working to get new member applicants appointed and current members re-appointed as quickly as possible. She asked that if anyone knows of others who would be interested in serving on the DDC to encourage him or her to apply because it would be nice to have too many applicants waiting to come on board and that is an indication that our leadership development is working and that is a good thing.

Ricardo Thornton announced that the Theater Group for Individuals with Disabilities has will be performing a show on June 1 and 2, 2013 at the Atlas Theater on H Street, NE. More information will be forthcoming.

Mary Lou Macceriello announced that the Dance Place near Catholic University would be doing an inclusive program this Saturday with kids with disabilities from Mammie D Lee and with kids without disabilities from the community. It is probably going to be some type of modern dance/jazz kind of thing and for those who are interested in attending they can go on line to Dance Place for further information.

**MINUTES**  
**April 25, 2013**

**DDC PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Chair advised that we have already talked about some of these things like, Social Role Valorization.

- The Annual TRIAD Partners Conference will be held on June 10, 2013 and will again focus on employment. This partnership is led by GUCEDD and includes the DDC as a partner, as well as the P&A, DDS and other community supporters.
- The APSE Conference will be held June 24-27, 2013 in Indianapolis, IN.
- The National Association of Council on Developmental Disabilities will hold their Technical Assistance Institute on July 8, 2013; and their Annual Meeting on July 9-10, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill.
- Project Action! Annual Advocacy Conference will be held July 27, 2013.

**USEFUL RESOURCES: Fact Sheet-Bullying and Harassing Student with Disabilities**

The Executive Director advised that a useful information sheet on Bullying and Harassment of Students with Disabilities is also included in today's handouts.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Chair informed the membership that because we do not have a quorum, the DDC will forgo its Executive Session and Review/Approval of our January 17, 2013 DDC Meeting Minutes will be taken up at our next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting will be held on July 18, 2013. Location to be determined.

Sincerely submitted,

Denice McCain