

COUNCIL MEETING May 22, 2008

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday May 22, 2008, at the Lafayette Marriott Hotel in Trenton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair, who presided and declared a quorum present.

MINUTES – The minutes from March 28, 2008 were approved as distributed – upon motion and seconded.

INTRODUCTIONS – Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair

Mary Kay Weber and Holly Wetscher were presented with a certificate from the Council thanking them for their time and dedication as a Council Member. Holly was unable to attend and council staff will make sure that she receives her certificate.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum

- Larry Quinlan commented that he has been attending the Council Meetings since 1992. In the past, he usually watches for the notices of upcoming meetings in the newspaper. The March meeting was not announced and when he contacted the staff office he was on the phone holding for 15 minutes before he hung up. Elaine apologized for the miscommunication and asked Jacinta Williams of Council staff to contact the newspaper to inquire the location of the meeting notice in the newspaper.
- Lowell Arye commented how the Governor's initial budget proposal included an additional \$5 million in funding for Early Intervention Program, then the Treasurer announced in May, a reduction of \$5 million for the same program. He is requesting that members and public members contact their Legislature from now through June to hear our collective voice to ensure that the \$5 million is included in the budget.
- Robin Sims commented that she has a son who is about to transition out of school and a daughter in a developmental center. Ms. Sims was good friends with Leila Gold and will be filling her position on the Association's Board in July. A picnic in honor of Mrs. Gold will be held and the Council is invited. A representative from the Developmental Centers will begin attending Council meetings.
- Chris Miller commented how difficult it is to get an appointment with the Governor's Appointment Office. He calls and tries to make visits in person. He was also interested in the new location of Council staff office. The office will remain in the same building and be relocating to the 6th floor. Move date has not been determined at of yet.

METHOD OF VOTING FOR GRANTS – Purnima Hernandez, Dennis Rizzo, Douglas McGruther

Discussion

Everyone was informed of the voting process for this year. There are 25 proposals and six members. The Grants Committee will meet again in June. There will be no block voting. During the July Council meeting, all the proposals will be available for review beginning at 8:30am. Please recuse yourself should the proposal for review result in a personal conflict of interest. At 10:00am the Council meeting will begin and move into the voting procedure. Should there be any questions, comments or concerns, please bring them to the attention of the committee Chair Purnima Hernandez, or Council State Planner Dennis Rizzo as soon as you can.

PLANNING COMMITTEE – Ellie Byra

Three years ago, there were over 150 recommendations for the State Plan. We spent two retreats discussing and clarifying the Plan objectives. The State Plan was reformulated to represent everyone's concerns. The draft State Plan reflects the reformulation and is available for review.

POLICY COMMITTEE – Carolyn Hayer and Norman Reim

The Policy Committee, at its meeting held on Monday April 28, 2008, established a fact sheet for members of the Budget Committee to use when conducting a hearing with the Commissioner of Human Services in reference to the Governor's proposed budget portion concerning funding for 2008 graduating students transitioning from school to adult services. It was recommended that the Council take a lead on this topic within the DD community..

AWARDS – Jennifer DeMauro

The Education Task Force granted awards to eight Inclusive Educators. Each one was recognized and gave a small acceptance speech. The winners will receive their presentation award during their local Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum

Discussion

The Executive Committee met the morning of the Council Meeting to discuss the waiting list. The Executive Committee decided the Council should form a coalition to deal year round on budget issues affecting people with developmental disabilities. A letter will go out next month to agencies inviting them to join this coalition. The next Executive Committee meeting will discuss committee structure and the organizational chart. In the Fall, the By-Laws will be reviewed. Funding has been approved for five self advocates to attend the 2008 SABE Conference. The selection will be done by lottery so if you know of someone with a developmental disability and they are interested, please inform them to contact Norman Reim of Council staff at 609-292-3745.

Executive Director – Dr. Alison Lozano

Discussion

Council staff have been working on projects to assist with emergencies preparedness and data collection. First, the Emergency Preparedness sample kit was available for review and comment. Second, the Council staff prepared several sample survey cards to be distributed during different functions for feedback. The categories are: Education, Employment, Health, Quality Assurance/Community Supports, and Housing. Once they are approved, we will then request copies be made in spanish. Alison introduced Frank Latham as the Youth Leadership Project Coordinator. He will be resuming where Carol Tonks left off. We are also attempting to go green. All meeting material will be sent via email from Jacinta Williams, Council staff, in an effort to cut down on paper. Remember, hard copies will be available during the meetings.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Men's Health Conference, sponsored by the NJCDD Men with Disabilities Health Care Task Force will be held on Saturday June 14, 2008 at the Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard, Trenton, NJ.

The next PIP Sessions are scheduled for June 21 and 22, 2008.

Today's Council Meeting will be the last one for Sarah Mitchell, Executive Director for the NJ Protection and Advocacy, Inc. Sarah is retiring and was presented with a bouquet of flowers for her work and dedication to the developmentally disabled.

ADJOURNED – 3:00 p.m.

Upon motion, seconded and carried.

Award Recipients

Rita Williams
Dr. Rachelle Parker
Lisa Glick
Seth Richer
Gerry Notino
Lisa Rencher
Holly Conaway
Mary Hassenplug
Monica Herits
Sandy Shields

DISTRIBUTED FOR INFORMATION

March 28, 2008 Meeting Minutes
Administrative Budget
NJCDD Survey Card - samples
The Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities Report
NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Report
NJ Department of Health and Senior Services
NJ Protection and Advocacy, Inc.
NJ Division of Disability Services

ATTENDANCE:

Self Advocates & Family Members

Guests

Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair
Lorraine D'Sylva-Lee, Vice-Chair
Purnima Hernandez
Larry Jones
Ellie Byra
David Tag/excused
Carolyn Hayer/excused
Gary Rubin/no show
Mary Kay Weber
Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez/excused
Maria Teresa Abinader/excused
Jennifer DeMauro
Donna Holden, Sign Language Interpreter
Richard Quinlan
Larry Quinlan
Terry White
Robin Sims
Cindy Bartman

DD Act Agencies Representatives

Michael Knox, Deputy Director, The Boggs Center
Sarah Mitchell, Executive Director, NJ Protection and Advocacy, Inc.

Government Agencies

Brian Fitzgibbons, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
William Ditto, Director, Division of Disability Services
Kenneth Ritchey, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Bonnie Teman, NJ Dept. of Health and Senior Services
Carol Kaufman, NJ Dept. of Education

Public Member

Frank Caragher, ARC of Union County

Staff

Alison M. Lozano, Ph.D., M.P.A., Executive Director
Doug McGruther, Deputy Director
Gail Furrer
Jacinta Williams
Pat Krupka
Sharian Mackins-Gist
Norman Reim
Dennis Rizzo
Dennie Todd
Jane Dunham
Gail Hodges
Frank Latham