



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

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 2009

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday September 24, 2009, at the Lafayette Marriott Hotel in Trenton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair, who presided and quoted the Mission and Vision Statements of the Council.

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 the July 30, 2009 meeting need to be amended and then redistributed during the December meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum
None at this time.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Executive Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum

The Executive Committee met on August 26, 2009. Two interesting Mini-grant applications were reviewed. Members had several questions about details of activities, fiscal matters and interaction with other projects going on statewide. Council staff followed up on these questions and ultimately the projects were accepted for funding. The two projects deal with religious supports for individuals with developmental disabilities, and hands on learning experience for women in the area of health issues. Executive Committee members gave input on the Fiscal Report of Council activities and suggested information and format that would make these reports even more pertinent to our understanding. The more detailed fiscal review by Executive Committee members was a recommendation that resulted from Council Retreat in March '09. The first steps were taken to garner input from the Executive Committee in the Annual Review of the Executive Director. A preliminary discussion was held concerning a Council Self Evaluation that will take place in the near future. The Executive Committee will approve such an evaluation before it is distributed.

Council Chair Report – Elaine Buchsbaum

The Developmental Disabilities Coalition, established just one year ago, held its first meeting since the summer break, in early September. Liz Shea, of the Arc of New Jersey facilitated a review of our first year activities and it was felt that the Coalition did well during its first “learning” year. We appreciated the opportunity to look back at our activities, learn from them, and decide how to proceed in year two. The Coalition decided that we should “step back” in terms of goals and choose one goal for the coming year, that goal being “NO CUTS”. The rationale for this choice is based on the dire budgetary situation this year, and the choice of only one goal was to help the Coalition use year two to increase our public image through a non-complicated message. The Annual Conference of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities will be held October 28-30 in New Mexico. A few staff and Council members will be attending and will report on the Conference at the next Council meeting.

State Plan Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum

The RFP for the participatory Action Research project has been released. Thus far there has been little response. This is the project which will provide data to support the new Council 5 Year Plan. The update on the current 5 Year Plan was submitted to the Federal government this past August.

Policy Committee

The committee met on September 1, 2009. It was decided to prepare a letter from the Council to state legislators regarding their recent budget decision to provide funds for only 62 people to transition out of developmental centers to the community. It was reported that the Boggs Center along with Linda Lewis-Day of DDD are developing a guide to DDD services for individuals and families. It will be a Question and Answer format and is expected to be ready for distribution later this year. In response to a request by the Public Policy Committee, the Education Subcommittee will prepare the text for a short Council guide for families. If approved by the Executive Committee, the publication will explain the right of parents to withhold consent for the use of restraints and seclusion with their children. It may also include information about related IDEA regulations about behavior challenges in schools.

Executive Director – Dr. Alison Lozano

The Executive Directors report was included in the meeting material and gives status updates on Council activities. However, a highlight from the report, this is the first year that the Fellowship Program in Inclusive Education is included in the Community Building Awards. The nomination book for the Community Building Awards is ready for the printer and will be available for distribution December 7, 2009. The Awards banquet will take place on April 15, 2010 at the Trenton Marriott.

Most Pressing Education Issues Facing People with Developmental Disabilities in 2009 –**Dr. Tracy Amerman, Department Chair of the Department of Special Education, NJ City University**

Dr. Amerman has over 20 years of experience in education, and has taught students with disabilities from elementary school age through college. She is currently the chairperson of the Department of Special Education at New Jersey City University. She has also been a consultant to the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Dr. Amerman currently serves on the State Special Education Advisory Council and sits on the advisory boards for the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education, the Newark Archdiocese Taskforce for Inclusive Education, and the program advisory board for the Uncommon Thread, an early intervention program for children on the autism spectrum. Discussion began with a PowerPoint presentation, *“What’s Happening in Special Education In New Jersey”*.

- Inclusion and capacity: Districts are requesting PD, technical assistance for new programs, expansion of programs and enhancing programs; emphasis on including students with more significant cognitive disabilities and/or challenging behaviors.
 - Research: The largest, longitudinal study shows that more time spent in a general education classroom was positively correlated with higher scores on standardized tests of reading and math, fewer absences from school, and fewer referrals for disruptive behavior.
- Transition to Post-Secondary Life: Advocacy (voice) and “Beyond the Classroom” activities.
 - Research: Supports the efficacy of student-focused planning and student-development interventions in improving transition.
- The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA): was approved but not funded and a letter was sent to Congress to request funds. Public comments on the higher education act provisions related to financial aid for students with intellectual disabilities was noted.
- Community Based Instruction (CBI): is designed for students that need systemic and regular instruction in functional and daily living skills. Structured learning experiences have students working towards a goal.

Most Pressing Education Issues Facing People with Developmental Disabilities in 2009 – cont'd.

- Structured Learning Experiences: has students working towards a goal.
- Personalized Student Learning Plans (PSLP): This is new and the pilot program begins 2009-2010 in 16 schools. Will be utilized for all 6th and 9th graders, and the same students will continue with the plans the following year. Data will be assessed for possible inclusion in high school requirements.
- Positive Behavior Supports: is a three tier intervention model. The State is developing regulations to guide types of behavioral interventions schools can use.
Research: is ongoing related to the effectiveness of the three-tier behavior intervention model. A new initiative in developing a Pre K model.

Following the presentation was a question and answer session. It was suggested to look for Community based transition programs for a productive grant. A comment was made regarding functional behavior assessments; a trigger mechanism is needed and is an important key in high school. The Department of Education is working on creating regulations for the behavior assessment. Dr. Amerman was thanked for her attendance and presentation.

Grantee Presentation:

Arts Unbound, Inc.: Retail Opportunity in the Visual Arts – Gail Levinson, Executive Director

The Council was thanked for their contribution and support of this project. Arts Unbound is an organization that was created by Kate Layson, who is an artist and teacher, who decided to do visual arts for people with disabilities. It also creates a meaningful vocational opportunities in the arts for people with a developmental disability. The focus is on a greeting card line. Arts Unbound promotes emerging and independent artists with disabilities. Artists receive a percentage of sale proceeds and the artwork is displayed throughout the State. A powerpoint presentation was shown displaying several different artworks. There was also a display of artwork available for purchase. Everyone was asked to visit the website www.artsunbound.org. Gail was thanked for her attendance and presentation.

OTHER

Disability Rights New Jersey has filed suit on behalf of the family of a resident of Hunterdon Developmental Center to obtain a copy of the records of the Developmental Center's investigation of an allegation of abuse. The Division is proposing to readopt the regulations that it cites to withhold access to these records. October 2 is the deadline for comments on this matter. **(highlighted from DRNJ handout)**

DDD is working with the Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS) to reduce the census of DD individuals in Mental Health Hospitals, with a focus on Ancora Psychiatric hospital. In FY09, 112 individuals moved from institutional settings to the community and thus far, in FY10, 25 individuals have moved from institutional settings to the community. A DDD qualified provider is defined as an agency, organization, or individual that has completed the qualification process through DDD to provide fee for service supports to participants self-directing their services based upon their Plans of Care. This includes in-home support as well. The process is much simpler than previous, the RFP can be found online and there is no deadline. **(highlighted from DDD handout)**

The Council was thanked for coordinating with The Boggs Center on "Making a Difference: A Symposium for Direct Support Professionals" held on September 8, 2009.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum

None at this time.

ADJOURNED – 2:00 p.m.

Upon motion, seconded and carried.

ATTENDANCE:

Self Advocates, Family Members

Elaine Buchsbaum	Gary Rubin
Todd Emmons	Walter Fernandez
Mary Kay Weber	Russell Fried
Myrta Rosa	Andrew McGeady
Purnima Hernandez	Christopher Miller
David Tag	Leah Ziskin
Larry Jones	Robin Sims
Ellie Byra	Hazeline Pilgrim
Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez, excused	

Guests

Larry Quinlan
Richard Quinlan
Lowell Arye
Liza Gundell
Jameela Parker
Alan Guenther, Public Advo. Office
Tom Baffuto
Tracy Amerman, NJCU

DD Act Agencies Representatives

Deborah Spitalnik, Ph.D., Executive Director, The Boggs Center
Joseph Young, Executive Director, Disability Rights New Jersey

Government Agencies

Joseph Amoroso, Division of Disability Services
Brian Fitzgibbons, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Kenneth Ritchey, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Carol Kaufman, Office of Special Education Programs

Public Member

Frank Caragher, The Arc of Union County

Council Staff

Dr. Alison Lozano, Executive Director	Jane Dunhamn
Douglas McGruther, Deputy Director	Frank Latham
Jacinta Williams	Norman Reim
Dennie Todd	Pat Krupka, absent
Dennis Rizzo	Sharian Mackins-Gist
Gail Furrer	Sue Gottesman
Gail Hodges	Barbara Lee