



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

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES **December 3, 2009**

A regular public meeting of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Thursday December 3, 2009, 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 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 revised minutes from the July 30, 2009 meeting and September 24, 2009 meeting were submitted for review and approval. A motion was made to accept the revised July minutes. Motion seconded and approved. A motion was made to accept the September minutes. Motion seconded and approved with one abstention.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum
None at this time.

Most Pressing Employment Issues Facing People with Developmental Disabilities in 2009 – Kathy Krepcio, Executive Director, John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University

Kathy Krepcio is the Executive Director of the center, responsible for management and day-to-day oversight of administration, research, technical assistance, client service and project operations. In addition to her responsibilities as Executive Director, she leads the Center's disability and employment work and currently services as the Project Director of the National Technical Assistance and Research Leadership Center to promote employment and economic independence for adults with disabilities (NTAR Leadership Center). The NTAR is a new workforce consortium sponsored by the US Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy and based at the Heldrich Center. The Center's mission is to build capacity and leadership at the federal, state and local levels to enable change across workforce development and disability-specific systems that will increase employment for adults with disabilities. There was a powerpoint presentation identifying the employment situation, the national systems change efforts, and the steps to take to emerging trends and practices. Following the presentation, Kathy was asked what recommendations she may have for the Council to consider when reviewing grant requests. Those recommendations are:

- to ensure the opportunity to elevate to make sure people with developmental disabilities are included;
- to ensure the resources already out there are engaged in activities to tell people about these services;
- reaching out and soliciting employment by sending the message that work is work;
- project search models – what's wrong with replicating;
- continue to build partnerships with other agencies; and,
- capture the lesson learned.

Ms. Krepcio was thanked for her attendance and presentation.

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 highlight from the report:

The Community Building Awards nomination book will be distributed December 8, 2009. The Awards Banquet will be Thursday, April 15, 2009 at the Trenton Marriott.

Executive Committee – Elaine Buchsbaum

The matter of a Council statement on the Governor's recent announcement of the establishment of an Office on Autism was brought to the Executive Committee by the Chair of the Public Policy Committee after consultation with Council Chair. The Executive Committee decided that Ellie Byra, as Chair of the Public Policy Committee, Elaine Buchsbaum, as Council Chair, and Sue Gottesman, Coordinator of Public Policy, should jointly write the statement. Copies of the statement have been included in your packet. This is not a Policy but simply a statement from the Council about the establishment of the Office. The statement was discussed further.

The Council Retreat will be held on March 25th and 26th at the Wyndham Hotel and conference center in Plainsboro. More information will follow as the committee makes final decisions on topics and speakers. It was suggested to have all the presentations from our objective reviews are included in the agenda for the Council Retreat summarizing each.

A Council member Self-Evaluation was discussed by the Executive Committee. Copies of the Self-Evaluation form for all Council members were sent by mail. Please hand in these completed forms before you leave the meeting this afternoon. If anyone needs help in completing the form there will be time left at the end of the day for this purpose and staff will be happy to assist.

There were two mini grant requests reviewed with the following actions:

- **Testing In-House DD Supports in a Women's Shelter (Partners) - Assoc. of Children and Families:**
Development and testing of a training protocol and manual which provides strategies, materials, and lessons for on-going training of shelter staff in assisting families with a member with developmental disabilities. Partnership with the West Milford shelter as a lead for bringing the training to other shelters statewide.
Approved - \$4,000.
- **Inclusive Education Student Poster Contest – New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education:**
From December 2009 (Inclusive Schools Week) through June 2010 (NJCIE's annual Summer Inclusion Conference), sponsor a poster contest for students in New Jersey's public schools with the theme Inclusive Schools, Inclusive Lives. This will be an annual activity for NJCIE which schools will come to expect. The contest will be open to entries from all children in Grades 2 through 12, as well as providing a category for teams of students with and without disabilities to create a poster together. Winning posters will be chosen, in May, 2010 from those submitted. The winners will be announced at NJCIE's Summer Inclusion Conference at Georgian Court University on June 30, 2010.
Approved - \$875.

Reports on two recent SABE meetings were submitted for review.

It was decided to give Council members an opportunity to contribute to a Sunshine Fund for contributions to gift baskets or flowers in times of need. Staff already has such a fund. Notices about this have been sent out to Council member over the past month. A suggested amount of \$30/year was mentioned. Any smaller amount would be appreciated as well. Of course, we understand if you are not able to contribute. Please see Jacinta if you brought money with you today, otherwise you may arrange with her to make a donation in the future.

Council Chair Report – Elaine Buchsbaum

Since we last met there have been some unhappy occurrences among our Council family. Pat Krupka was involved in an automobile accident over a month ago and she was hospitalized for some time and then went into rehab. Pat has worked hard for the Council in a number of areas, most recently supporting us while we amended our By-Laws. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her as she recovers. Former Council member and Self-Advocate Holly Weschler passed away last month. She was a strong self-advocate who worked very hard for the Council for a number of years. She was also a member of the Executive Committee. Finally, just last week, Conor Babula, son of former Council Chair, Maureen Babula, passed away unexpectedly. You all received an e-mail sent out this past Monday with particulars about the viewing and funeral details. Information about donations and a home address for sending cards were sent to all Council members as well.

The Department of Human Services Budget Hearings for the 2011 Budget is in progress. On Monday morning, Alison, Doug, Sue, Chris Miller and I attended the hearings held at the DDD headquarters in Hamilton Square; I gave testimony on behalf of the Council. This is a difficult time given the budget crisis and the transition in State Government.

The Executive Director's Performance Assessment has been completed for this past year. It was conducted by the Chair, with input from the Executive Committee, in accordance with the Council's By-Laws.

The National Conference of the NACDD, our parent organization, was held in Albuquerque New Mexico on October 28-30th. Council members Mary Kay Weber, Ellie Byra and Elaine Buchsbaum attended, along with Alison Lozano and Douglas McGruther. The workshops were of high quality and the keynote, Julie Petty, was inspirational. Julie Petty will be keynoting at our Monday Morning conference on Saturday December 12th here at the Trenton Marriott.

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. A teleconference is planned for December 7th or 8th. Dennis will check with each member to arrive at a workable date and time.

Policy Committee

The Committee continued its discussion about sharing our research and other resources and information with legislators. The goal of this project is to educate the Legislature and the community about the reasons for the Council's recently adopted policy on reducing NJ's reliance on developmental centers for service delivery.

The Committee reviewed a copy of the letter that Council sent to state legislators as recommended by the Committee. The letter concerned the recent budget decision to provide funds for only 62 people to transition from developmental centers to the community in the 2010 fiscal year.

DDD developed the Path to Progress Plan as directed by the Governor and Legislature in P.L. 2006, c.61. This law required DDD to develop a written plan outlining how it will provide all people meeting the statutory criteria meaningful opportunities to transition successfully to the community by 2015. Most Committee members felt that the letter only recited specific numbers to illustrate for the legislators the shortfall between state FY 2010 funding of 62 transitions and the transition goal of 250 people set forth in the Path to Progress Plan.

The Committee discussed the latest draft of a supplement to our current position on the use of restrictive practices. Michael Knox shared language suggested by Dan Baker of the Boggs Center to provide additional protections from practices associated with death and injury. Several were approved by the Committee. The latest Committee comments will be incorporated and circulated for a final review by the members.

Grantee Presentation:

Update on Awareness Campaign: “Just Say Something” – Brenda Considine and Jonathan Jaffe

In October of 2008, the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities launched an 18-month, statewide effort to bring issues that matter to people with developmental disabilities into the public discourse. The Council solicited bids and retained the services of two public affairs firms in New Jersey – Jaffe Communications, Inc. of Westfield and Considine Communication Strategies of Hopewell – to launch a two-phased action plan over the 18-month period. Both firms have a strong background working with people with developmental disabilities in New Jersey. The effort began with the collection of baseline data to gather impressions about how people with developmental disabilities are perceived by others, as represented in the mainstream media, advertising, and entertainment.

Phase I Activities was to establish a media monitoring capability to track news reporting on people with developmental disabilities. In particular, the project consultants were looking to identify trends, positive or otherwise, in the type of reporting on people with developmental disabilities, and the language used to describe disability conditions. Working with Council staff, the consulting team developed a custom survey with questions that polled the opinions of constituents in November and December of 2008. Questions were designed to determine opinions about community integration and public perception of people with DD. Survey data was gathered mostly through an online polling system that consultants developed, and when necessary, by phone. Based on the information gathered, the team developed a curriculum for three “Community Conversations” held in the spring of 2009. The team intentionally selected coffeehouses in three locations in New Jersey to encourage casual, yet meaningful conversations between people with DD, the media and key decision makers in NJ; and to engage local businesses in the discussion. That gave the team the time to invite every mayor, county freeholder, and member of the State Legislature to attend. High profile lawmakers, including Assembly Budget Chairman Louis Greenwald and incoming Senate President Shelia Oliver, attended, along with local mayors, freeholders, and council leaders.

Phase II The ideas reaffirmed and generated by the survey and the community conversations meshed well with the second phase of the program, which is titled “Just Say Something” campaign. This public awareness campaign, the second phase of this project, educates, informs, and empowers people with disabilities and their families to engage in public discussions about the issues that matter most to them.

The overall campaign has served as an intensive tool for educating the public about the concerns, needs, and objectives of people with developmental disabilities, as well as one that will encourage greater public participation among this important demographic in New Jersey.

OTHER

The New Jersey Workforce Development Coalition and it’s Leadership Council are writing to ask the Council to support the continuation of the NJ Direct Support Program (DSP) to avoid interruption from January 1, 2010 through June 2010. This request is made with the assurance that as soon as DDD enters into a licensing agreement with the College of the Direct Support, or other funds are secured for statewide rollout, Council funds would no longer be utilized.

Action:

A motion was made to extend the license from January to July. Motion seconded and opened for discussion. It was agreed to keep the license active for those individuals already enrolled. Motion approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Elaine Buchsbaum

None at this time.

ADJOURNED – 2:37 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
Larry Jones
Ellie Byra
Mercedes Jimenez-Ramirez/ excused

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

Guests

Larry Quinlan
Richard Quinlan
Lastenia Monsenate, WDC
Nancy Snyder
Jameela Parker, Public Adv.
Cindy Bartman
Tom Baffuto

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
Pauline Lisciotta, Division of Family Health 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
Gail Furrer/absent
Gail Hodges/absent
Bonnie Brien

Jane Dunhamn
Frank Latham
Norman Reim
Pat Krupka/absent
Sharian Mackins-Gist
Sue Gottesman/absent
Barbara Lee