

**NEW JERSEY COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**  
**November 29, 2007**  
**Lafayette Marriott Hotel, Trenton, New Jersey**

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday November 29, 2007, at the Lafayette Marriott Hotel in Trenton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Elaine Buchsbaum Chair, who presided and declared a quorum present.

**ATTENDANCE** – Attached

**INTRODUCTIONS** – Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair

Elaine introduced herself as the new Chair and our newest Council Member Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez. Everyone introduced themselves. The meeting notice was published in the *Newark Star Ledger* and the *Trenton Times*. It was posted on the bulletin board at the Mary Roebling Building on State Street in Trenton.

Elaine attended the Partners in Policymaking Graduation held on November 18, 2007. She was very excited to be a part of such a wonderful program and to hand out certificates to the graduates. Dennie Todd, Program Coordinator received a round of applause.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Elaine Buchsbaum

- Larry Quinlin – His comment was regarding the hotel parking. With so many offices surrounding the hotel the handicap parking is usually taken by the time he arrives for the meeting. The only other parking would be to park some distance away.
- Lowell Arye – His comment concerns the Cost of Care Coalition. There was Council support in the past and he hopes this support will continue in the upcoming budget cycle.
- Peg Kinsell – She is attending today's Council Meeting as a parent and she attended the Candlelight Vigil on October 26, 2007. While the event was unfolding, there was a controversy. Unfortunately, a person had some issues and decided to bring it there disturbing the proceedings on several occasions. That event was not the place to demonstrate personal issues but rather it was to honor individuals who had passed away while living in institutions. Peg thanked the Council for honoring the ceremony.

The remainder of the agenda will be re-arranged to accommodate those members wanting to attend a Senate Session discussing the Burden of Proof Bill. Therefore, we will break for a 30 minute lunch break.

**RECUSALS – Doug McGruther**

Discussion

There are two aspects of recusal to discuss. First, there is an excusal instead of a recusal during the grant review process. If you are a member of the Grants Committee and your agency is submitting a grant proposal, you excuse yourself from the committee. Should the proposal not pass the review process then you may return to the committee. Should the request pass the review process you will have to forfeit your position on the committee. Second, when the proposal comes before the Council you have to recuse yourself and leave the room until asked to return. Ethical Standards state that if you have no decision making powers then you have no recusal. Several questions still need answering and Doug will address them at the next meeting. This particularly is in regards to members of advisory boards and the need for recusal. Bill Ditto suggested this be included in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

**STATE PLAN – Ellie Byra/Dennis Rizzo**

Discussion

Ellie is the new Chair of the Planning Committee. The new grants process was discussed and we are all still getting use to it. One thing we must understand, the Council is not only about grants and the state plan will be followed. We are in the second year of a five year plan and we have three years left to make amendments. In mid-December, a notice will go out detailing what is available for funds. The collection of data was discussed and staff was encouraged to go out into the community to have a better understanding of what is needed. We don't want to duplicate information that already exists. Once this data is received, we can see how needs are met. At the March meeting a group description will be established as well as priorities, so that everyone will understand the objectives and be included to give input.

**CONSTITUTION CHANGE – Luke Koppisch/David Tag/Barbara Coppens**

Discussion

The 60% to 40% passage of the Public Question vote to changing the words “idiot and insane” in the New Jersey Constitution was a tremendous accomplishment. There was a lot of press coverage, agency coverage and involvement along with the Monday Morning Project who put the word out into the community. Luke Koppisch thanked all agencies present and the Council for their support. David Tag strategically placed his lawn signs to passing motorists who would notice them on the highways and surface roads. He also brought awareness to the group homes in his area and asked for their permission to plant lawn signs there as well. In the office where Barbara Coppens works there was a voting hotline and everyone worked very hard on getting the word out.

**PIP 2007 Final Report – Dennie Todd**

Discussion

Dennie Todd is the program coordinator and thanked the Council for allowing her to present PIP. The program is to teach best practices and educate the Legislators in the community. The sessions were held one weekend a month to discuss issues in the community. The 2008 program schedule was distributed. Two PIP graduates were present to give the Council some feedback on how the program has helped them.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum**

#### Discussion

The Committee met in October and made changes to the grants process. The total amount allowed for mini-grant criteria was changed from \$40,000 per fiscal year to \$60,000 per fiscal year. Grants will be awarded quarterly, \$15,000 per quarter. The reason for this increase is because we were running out of funds due to popularity of the program.

#### Motion

Motion made to accept the mini-grant criteria change and seconded. Motion passed.

### **Planning Committee – Ellie Byra**

#### Discussion

The committee is planning on having a major discussion of the planning process at the retreat in March.

### **Policy Committee – Carolyn Hayer**

#### Discussion

A conference call will be conducted and the minutes will be provided once complete.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Alison Lozano**

#### Discussion

Self Advocacy and Family Participation workgroup of the Division of Developmental Disability Olmstead Plan would like to invite you to the first meeting to be held on Wednesday December 12<sup>th</sup> at the ARC of Middlesex County. The Community Care Waiver overview was mailed to Council Members for feedback. There was little feedback so the letter of comments written by Elaine and Alison is included in today's handouts. Upon further discussion, some members were unsure as to what kind of response was needed. Purnima Hernandez stated that in the past the Policy Committee usually responded to this type of material. The Policy and Procedure manual is coming along and the table of contents is also included in today's handouts. The projected completion is by January 2008. Staff updates are as follows: a candidate has been selected for the Youth Leadership program and we are waiting on Personnel to finish the paperwork. The Public Policy position is still pending approved posting and Monique Wilson, Coordinator for Family Support has resigned and the posting for her position will be done soon. The Inclusive Education Press Conference will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup> from 2:00pm to 3:30pm at the State House. Topics to include, National Inclusive Education week and the Burden of Proof.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Deborah Spitalnik reported that Michael Knox received his doctorate degree. Congratulations go to Michael for such an important accomplishment.

Bill Ditto invited the members to attend the public forum of the "NJ Strategic Plan to Create a Comprehensive Employment System for People with Disabilities" being held at 222 South Warren Street on Monday December 3<sup>rd</sup> between 10:00am and 2:00pm.

**ADJOURNED** – 1:40 p.m.

Upon motion, seconded and carried.

**DISTRIBUTED FOR INFORMATION**

Administrative Budget  
Division of Disability Services Report  
NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Report  
The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities Report  
NJCDD Comments on Community Care Waiver  
Up to Date Listing of Mini-Grants/Revised Mini-Grant Format  
Outline of NJCDD Policy & Procedure Manual  
2008 PIP Schedule

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Self Advocates & Family Members**

Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair  
Purnima Hernandez  
Larry Jones  
Eleanor Byra  
David Tag  
Elaine Buchsbaum  
Carolyn Hayer  
Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez  
Maria Teresa Abinader/Excused  
Leila Gold/Excused  
Lorraine D'Sylva-Lee/Excused  
Jennifer DeMauro/Excused  
Holly Wetscher/Excused

**Guests**

Larry Quinlan  
Richard Quinlan  
Lowell Arye  
Abigail odor  
Barbara Coppens  
Lee Berkey  
Peg Kinsell  
Tom Baffuto  
Safiyah A. Muhammad  
Myrta Rosa

**DD Act Agencies Representatives**

Deborah Spitalnik, Ph.D., The Boggs Center- University Center for Excellence  
Sarah Mitchell, NJ Protection and Advocacy, Inc.

**Government Agencies**

Brian Fitzgibbons, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
William Ditto, Division of Disability Services  
Pauline Lisciotto, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services  
Shawn McInerney, Division of Developmental Disabilities

**Staff**

Alison M. Lozano, Ph.D., M.P.A., Executive Director  
Doug McGruther, Deputy Director, Staff Representative to Education Task Force  
Jacinta Williams, Administrative Assistant  
Gail Furrer, Executive Assistant/Office Manager  
Luke Koppisch, Monday Morning Project Coordinator  
Pat Krupka, Health Care Specialist  
Sharian Mackins-Gist, Database Manager  
Norman Reim, Communications Manager  
Dennis Rizzo, State Plan Coordinator/Contracts manager  
Dennie Todd, Advocacy Training Coordinator (Partners In Policymaking)