



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

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES** **May 28, 2009**

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday May 28, 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.

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 March 20, 2009 meeting were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented – upon motion and seconded. The motion was approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Elaine Buchsbaum

Larry Quinlan, a member of the public, introduced himself and his brother Richard. Larry has attended most Council meetings ever since his brother Richard has been registered with the Division of Developmental Disabilities. He was on the website recently and didn't see the public meeting notice and wasn't sure if the meeting was being held today. He also shared with the members his view on the closing of the developmental centers.

### **Disproportionality in Special Education – Roberta Wohle, Director, Office of Special Education Programs**

The Education Subcommittee has requested a presentation on disproportionality. Director Wohle was present and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation about the representation of children from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds in special education. New Jersey's approach was to collaborate with New York Office for Civil Rights, Northeast Regional Resource Center, New York University Equity Assistance Center as well as local districts to identify the process. The Federal Monitoring Priority states that a percent of districts with disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services that is the result of inappropriate identification for State Performance Plan – Indicator 9 and 10. Data is collected of students with educational difficulties so that the State can report baseline data. The goal is that every state report 0% disproportionate due to inappropriate identification. The process for targeting districts is ranked based on data from three descriptive measures:

- Risk Ratio
- Comparison of Risk Rates
- Measure of Impact, how many students are affected.

In New Jersey every district must complete a Self-Assessment for compliance and continuous improvement in order to report baseline data. The progress is improving in some districts and for those with significant disproportionality; the progress will hopefully show in the end. Director Wohle was thanked for attending and the informative presentation.

## **Most Pressing Health Issues Facing People with Developmental Disabilities in 2009 –**

### **Dr. Ted Kastner, Developmental Disabilities Health Alliance**

Dr. Kastner discussed managed care as it is an issue that is being discussed nationally. It was also discussed how managed care issues are very important to the Council to look at. The contract that the State develops has to provide case management among other things. It was suggested to ensure that representatives of medicaid are present during meetings to gain a better understanding. The need for support to gain services will be taken back to the Planning Committee for recommendation into the State Plan. During the presentation there was a question and answer session for members.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### Executive Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum

New family members have been appointed to the Council: Robin Sims and Hazeline Pilgrim. The Senate Judiciary Committee approved the appointments last week. Welcome to both Robin and Hazeline. The Chair attended the Disability Policy Meeting in Washington D.C. at the end of April. It was two days full of seminars, reports and meetings, followed by a day on Capitol Hill with visits to the offices of Senator Menendez, Senator Lautenberg, and Congressmen Pallone, Holt, Smith, and Andrews. David Tag, Sue Gottesman and Alison Lozano also attended the meeting and participated in the Hill visits. Much attention was given to the new Presidential administration and their agenda. First to be dealt with will be Healthcare. On our Hill visits we stressed that healthcare coverage cannot only refer to primary immediate care but also needs to cover long term care as well.

The Executive Committee met on Wednesday, April 22, 2009. We had a recap of the Retreat held in March. All members felt the Retreat was highly successful. The Executive Committee reviewed the plan to discuss each of the Council Objectives outlined in our State Plan over the coming year. At each Council meeting, a discussion period will be set aside for a particular objective. The goal is to ascertain that Council will have an opportunity to discuss and review each objective in an equal fashion, thus providing a complete overview of our needs and activities. We will highlight grantees activities in each area, staff activities in each area, and consider what else we might be doing in each objective area.

### Executive Director – Dr. Alison Lozano

Over the past two months we have had three world wide café gatherings. These gatherings are part of the outreach project we have with Brenda and Rick Considine and Jaffe Communications. In all of these organized conversations, state and local elected officials had the opportunity to listen to and discuss issues of importance to people with developmental disabilities and their families with the very people whose lives are impacted. Also in attendance were individuals who work in public and private non profit organizations who work with people with developmental disabilities. The first was at Rockin' Joe Coffeehouse in Caldwell. The second one was at the Rockin Joe Café in Kendall Park and the third one was at the Treehouse Café in Audubon. All three gatherings were very well attended by community advocates, self advocates and several local and state officials. We had a rich conversation that focused on issues related to people with developmental disabilities living in, and being part of the community. On April 9<sup>th</sup> we had the first annual DD Council Awards Banquet. It was a huge success, with over 100 people present. The luncheon speakers were from People First of Canada. It was a very moving event that showcased many people who have made a huge impact on the lives of people with developmental disabilities in New Jersey. April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> was the first PIP session for this year. The Selection Committee invited 32 people to join this year's group and 28 people accepted. For the first session Dina Levy of New York presented on Community Organizing. Dr. Colleen Wieck, who developed the PIP program, presented the history of developmental disabilities. On May 13<sup>th</sup> several Council members and staff attended a workshop entitled "Lifesharing as an Alternative Housing Model." The Council was one of the sponsors of this workshop that was organized by the Boggs Center and the Division of Developmental Disabilities. We learned about two successful Lifesharing programs that are working for individuals in Pennsylvania and New York.

Planning Committee

The planning process was discussed to determine where any accomplishments were made. The State Plan is due in 2011. The next committee meeting will be held in July.

Grants Committee

This year the process will be segmented for funding. There were 6 training sessions for the Letters Of Interest. 19 Letters Of Interest are up for full proposal. During the July meeting it will be determined which will be funded.

Policy Committee

The Committee prepared a revised Council position on deinstitutionalization that the Council adopted at the March meeting. The revised position is now on our website. The Committee plans on meeting in June to discuss additional material on this issue, such as the type of residential settings where people in other states who receive DD services live and how other states have designed and implemented the closure of large institutions. The Committee also plans to review and discuss recent national reports on restraints and seclusion. Council members supported the idea of having the Committee review all policy positions on a regular basis so that they remain current. The Committee also follows legislative developments and reported that a bill to facilitate voting by mail has passed both houses and is with the Governor. Additionally, legislation to require health insurance coverage of certain therapies for autism passed in the Assembly and a bill to protect people with developmental disabilities from exploitation by trustees or executors of wills passed in the Senate.

**OTHER**

The 2009 Resource Guide was distributed from the Division of Disability Services.

On May 13<sup>th</sup> the Boggs Center sponsored a conference entitled “Lifesharing as an Alternative Housing Model.” at the Division of Developmental Disabilities office in Hamilton. Several Council members and staff attended the workshop.

The Division of Developmental Disabilities has been conducting workshops titled “Medicaid 101”. Good feedback is resulting from this throughout the State. Beginning with Morris County, a Family Planning Forum will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> to introduce families to providers. This will be held county wide. Substantial changes will be made due to staff retiring and not being able to hire the Waiting List letter will be distributed again.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Elaine Buchsbaum

None at this time

**ADJOURNED** – 2:21 p.m.

Upon motion, seconded and carried.

## **ATTENDANCE:**

### **Self Advocates, Family Members**

Elaine Buchsbaum, Chair  
Todd Emmons  
Mary Kay Weber  
Myrta Rosa  
Purnima Hernandez  
David Tag  
Larry Jones, excused  
Ellie Byra  
Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez, excused

Leah Ziskin  
Christopher Miller  
Andrew McGeady  
Russell Fried  
Walter Fernandez, excused  
Gary Rubin, excused

### **Guests**

Larry Quinlan  
Richard Quinlan  
Jennifer Russoniello  
Tom Baffuto, Arc NJ  
Paula Lieb, NJCIE  
Orah Raia  
Peg Kinsell

### **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, Director, Division of Disability Services  
Brian Fitzgibbons, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services  
Kenneth Ritchey, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Developmental Disabilities  
Pauline Lisciotto, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services  
Carol Kaufman, NJ Department of Education/Office of Special Education Programs

### **Public Member**

Frank Caragher, The Arc of Union County

### **Sign Language Interpreter**

Donna Holden

### **Education Award Recipients**

Megan McLeod  
Linda Gaita  
Lisa Steiger  
Pam McGroarty  
George Needham  
David Wilson  
Beth Wilson

### **Council Staff**

Dr. Alison M. Lozano, Executive Director  
Doug McGruther, Deputy Director  
Gail Furrer  
Jacinta Williams  
Sharian Mackins-Gist

Dennie Todd  
Dennis Rizzo  
Frank Latham  
Norman Reim

Jane Dunhamm  
Barbara Lee  
Sue Gottesman  
Pat Krupka