



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

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES **January 28, 2010**

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday January 28, 2010, at the Trenton Lafayette Marriott Hotel in Trenton, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m. by Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair, who presided and read the Open Public Meeting Act and Council Vision Statement.

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 December 3, 2009 meeting were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented – upon motion and seconded. The motion was approved with two (2) abstentions.

NEW MEMBERS – Elaine Buchsbaum

The Council has one new member:

- Betsy Smith, Self Advocate

Everyone welcomed and introduced themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Today is Myrta Rosa's birthday and on February 2, 2010 she is going to go look at a new apartment.

Congratulations to Brian Fitzgibbons on being promoted to Director for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

David Tag is finishing his internship with Congressman Andrew's office.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum

None at this time.

Most Pressing Housing Issues Facing People with Developmental Disabilities in 2009 –

This morning we were to have a speaker to discuss housing issues, Ed Murphy, Executive Director, Supported Housing Association of New Jersey but were unable to attend due to the snow. It was then decided to discuss what areas need support and the best way to handle. One recommendation was to introduce the Council to the Housing Development Committee. Another issue to discuss is the continued lack of accessible housing. There was a recommendation to look into other funding sources for the next state plan and redo the outcomes. To step away from the federal funding because the money that is provided dictates where someone would live which leave no choice in accessible housing. It was also suggested to attend a Builders Association meeting in order to give input on housing issues for those with developmental disabilities. Everyone was thanked for their input on the discussion. Some of the issues will be discussed in the Policy Committee.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Executive Director – Dr. Alison Lozano

The Executive Directors report was included in the meeting material and gives status updates on Council activities. However, a couple of highlights from the report:

The Monday Morning Facilitator Retreat will be held at the new Giants Stadium at the Meadowlands on April 15, 2010. The group was invited to tour the new facility for accessibility.

The Council Member Self Evaluation results will be available during the Council Retreat in March.

Executive Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on February 24, 2010 at the Trenton Lafayette Marriott at 6pm. Executive Committee members will be given today copies of mini-grants to consider for funding. Please read these as soon as possible and give us your vote by e-mail. If there are any concerns or questions, we can schedule a teleconference to discuss these.

Council Chair Report – Elaine Buchsbaum

Larry Jones, Esq., resigned from the Council earlier this month. Larry was appointed as a Superior Court Judge by the outgoing Governor. We wish Larry well in his new endeavor and thank him for his hard work as a member of the Council. Betsy Smith was appointed to the Council earlier this month by the outgoing Governor. We are excited to have another self-advocate join us and we look forward to working with Betsy on upcoming matters. Hazeline Pilgrim has graciously agreed to become Chairperson of the State Plan Committee. She has previous planning experience and we look forward to her leadership in this area. This appointment results in her becoming a member of the Executive Committee. We welcome her input in both of these areas.

There is an opportunity to visit two of the grants sites:

February 5, 2010 Grant ~ Emergency Preparedness Training at the Spectrum in Edison at 10am.

Attending: Elaine Buchsbaum, Purnima Hernandez, Robin Sims and Douglas McGruther

February 18, 2010 Grant ~ Quality Indicators at the Wilentz School in Perth Amboy at 9:15am.

Attending: Elaine Buchsbaum

If anyone is interested in joining please contact Jacinta Williams. A staff person will be accompanying Council members on each visit.

The Community Building Awards Luncheon will be held on April 15, 2010 at the Trenton Lafayette Marriott. Nomination forms are available here today. Please consider submitting nominations for these awards, and tell your friends to get their forms in ASAP. Deadline is February 8, 2010

State Plan Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum

The committee is receiving materials today to develop the targeted outcomes for this year's Notice of Funds Available (NOFA). The NOFA will be announced in early January. This year we have only three outcomes that have not been addressed during the current 5-year plan period. One is under Health and two are under Transportation. The committee will also discuss whether to seek new projects under any other outcomes and how to provide opportunity to build data for the upcoming 5-Year Plan process.

Policy Committee

The Committee discussed and approved a final draft of a supplement to our current position on the use of restrictive practices. There are no current regulations in the State of NJ recommending that restraints aren't used. The proposal will now go before the full Council for consideration. The 11 recommendations call for *adopting the supplement to the position on protecting the rights and ensuring the safety of children and adults with a developmental disability who receive state-funded or state-regulated services through DHS, DOE, or other state regulated providers.* It was suggested to vote on the recommendations except for #11 because it sounds like a request for funds. This statement is being supplemented to be included in the current as a piece of the advocacy work being done. During the discussion, it was suggested to refine the position already in place then, once approved, both statements will be combined.

Motion

A motion was made to table the supplement statement, send it back to the Committee to combine it with the current statement. Motion seconded and open for discussion.

Discussion

It was urged to defeat the motion to table the supplement statement and make a vote. Motion was seconded and carried. 7 voted Yes to table vote and 10 voted No to table vote.

Motion

A motion was made to accept recommendations #1 – #10 and specifically not recommend #11, to adopt this document along with already adopted position. Motion seconded and open for discussion.

Discussion

It was suggested that by not voting on recommendation #11, the support needed might not be available. It was concluded that recommendation #11 can be voted on by itself. 14 voted Yes to approve recommendations #1 - #10, 1 voted No to approving recommendations #1 - #10 and there were 2 abstentions.

Motion

A motion was made to accept recommendation #11. Motion seconded and carried. 12 voted yes to accepting recommendation #11, 2 voted no to accepting recommendation #11 and there were 3 abstentions.

OTHER

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services has four public forums scheduled for:

- March 16, 2010 at the Ewing Branch Library from 11am to 1pm
- March 22, 2010 at the Bergen Community College at the Meadowlands from 2pm to 4pm
- March 25, 2010 at the Gloucester County Adult Center from 11am to 1pm
- March 31, 2010 at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters from 11am to 1pm

Please contact Maryann Tiesler at (609) 984-0793 and by TTY (609) 292-2919.

The Boggs Center Consumer Advisory Council met on December 16, 2009. The meeting reported on the Direct Support Career Path Project funded by the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities and other updates. The Spring 2010 Development Disabilities Lecture Series sessions are now available. Registration will be on the website in February. The Boggs Center continues to support Discover Ability. The Alliance for full participation meeting was held 2 weeks ago to increase employment for the disabled.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities reported that under the Olmstead Initiative, 44 people were assisted in their transition to the community from institutions between June 2009 – January 12, 2010 totaling 275 over 2.5 year period. Under the Information and Referral Project, 4,023 consumers were transferred to the DDS' Office of Information and Assistance Services which began in late July 2009.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum

Deb Charette, Autism New Jersey, commented on housing which was the topic for discussion. She would like to include highly *specialized support needs*; i.e., behavioral, communications, and social in conjunction with *innovative housing options*. Adults with autism as well as other disabilities need access to non-traditional housing; i.e., apartments, condos, and private homes which would allow for accommodating their highly specialized support needs. Additionally they need access to appropriate levels of \$\$\$ in line with specialized support needs. Additionally I recommend the consideration of Tax-Credits for builders for retro-fit construction, Farmstead (Project O.A.S.I.S. out of Middletown which was an off-shoot project from I.M.P.A.C.T. of Middletown), as well as Donated Homes (The need for DDD to work with many families who are currently expressing a strong interest in this consideration. DDD needs to commit to long-term support \$\$\$\$. DDD needs to work closely with NJHMFA so families can access the SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST FUND.) There needs to be a continuum of options in housing as there is with education, employment, and etc. Various excerpts of my public statement can be cited through “Autism New Jersey’s “**Meeting the Needs of Adults with Autism: A BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE**”

PUBLIC COMMENT – cont'

Andrew McGeady, Council member, invited all members to the Faith and Light Ministry, which is geared toward people with various disabilities, who may not be able to understand a more formal, structured worship service. It is in cooperation with the Elizabeth M. Boggs Center. It is non-denominational. Please spread the word about this exciting venture and share with those who might benefit.

The worship services will be held on the first Saturday of each month beginning on Saturday March, 6th 2010 from 6:00-8:00 pm. The location is:

Hope Lutheran Church
211 Elton-Adelphia Road
Freehold, NJ 07728

The contact person is Joanne Van Sant
phone 732-235-9300
email vansantjo@umdnj.org

For more information about the Faith and Light Ministry, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.foietlumiere.org/site/english/>
<http://www.foietlumiere.org/site/english/136.html>

ADJOURNED – 12:40 p.m.

Upon motion, seconded and carried.

ATTENDANCE:

Self Advocates, Family Members

Elaine Buchsbaum
Todd Emmons
Mary Kay Weber
Myrta Rosa
Purnima Hernandez/excused
David Tag
Betsy Smith
Ellie Byra/excused
Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez/ absent

Gary Rubin/absent
Walter Fernandez
Russell Fried
Andrew McGeady
Christopher Miller
Leah Ziskin
Robin Sims/excused
Hazeline Pilgrim

Guests

Larry Quinlan
Richard Quinlan
Cailin Kehoe
Nancy Snyder
Jameela Parker, Public Adv.
Jay Hershberg
Tom Baffuto, The Arc of NJ
Bob Titus, Autism NJ
Deb Charette, Autism NJ

DD Act Agencies Representatives

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

Government Agencies

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

Public Member

Frank Caragher, The Arc of Union County

Council Staff

Dr. Alison Lozano, Executive Director
Douglas McGruther, Deputy Director
Jacinta Williams
Dennie Todd
Dennis Rizzo

Jane Dunham
Frank Latham
Norman Reim
Sharian Mackins-Gist
Sue Gottesman

Gail Furrer/absent
Barbara Lee
Bonnie Brien