



Elaine Buchsbaum, *Chair*
Alison M. Lozano, Ph.D., M.P.A., *Executive Director*

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES **March 20, 2009**

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Friday March 20, 2009, at the Wyndham Conference Center in Plainsboro, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair, who presided.

The meeting notice was published in the *Newark Star Ledger* and the *Trenton Times*. It was posted on the bulletin board at the Mary Roebing Building on State Street in Trenton.

MINUTES – The minutes from January 29, 2009 meeting were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made to accept the minutes with changes – upon motion and seconded. The motion was approved with four abstentions.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum

Jerome Harris, Director, NJ Black Issues Convention, was present. The NJ Black Issues Convention is a coalition of black organizations that discuss ways to solve black problems. Comprises 55 predominantly black organizations in New Jersey and is an affiliate of the National Black Leadership Round Table. The Black Issues Convention is the largest conference for New Jersey's black community. Mr. Harris thanked the Council for providing scholarships to five African Americans with developmental disabilities and provided conference bags to the New Jersey Black Issues Convention that was held on October 9-11, 2008. Thanks to the Council's commitment, other disability agencies are participating in the Black Issues Convention for 2009.

NJ Coalition for Inclusive Education – Quality Indicators to Promote Inclusive Education Grant Presentation

Paula Lieb and Orah Raia were present to give the Council an overview of the project that was funded by one of the Council's grants. Other states were used as a foundation to develop, implement and disseminate quality indicators for inclusive education. There are 10 indicators to follow. The indicators are to ensure that students with disabilities are included in classroom participation. Child study team may find this information helpful and useful. Five (5) pilot schools agreed to use this information and are now in their second year. Documentation was made of the outcomes, and the results were shared. By the third year, some training sessions will be held for assisting in implementing the program.

Council Retreat Recap

There was a two day retreat to discuss the operations of the Council, committee structure and staff responsibility. The Council decided to conduct a review of the seven (7) areas of interest that are part of our State Plan. These are health, education, transportation, employment, housing, quality of life, and community systems and support. Each area of interest will be individually reviewed at each of the Council's upcoming Council meetings during the coming year.

Motion:

To engage in a year long focus of activities and governing structure with regards to the seven areas of interest. Motion seconded and carried with 1 abstention. The first topic of discussion during the next Council meeting will be health.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Executive Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum

A brief meeting was held to discuss the structure of subcommittees and ad hoc committees. Of the five (5) mini grants reviewed, one was approved for funding:

- **Association for Special Children and Families – Computer Buddies:**

Funding approved for \$4,990

Purpose: will offer a new program, in which young children (3-4 years old) with special needs and typical children will be partnered as computer buddies to work together while learning age appropriate skills.

Executive Director – Dr. Alison Lozano

Many of you know we have had difficulty filling the position of Coordinator for the Family Support Councils. We have been fortunate to have Tasha Jones filling in on a part time basis for the last nine months. However, we decided to ask Pat Krupka to assume the responsibilities of the position until further notice. Pat has worked for the Council for more than twenty years and knows a great deal about the Council and working within the state system. The Monday Morning project had a facilitators retreat on Friday March 13, 2009. This meeting was to reorganize and re energize the project. Barbara Lee has done a good job of getting this group together to concentrate on their activities for the next year. The grants process for the 2009/10 year is moving along. The Letters of Intent have been received and are currently being read by the members of the grants committee. They will meet again to decide which potential grantees will be asked to submit a full proposal.

Planning Committee

The committee is in the process of reviewing the State Plan and worked on a vision statement. A statement of principles will also be drafted.

Grants Committee

The members have received the Letters Of Interest for review. A meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2009.

Policy Committee

The committee has welcomed several new members to the group. Members have decided to review the position statement on deinstitutionalization. Comments were received and a new statement was created. It was suggested to have the Council's position statements reviewed on a yearly basis or every two years.

Motion:

To accept the updated position on deinstitutionalization. Motion seconded and carried with four (4) abstentions.

OTHER

The first annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for Thursday April 9, 2009 at the Trenton Marriott. Members of the Awards Committee were very impressed with the selection of winners.

In an effort to divert developmental center admissions, the Division of Developmental Disabilities has begun to use special e-mail messages that notify agencies about individuals in the community who develop an emergency need for support. Additional information can be found on the web.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services will be conducting several public forums in April and one in May.

ADJOURNED – 2:30 p.m.

Upon motion, seconded and carried.

ATTENDANCE:

Self Advocates, Family Members

Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair

Todd Emmons

Mary Kay Weber

Myrta Rosa

Purnima Hernandez, excused

David Tag

Larry Jones, excused

Ellie Byra

Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez, excused

Leah Ziskin

Christopher Miller

Andrew McGeady, excused

Russell Fried

Walter Fernandez

Gary Rubin

Guests

Jerome Harris, NJBIC

Nancy Snyder

DD Act Agencies Representatives

Deborah Spitalnik, Ph.D., Executive Director, The Boggs Center

Michael Knox, Ph.D., Deputy Director, The Boggs Center

Joseph Young, Executive Director, Disability Rights New Jersey

Government Agencies

William Ditto, Director, Division of Disability Services

Brian Fitzgibbons, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Shawn McInerney, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Pauline Lisciotto, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

Carol Kaufman, NJ Department of Education/Office of Special Education Programs

Public Member

Frank Caragher, The Arc of Union County

Council Staff

Dr. Alison M. Lozano, Executive Director

Doug McGruther, Deputy Director

Gail Furrer

Jacinta Williams

Pat Krupka

Dennie Todd

Dennis Rizzo

Frank Latham

Norman Reim

Jane Dunhamm

Barbara Lee

Sue Gottesman