

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

441 4th Street, N.W.
City-wide Conference Center
Room #1114
Washington, D.C.

January 16, 2014
3:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tina Campanella, Chair
L. Thomas Mangrum, Jr.
Tiffany Smallwood
Tawara D. Goode for Toni Fisher
Gabriel Savage

Ricardo Thornton
Cathy Anderson
Kathy Gosselin
Amber Koehane

STAFF

Mat McCollough, Executive Director

Sudie Johnson, Program Analyst

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Amy Wallish and Karyn Stenzler
Full Circle Employment Solutions

Ron Smith
DC Advocacy Partner

Michael R. Roush
National Disability Institute

Nicole Boynes
JBC Learning Systems

Linda Jordan
DC Public Service Commission

Samantha Ruhland
DC Relay

Dana Fink
Institute for Educational Leadership

Dennis O'Connor
TD Bank

Amy Lewkovich
Training & Tracking Solutions

CALL TO ORDER

Tina Campanella, Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) Chair, called the meeting to order. She then asked that everyone introduce him/herself and provide the name of the organization that he/she was representing.

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REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 17, 2013)

The Chair asked if anyone requests additional time to review the minutes before she called for a vote. Kathy Gosselin stated she was unable to review the minutes in the format that was sent to her. The Executive Director assured Ms. Gosselin that he would send her the Word version for her review. Following his assurance, a motion was made to approve the minutes of October 17, 2013. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention.

CHAIR'S REPORT

DDC Retreat (11/1/2013) - The DDC Chair began her report by stating that back on November 1, 2013, the DDC held its retreat at the Kellogg Conference Hotel at Gallaudet University. The purpose of the retreat was to review our Five-Year State Plan to see how we had done in terms of implementation of the Plan and figure out what kinds of things we think may need to happen going forward, which may include making modifications to the Plan.

The Executive Director interjected that the DDC was also able to re-establish its committees which include: the Public Policy and Outreach Committee, chaired by Alisa Jackson Gray who is a graduate of our DC Advocacy Partners Program (DC APP) and a new DDC Member; and the Five Year State Plan Implementation Committee chaired by Thomas Mangrum, DDC Member, and also a graduate of our DC APP.

The Chair continued by stating that some of our focus at the retreat were centered on governance and looking at what we wanted to do going forward. There may be some changes based upon that. She informed the membership that a brief summary of the retreat was included in their packet.

Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act - Although it was delayed by the federal government shutdown, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) persevered and there was a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act held in mid-November. It was inspiring to think how far we have come since the Act was originally sponsored 50 years ago. That is the good news, but some things that are before us are really somewhat daunting. However, she was glad to hear Commissioner Sharon Lewis talked about the remaining barriers to people taking their full and rightful places as full citizens in the community. The Chair believes some of that has to do with how we provide supports to them to take control in their lives, which is consistent with some of the things that are going on in the District of Columbia today around person-centered thinking. These things include how well you know people, how you customize supports for them, and the struggles we are having in terms of how best to provide services to people who really need some significant support. Support in making the important decisions in their lives in the way that is the least restrictive and will not have a long-term impact on them losing their rights are some issues that we think are important here in the District of Columbia, and again (good news) they are also issues important throughout the country.

2014 Agency Performance and Budget Hearings – Why the Voice of Advocates & Family Members are so Important - Every year the District of Columbia City Council hosts a series of Agency Performance and Budget Oversight hearings. The Agency Performance Oversight hearings look at how the different agencies of the government performed over the past year. A number of those agencies, such as the Department on Disability Services, Department of Health, Office of Disability Rights and the Department of Healthcare Finance, touch the lives of many people with disabilities. This is an area where it may be important to hear the DDC members' perspective. The performance hearings are also a start and set-up for the budget hearings. She reiterated the importance of everyone's voice being heard, whether it is by personal testimony or by written testimony to the City

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Council for inclusion in the records. Dates have not yet been set for the hearings; but once they are, the DDC Executive Director will distribute that information to the membership and community. She asked everyone to be on the lookout and pay attention to these hearings.

Other Thoughts - There is a film festival called the ReelAbilities: Film Festival that will be featuring different films highlighting the experiences of people with disabilities and their families that will be held February 6-13, 2014. Screenings for the films will be held at a number of locations throughout the greater DC area and post-screening discussions will take place.

In addition, March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and there is not yet a calendar of events. The DDC Chair asked that everyone put this on his/her radar and be looking out for what will be coming throughout the month of March to highlight the life and experiences of people with developmental disabilities in the District of Columbia, both children and adults.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mat McCollough, DDC Executive Director (ED), wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked them for coming to the meeting. He then provided the following report:

DDC Successes & Accomplishments in Fiscal 2013 - The DDC has successfully completed and submitted the Annual Program Performance Report that is due to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities by the end of each calendar year. The DDC ED provided a brief summary of the report, which was included in today's packet.

Recent DDC Involvement -The DDC participated in the October 25-26, 2013: 5th Annual Moving Forward Together Secondary Transition Community Fair & Forum.

The DDC sent several of its members and other self-advocates to the National TASH Conference in Chicago, IL, December 11-14, 2013.

The DDC Chair stated that the DDC was well represented at the TASH conference. The DDC coalition that was there and sponsored by the DDC did a great job at challenging everyone to join them next year here in Washington, DC. She thinks the TASH conference is always a conference where you are challenged to think about ways in which you can assist people with the most significant disabilities to have the most inclusive life experience within the community. At this year's conference, there were a number of events that really focused on not just thinking about adulthood but thinking from early on in a child's life throughout his/her lifetime, how we would open the community, and welcome people of differing abilities to be full members and full participants in everything that we do.

The Executive Director challenged the DDC membership (going into the next National TASH Conference) to serve as primary presenters in the workshops because we generally have professionals do the workshops and we need more advocates and family members to represent our community in terms of what they have learned through the DC Advocacy Partners Program and so forth. We are dedicated to making sure the conference is highly diverse too.

The DDC Chair stated this is a great conference for people who live with disabilities to be presenters. In fact, she and Rebecca Salon supported Project Action! Members (Steve Poe, Ricardo Thornton and his wife, Donna) in sharing their experiences as leaders. They did a great job. There was good interaction between the group and the audience, so it was highly successful.

Membership Update – Congratulations went out to the DDC Chair on her re-appointment to serve another term and to Gabriel Savage as a new DDC Member.

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New Grant: Lifeline Partnership's Building a Healthy Body Program – At our last Executive Committee Meeting, the DDC agreed to fund the Building a Healthy Body Program which is being implemented by Lifeline Partnership, a local non-profit. The program will engage 10 participants in a Healthy Cooking Class and 12 participants in the Keep it Moving Exercise Class.

Thomas Mangrum, DDC Member, stated he is a graduate of the Healthy Cooking Program that was held at First Trinity Lutheran Church. The program teaches individuals with disabilities how to cook healthy food that tastes good. That program is starting up again this year (thanks to funding from the DDC) and they will be adding an exercise class to it. The class will also teach individuals in wheelchairs how to exercise. He asked that anyone interested in taking the classes, or if they know of someone who may be interested, to let him know and he would pass that information along. On the other hand, they can also contact Lifeline Partnership directly.

Upcoming Events – The Executive Director stated he just wanted to make sure that the DDC was aware of the following upcoming events:

- 2014 National Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC, April 7-9; and
- 2014 APSE National Conference being held July 1-3 in Long Beach, California.

DDC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Policy and Outreach Committee – The DDC Chair informed the membership that Alisa Jackson-Gray, Chair of the Public Policy and Outreach Committee was unable to attend today's meeting. However, the membership could find in their packet a copy of a letter that was sent (at the request of this Committee) by the DDC to the Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services. The letter addresses the new proposed rule regarding national standards for Home and Community Based Services settings put out by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and the utilization of "people first language." She thinks that as the Home and Community Based Waiver Program has evolved over the years, it has moved further away from the traditional institutional patterns of supporting people. This new rule captures things that are important, such as being treated like a tenant as opposed to just living some place and having a say about where you go and what you do. She encouraged everyone to learn about the rule that was recently published.

State Plan Implementation Committee – L. Thomas Mangrum, Chair, State Plan Implementation Committee, informed the membership that this Committee has not had a chance to meet. However, they will be working on some projects and their main focus will be on jobs and getting people to work. He then invited everyone to attend the Washington Interfaith Network's "Job Action with the Candidates for Mayor" being held on February 6, 2014 from 7 pm – 9 pm at the First Rock Baptist Church, 4630 Alabama Avenue, SE. This information was disseminated to the participants.

DDC FINANCIAL REPORT

Sudie Johnson, Program Analyst, DDC, stated a copy of the financial report (on the lime-green paper) could be found in the membership's packet. She then provided a summary of that report which covered the projections for carryover funds along with the annual award, DDC major projects and other expenses.

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DC SUPPORTING FAMILIES COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE PROGRAM UPDATE

Cathy Anderson, Director, Department on Disability Services/Developmental Disabilities Administration, stated we are one of six states that received a grant to participate in the “Supporting Families Community of Practice” and the last meeting was held on December 6, 2013. At that meeting, Michael Small and Laura Buckner (a parent from Texas) presented about the importance of person-centered-thinking and person-centered-planning and how that can help lead us to some systems change. The next meeting for this group is scheduled for February 6, 2014. At that meeting, the group will write about either someone that is very close to them whom they might be providing support/being their support worker, or themselves. There will also be a call meeting with the small State Team next week to talk about what they will do for the next three meetings of the larger group so that they can paint the picture of where they are going (to get to their plan for the group), which she thinks is very exciting.

DDC FUNDED PROGRAMS UPDATE

Building Economic Strength Together Project (BEST) – Michael Roush, National Institute on Disability (NDI), BEST Program, began his presentation by thanking the DDC for approving funding for this program and thanking Mat McCollough and Sudie Johnson for all of the work they have done on the program. He went on to say that, this program has already trained service providers (community-based organizations) to be able to keep this information and embed it within their organizations. NDI worked with Project Action! and Project Search to bring financial education and literacy information to their individuals in addition to providing a presentation for the DC Advocacy Partners Program. Mr. Roush informed the membership that the BEST Program would be ending in a couple of months and that NDI is in the process of completing the final two activities for this program. He provided a brief summary of those final two activities, which included trainings to be held and the kick-off for the on-line training course. This information was disseminated to the participants.

Following a brief discussion regarding the on-line training course, the DDC Chair thanked Mr. Roush for his presentation.

DC Advocacy Partners Program – Dana Fink, Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL), DC Advocacy Partners Program (DC APP), stated, for those who are not aware, the DC APP is a free nine-month leadership and advocacy training program for self-advocates and family members of individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities funded by the DDC. This program is in its third year and has two classes that have already graduated (2012 and 2013). The 2013 class ended in September and from there IEL started recruiting for the class of 2014. They had thirty-nine applicants to apply for the program and that number was scaled down to twenty-four due to time commitment issues of some of the applicants. Several others dropped out and they now have nineteen participants for the class of 2014, which kicked-off last weekend. Classes are being held one weekend a month for nine months. At the kick-off session last week, the participants were provided an overview of the disability history while getting grounded on developing their identities and beginning work to become policy influencers, which is a major goal of the program. This year’s class is very diverse with a high representation from wards 7 and 8 where there is a great need. She informed the membership that information on the upcoming sessions could be found in their packet and asked that everyone mark their calendar for the graduation ceremony that is scheduled for the third week in September 2014. She also informed the membership that in the past quarter, IEL was able to complete the DC APP’s video, which tells the story of the program through

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the eyes of its 2012 and 2013 graduates. This video will be used as a tool to explain what the program is about and to recruit new participants going forward. The video can be viewed at www.dcpartner.iel.org.

The DDC Chair thanked Ms. Fink for the update and stated that she was at the kick-off this past weekend where she saw some advocates we don't typically see. She stated that is exactly what we wanted to see . . . an increase in the diversity of people who are speaking out and understanding the issues that are important to our community.

PRESENTATIONS

Washington D.C. Relay – Samantha Ruhland, AT&T Channel Manager, stated that she is the representative for the District of Columbia (DC) Relay, does outreach and helps clients with any needs they may have with their AT&T phone services, as well as a variety of other services. She went on to say that, the DC Relay falls under the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia and Linda Jordan, who is a representative from that organization, is also here today. Ms. Ruhland's presentation covered what the DC Relay is, who provides the services, and the responsibilities of the Federal Communication Commission. She also covered the featured services of DC Relay (TTY, CapTel, Spanish Speaking Relay Services, Speech to Speech, Voice Carry-over, Hearing Carry-over and DC Relay Choice Profile). This information was disseminated to the participants.

Linda Jordan, Public Services Commission of the District of Columbia (PSCDC), stated her organization regulates the electric, natural gas and telephone companies serving the District and requires that they offer discounted programs for the low-income residents. The PSCDC believes that these discounted programs are underutilized. Ms. Jordan also stated she had brought some bags for distribution that contain important information about those discounted programs and how to apply and asked that anyone with complaints about any of these utilities to please give PSCDC a call. The bags were disseminated to the participants.

Success Story! Disability Mentoring Day Experience with TD Bank - Dennis O'Connor began by stating that as everyone is aware, October is Disabilities Employment Awareness Month; and on October 16, 2013, the DDC Executive Director asked him if he would be a part of the Disability Mentoring Day Program as a mentee for TD Bank. He said yes. He continued by stating he thought that this would be like every other year where he would go to this interview and they would give him a free lunch after which they would say we interviewed several people with disabilities and got to chat with them. Instead of a quick lunch and brief interview, he was given an agenda with 11 individuals they wanted him to interview with and afterwards, there was another interview lined up and another. He was surprised at how many business cards he received that day and stated it took him over a month to write all of his thank you letters. Mr. O'Connor went on to say that he interviewed with TD Bank on October 25, 2013 and started working on November 24, 2013. Since beginning his role at TD Bank, he has learned that they are dedicated to not only people with disabilities but to being involved in the community, including the LGBT community and want their employees to do the same. An example of this is that for every forty hours an employee volunteers in their community to a non-profit, TD Bank will donate \$250.00 to that organization. In conclusion, Mr. O'Connor stated his job search was a long process and he could not have done this without the DDC and the DDC Executive Director. He then disseminated information regarding the grand opening of a new TD Bank branch at 20th & K Streets, NW on January 20, 2014 and extended an invitation to everyone to attend.

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The DDC Chair extended congratulations to Mr. O'Connor.

Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) - Amy Wallish informed the membership that she and Karyn Stenzler (who was also in attendance) were from Full Circle Employment Solutions and their focus is on planning, benefits, and understanding/identifying the impact of employment on public benefits. She continued by stating Full Circle Employment Solutions is a sub-contractor and has a grant (through Social Security) to provide the Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA) in the District of Columbia. The WIPA Program has been around for a long time and then it went away for about a year and then it came back as of August. The whole point of this program is to provide free benefits counseling to individuals (14 through retirement age) who receive SSI and/or SSDI and are interested in working or are already working. One of the big pushes Social Security has this time around is transitioning youth (ages 18-21) and Full Circle is really trying to get the word out to that group. Their goal is to promote employment but individuals need this information in order for them to make an informed decision. She informed the membership that she is the main contact for this program in the District of Columbia and the reason she asked to speak to the DDC today is that they are actively looking for referrals and would love to work with those individuals this group is working with. Following a brief overview of the program, Ms. Wallish disseminated brochures about the WIPA Program to the participants and stated if anyone would like to receive this information electronically to please let her know.

The DDC Chair thanked all of the guests for their presentations.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

Important resources included in the packet were copies of: The Transition To Adulthood for Youth With ID/DD: A review of research, policy and next steps; and DC Health Link Releases Data for October 1-December 10, 2013.

GOOD NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L. Thomas Mangrum, DDC Member, announced that he would like to thank the DDC for its financial support to Project Action!.

Tawara D. Goode, Georgetown University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, announced that Georgetown University would be hosting two community forums entitled "The Legacy of Research in Culturally Diverse Communities: Acknowledging our Past...Shaping our Future." The forums will be held on January 24, 2013 and February 22, 2014 at the Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church, 900 Massachusetts Avenue, NW from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. She informed the membership that this is an opportunity for them to be involved in this study and that anyone interested in attending had to commit to both days and a small stipend will be given to those who attended. She then provided a brief overview of the forums. This information was disseminated to the participants. She stated she had extra copies if there are people in the community that know of others who may be interested in attending. They would welcome their participation.

Kathy Gosselin, DDC Member, encouraged those who were giving presentations and/or made an announcement to send that information electronically to her (she will post it on the National Federation of the Blind Newslines) and to the DDC Executive Director for dissemination. She can be reached at nfb.newslines@dc.gov and DDC ED at mat.mccollough@dc.gov.

Cathy Anderson announced that D.C. (Department on Disability Services) was one of four states selected for a vision quest work group around Improving School to Work Transition Outcomes for Youth and Young Adults with Significant Disabilities through Cross Systems Policy Collaboration.

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This coordination and funding alignment is an intensive policy consultation and they are very excited about it. The other states are Illinois, Kentucky, and California. The group has a meeting coming up in a few weeks and she will provide more information on this as it rolls out. Another thing she would like people to be looking forward to are the amendments to the Home and Community Based Waiver. She stated DDS would start doing some outreach by asking people questions about their experiences, putting out information and holding forums about the specifics of those amendments.

Ricardo Thornton, DDC Member, announced the DC Chapter of TASH meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am on February 8, 2014 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, and the Project Action! meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 801 N Street, NW. If anyone is interested in attending, please stop by. He also thanked the DDC for its financial support to Project Action!.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date is April 17, 2014, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Denice McCain
Staff Assistant