



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

COUNCIL MEETING
January 29, 2009
Revised

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday January 29, 2009, at the Lafayette Marriott Hotel in Trenton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.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 Roebling Building on State Street in Trenton.

MINUTES – The minutes from December 4, 2008 were reviewed. Minutes approved as distributed – upon motion and seconded. The motion was approved with two abstentions.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum

Mary Keebler, **a member of the public**, commented via teleconference and gave an update on her situation with the Division of Developmental Disabilities and thanked the Council and Frank Latham, Council Staff on their attention and support.

Robin Sims, **a member of the public**, informed the Council of Pat Lewis's passing and expressed interest in receiving archived photos of Pat for her family. Pat was a pioneer in the community and an active member of the Family Support Planning Council #4.

Alexandra Sanchez, **a member of the public**, gave the Council an overview of how difficult it is for the non-English speaking families in the community. Dennis Rizzo, Council staff, advised her to attend a pre-bid workshop to address the issue. Jane Dunham, Council staff, introduced the Council's Spanish Interpreter, Jorge Calvimontes and offered his assistance. Mercedes Jiminez-Ramirez, Council member commented that she is representing the non-English speaking families in the community and offered her assistance.

NEW MEMBERS – Elaine Buchsbaum

The Council has seven new members:

- Todd Emmons, Self-Advocate
- Myrta Rosa, Self-Advocate
- Walter Fernandez, Family Member
- Russell Fried, Self-Advocate
- Andrew McGeady, Self-Advocate
- Christopher Miller, Self-Advocate
- Leah Ziskin, Family Member

Everyone welcomed and introduced themselves.

PCIL Progressive Center for Independent Living: Emergency Preparedness Project – Grant Presentation

Scott Ellis and Gerald Carbone were present and discussed the primary focus of the project. The issue of emergency preparedness and the desire to educate people with developmental disabilities in Mercer and surrounding counties to become active stakeholders in the emergency management process all while maintaining independence. With the assistance of the NJ Office of Emergency Management (NJ OEM) a standardized curriculum to create a unique response to particular issues was created. PCIL will instruct 3-5 people with developmental disabilities as Liaisons on emergency preparedness topics. These individuals will become Community Disaster Liaisons within their communities and educate others.

Progress Report on PR Campaign

Brenda Considine was present to give a progress report on the **Public Relations** Campaign. A survey was conducted with people in the disability community, council members, and self-advocates seeing what they thought people outside of the realm of developmental disability thought about disability issues. That information will be used to form the bases of the World Wide Café Community Conversations to be held with community leaders and elected officials. The report presented today provided statistics of that survey. This is just one of the ways the Council is trying to gain community input.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Education Subcommittee – Elaine Buchsbaum

The Council Chair has been providing assistance to the Education Subcommittee as the committee has no chair. Some of the discussion that has come from the committee is: the Out of District Placement document was created by the members of the subcommittee to bring awareness of the issues to consider, the Fellowship Award applications have gone out for this year and the ceremony will be held during the May Council Meeting. There was also preliminary discussion on conducting a one on one IEP training module to assist parents in understanding the forms.

Executive Director – Dr. Alison Lozano

The Partners in Policymaking Training/Reunion will be held at the Trenton Marriott from 10am to 3:30pm on Saturday February 21, 2009. Our guests will be addressing how the changes occurring in Washington, DC affect people with developmental disabilities and their families. The next DD Coalition meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2009 from 12pm to 2pm in the Mary Roebling Building, room 218. All Council members are encouraged to participate in this activity. The Council Retreat will be held at the Wyndham Conference Center in Plainsboro, New Jersey and is scheduled for Thursday March 19, 2009 from 10am to 8:30pm. In response to popular demand, we are repeating the evening informal discussion time we have had the last couple of years. I would ask you to think about topics you think would generate meaningful dialogue. Please come prepared to discuss. Then on Friday March 20, 2009 from 9am to 3pm, with the Council Meeting beginning at 1pm. We have been reminded by the State Ethics Commission that all members of the DD Council are required to file an annual personal financial disclosure statement. These reports must be filed by May 15, 2009. The forms can be found at: www.nj.gov/ethics/disclosure

Executive Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum

We are very disappointed that our Vice-Chair, Lorraine D'Sylva-Lee will no longer be able to serve on the Council. We thank her for her years of hard work and input. The Executive Committee discussed the future use of the Emergency Preparedness Project. Reactions to the training have been very positive. However, the trainings are very intensive and materials are expensive. We will look to partner with whom to expand upon this project. Statewide, Municipal or Federal. The Executive Committee requests that Council members submit ideas of what they would like to work on at the upcoming retreat. Please get suggestions to Alison Lozano.

OTHER

New Council member Andrew McGeady expressed his concern about the policy that colleges require and entitlement for students with developmental disabilities.

There will be a State Planning Committee meeting to follow the Council meeting.

David Tag, Council member, had available President Obama's statement on disabilities.

ADJOURNED – 1:47 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
 Ellie Byra
 Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez
 Gary Rubin
 Walter Fernandez
 Russell Fried
 Andrew McGeady
 Christopher Miller
 Leah Ziskin

Guests

Kysee Bartee
 Carole Miller
 Jeff Miller
 Robin Sims
 Cindy Bartman
 Tom Baffuto
 Alexandria Sanchez
 Gerald Cardone
 Scott Ellis

DD Act Agencies Representatives

Michael Knox, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Representing The Boggs Center
 Joseph Young, Acting Executive Director, Disability Rights New Jersey

Government Agencies

William Ditto, Division of Disability Services
 Brian Fitzgibbons, Acting Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 Kenneth Ritchey, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Council Staff

Dr. Alison M. Lozano, Executive Director	Dennie Todd	Jane Dunhamm
Doug McGruther, Deputy Director	Dennis Rizzo	Barbara Lee
Gail Furrer	Frank Latham	Sue Gottesman
Jacinta Williams	Norman Reim	
Pat Krupka		