



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

COUNCIL MEETING
September 25, 2008

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday September 25, 2008, 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 July 24, 2008 were reviewed. There was no quorum during the morning session so members were asked to note any corrections and send them to Jacinta Williams, Council Staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum

Christopher Miller commented how he became involved in the Council by participating in a political convention. Why wasn't there a convention this year? The Chair will inquire about the convention and get back to Chris.

Tom Baffuto thanked the Council for supporting the 25th Annual Self Advocates Conference that was held on Saturday September 20, 2008.

Lowell Arye commented that as of a couple of weeks ago, the Department of Health and Senior Services is not proposing a federal part C. There is still come concern with the budget regarding this matter.

Mary Keubler communicated through Dennie Todd, Council Staff, and read a letter from her support assistant regarding the difficult time they have when requesting services. The Chair will address the situation after today's meeting.

COUNCIL BUDGET

The Council Budget was presented. The fiscal year will begin again on October 1, 2008. There were no questions at this time.

VOTING

During today's meeting the members will be asked to vote for a Council Vice-Chair and Two At Large Members. The nominations are as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Vice-Chair: | Lorraine D'Sylva-Lee | 10 yes and 1 abstention |
| 2 At Large: | Purnima Hernandez and David Tag | 10 yes and 1 abstention
9 yes, 1 no and 1 abstention |

COUNCIL STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director – Dr. Alison Lozano

The 5-Year revised plan was submitted and accepted. There is a new CEO of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities and his name is Michael Brogioli. The next Council Retreat will be held on March 26 and 27, 2009. Seven self advocates were sponsored and attended the SABE conference. The audit of the Council has been complete and within the next month a report will be submitted.

Communications – Norman Reim

Over the past fiscal year we published 4 issues of People and Families Magazine and the monthly issues of The Council Newsletter (formerly the Monday Morning Newsletter). In the fall of 2007 we participated in a public awareness effort about the ballot question calling for language change to the State Constitution, removing the words “idiot” and “insane” used in describing voting regulations. The Council also worked with The Arc of New Jersey to produce and distribute lawn signs informing the public about the ballot question. During the early 2008 legislative session, the Council held a press conference to inform members of the legislature and the public about new education proposals. Finally, over the spring and summer RFP’s were issued for an awareness campaign. An announcement was placed in the New Jersey Register and sent out to vendors statewide.

Youth Leadership Project/Youth Active for Change, YAC – Frank Latham

The youth leadership project held its first meeting on August the 15th. The meeting was comprised of members of the Youth Active for Change group. This was to ensure that those members who wanted to take part in the reorganized group were given every opportunity to play an active role as the group moves forward. The plan for the coming year is to develop the curriculum on leadership that is a reflection of the issue and concerns the advocates have, and to build the leadership program on those issues. Outreach to increase the programs participation and visibility and will be done on a bi-monthly basis with schools, and community colleges that offer programs for students with developmental and intellectual disabilities as a focal point, as well as attending community events that may appeal to the potential young leader, we are looking to attract.

Monday Morning Network – Frank Latham

The Monday Morning Network has continued to function, many of the groups that have been active have continued to hold meetings and provide education and training throughout our transition to a new coordinator.

Partners In Policymaking PIP – Dennie Todd

The program provides information and training for participants to help develop and build on their advocacy skills needed to obtain appropriate services for themselves and family members. Participants are recruited by the coordinator to complete the 8 month training. Each session is devoted to specific topics with known experts in the field of developmental disabilities as presenters. The Council has invested in over 250 PIP graduates. Our present class is scheduled to graduate on Sunday November 16, 2008. All Council Members will be receiving an invitation to join us in the celebration.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION. Seconded and approved.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION. Seconded and approved.

COUNCIL STAFF REPORTS cont.Funded Grants – Dennis Rizzo

A six page progress report was distributed of the 22 Council funded projects for review. The Chair asked for volunteers along with staff to visit funded projects for updates.

Family Support – Tasha Jones

The Family Support program has continued to make progress during the last year. Recruitment for the coordinator position continues. A candidate has been submitted to the department the lengthy hiring process continues. All local councils have met on a regular basis. The Statewide Council has also met regularly.

Men's and Woman's Health Care Task Force – Pat KrupkaMen

The main activity in FY 2008 was the second "Men with Disabilities Health Conference", which was held on June 14, 2008 during National Men's Health Week. The task force planned the topics for the keynote and sessions, gave suggestions for speakers and exhibitors, helped design the brochure, and assisted in outreach & publicity. The task force may open membership to new volunteers with developmental disabilities, and then meet during the fall of 2008 to discuss priorities and activities for the new federal fiscal year.

Woman

This committee was chaired for six years by Council member Holly Wetscher until her resignation from the Council on March 1, 2008. An issue of *Health Access* newsletter was published and mailed to a subscription list of approximately 1,000 women in New Jersey. Additional copies were distributed at events such as the Caregiver's retreat. Planning for FY 09 is pending the Council Executive Committee's redefining membership on task forces and sub-committees, and the need to recruit a new chair.

Emergency Preparedness/Advancing Diversity/Agency Brand Development – Jane Dunham

In 2008, the Council provided direction for an emergency preparedness training program. The target audience is individuals with developmental disabilities who live in group homes and/or supervised apartments. In summary, provider agencies that utilize the emergency preparedness training and resources can ensure that individuals are creating an emergency response plan that will enhance their safety.

Diversity fosters the ideology that promoted the coexistence of different cultures. It is important to become diverse throughout the organization at all levels. The Council has hired a spanish interpreter for Council printed materials, website and telephone assistance. There was vendor participation at the Black Issues Convention. The next step is to develop alliances with at least three organizations with diverse memberships to work jointly on developmental disabilities issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTSEducation Task Force – Lorraine D'Sylva-Lee

The first meeting being chaired by Lorraine D'Sylva-Lee was held on September 16, 2008. During that meeting there was discussion on the review process of the Fellowship Program in Inclusive Education. A letter was sent to the Director of the Department of Education requesting a presentation on their activities around disproportion in the education system. There was also discussion on transitioning.

Policy Committee – Joe Young

The litigation issue concerning the wording of "disability" within the ADA Amendment was narrowed to such a degree that most cases became more about whether a person met the definition of disability, rather than focusing on access or accommodation. The ADA Amendment will make necessary changes and Congress is expected to pass the amendment act.

Executive Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum

The Executive Committee will complete work on changes in the committee structure and By-Laws. Some committee changes are that Carolyn Hayer has resigned as Chair of the Public Policy Committee and Ellie Byra has been appointed to fill that position which will leave the Planning Committee Chair vacant. Lorraine D’Sylva-Lee has been appointed Chair of the Education Task Force because Jennifer DeMauro has resigned from the Council. The State Plan was submitted in August 2008. The NACDD will be hosting their annual conference in Milwaukee. David Tag and Frank Caragher were asked to Chair the Membership Committee. Legislation will resume in early October and at that time names of new members will be announced.

DDD INITIATIVE – Lee Burkey for Assistant Commissioner Kenneth Ritchey

The Department of Developmental Disabilities provided an update on services being provided. They are working towards assisting individuals with moving into the community and rebalancing some services to reduce redundancy.

ADJOURNED – 1:46 p.m.

Upon motion, seconded and carried.

ATTENDANCE:

Self Advocates, Family Members & Guests

Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair

Lorraine D’Sylva-Lee, Vice-Chair

Purnima Hernandez/excused

Larry Jones

Ellie Byra

David Tag

Carolyn Hayer/excused

Gary Rubin

Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez/excused

Jennifer DeMauro/no show

Donna Holden, Sign Language Interpreter

Kysee Bartee

Christopher Miller

Richard Quinlan

Larry Quinlan

Lowell Arye

Eric Joice

Tom Baffuto

Cindy Bartman

Mary Keubler

Michael Kennedy, DAG

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

Joseph Amoroso, Division of Disability Services

Lee Berkey, Division of Developmental Disabilities

Bonnie Teman, NJ Dept. of Health and Senior Services

Carol Kaufman, NJ Department of Education

Brian Fitzgibbons, Acting Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Public Member

Frank Caragher, ARC of Union County - Teleconference

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

Sharian Mackins-Gist