

MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 29, 2017

Oakland Mills Meeting House – Columbia, MD

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Guests</u>
JoEllen Barnhart	Carol Beatty	Faye Bell-Boulware	Haley Farrie
Damon Briggs	Sharon Dockery	Brian Cox	Jessie Herbert
Carmen Brown	David Schlegel	Rachel London	
Jamal Cannady	Kathy Hargett	Krista Mason	
Eric Cole		Teri Sparks	
Lisa Derx			
Bill DuSold			
George Flamer			
Marni Greenspoon			
Rosanne Hanratty			
Teresa Herbert			
Aaron Kaufman			
Amanda Lay			
Miguel Mercado			
Jed Miller			
Aileen O'Hare			
Rebecca Oliver			
Lynne Pattison			
Jill Pierce			
Julie Randall			
Ruth Shipps			
Bernie Simons			
Chris Smith			
Adam VanderHook			
Jeri Wasco			
Russell Young			

AGENDA

Eric Cole called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. by welcoming everyone.

Approval of Minutes

One correction was noted for the December minutes: Marni Greenspoon from DRM (not Virginia Knowlton Marcus) attended the meeting.

M/S/P to approve the December 8, 2016 minutes.

The canceled March 13th Council meeting resulted in a conference call that took place on March 29, 2017.

M/S/P to approve the March 29, 2017 minutes. Bill Dusold abstained.

Introduction of New Members – Aaron Kaufman, Chair, Membership Committee

Longstanding Council members introduced new Council members to welcome them.

Marni Greenspoon represents Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) where she is an attorney in the Developmental Disabilities Unit.

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Jed Miller represents the Maryland Department of Mental Health & Hygiene (DHMH) where he serves in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau as the Chief of Child and Adolescent Health in the Office for Family and Community Health Services and as the Acting Director of the Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs.

Miguel Mercado is a resident of Howard County and a father of two sons, one of whom has a disability. He is a retired Marines Counter Intelligent Officer and currently works in the Applied Physics Lab at Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH).

Jill Pierce, designee for Suzanne Page (Assistant State Superintendent), is the Staff Specialist for Transition and Supported Employment Services with the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). Throughout her education and career, Jill has focused on transitioning youth, most recently as a Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Specialist at DORS serving individuals with acquired brain injuries in Anne Arundel County.

Rebecca Oliver works in health and public policy at the Maryland Department of Mental Health & Hygiene (DHMH) where she is responsible for the Balancing Incentive Program and implementing the Federal Community Settings rule.

Haley Farrie, an intern at Kennedy Krieger Institute (KKI), was also present and introduced herself.

Introduction of New Staff – Brian Cox

Krista Mason, the Council's new Director of Communications and Information Management, was introduced. Krista is responsible for Council communications and reporting. She comes to the Council with a wealth of communications and grant writing experience.

Work Team Reports and Motions

a) Self-Advocacy Work Team Report – Amanda Lay, Chair

The Council has awarded a continuation grant to People on the Go (POG). The \$200,000 grant period runs from January 27, 2017 to September 20, 2018. The grant period is longer than one year in order to re-align it with our fiscal year. Future awards will be for one year. The purpose is to enhance self-advocacy and public policy work.

Aaron Kaufman questioned if the \$200,000 was less than what POG had requested before. Amanda Lay stated that it was less than their past request. Teri Sparks stated POG has done a lot of work to successfully partner and increase their funds from other sources. Brian Cox stated that POG grant funding from the Council has steadily been decreasing, from its highest which was \$142,000. POG now also receives funding from the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities and DDA.

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b) Leadership Development Work Team (LDWT) Motion - Teresa Herbert, Chair

Eric advised members with conflicts to step out of the room. Miguel Mercado and Chris Smith stepped out of the room.

Teresa informed the members that nine proposals were received but only seven were reviewed by the team because two didn't meet the funding requirements. The work team determined that six proposals didn't adequately meet the key elements of the RFP. The Leadership Development Work Team (LDWT) is recommending that the Council fund one of the proposals--the Southern Maryland LEADers by Parents' Place of Maryland (PPMD). Their proposal summary was provided in the meeting packet.

The RFP was looking for new initiatives and it was opened up to existing programs as long as they could show success and if they focused on new areas. In this initiative, PPMD is going to expand their existing program in a number of ways and implement it in Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert Counties. PPMD will develop a training team that will include some of their former program graduates; people with developmental disabilities will also have meaningful roles as trainers. The goal is to have new leaders actively engaged in activities that can lead to improving systems for children and their families.

There was a motion from the Leadership Development Work Team to fund the proposal for Southern Maryland LEADers for \$34,753.

M/S/P to fund the proposal for the Southern Maryland LEADers.

Miguel Mercado and Chris Smith returned to the room.

c) Employment Work Team Motions – Damon Briggs, Chair

Employment Publication

The Employment Work Team motioned to allocate \$20,000 to develop a publication about people working and having meaningful days to educate and influence people with developmental disabilities and their families, providers, employers and others. The \$20,000 would include redirecting \$5,000 previously approved for an employment video, plus allocating an additional \$15,000.

Russell Young added that stakeholder's feedback helped the Council improve to the original concept.

Eric Cole highlighted how the publication will allow people in rural areas to see what is working in other areas of the state.

Chris Smith questioned if a Spanish version of this would be available. Brian Cox stated it was not a part of this budget's estimated costs. Chris suggested that his office would be happy to partner if this was needed.

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There was a motion from the Employment Work Team to fund \$20,000 for the publication.

M/S/P to fund the motion from the Employment Work Team.

TIP Employment Request for Proposals

Members who had a potential conflict were asked by Eric Cole to step out of the room. This included anyone who is affiliated with an organization that might want to apply for a TIP grant.

Aileen O'Hare, Aaron Kaufman, and Lisa Derx left the room before the discussion began.

The Employment Work Team put forth a motion to allocate \$40,000 to issue a second round of Transforming & Improving Practices (TIP) grants that will provide technical assistance to more employment service providers. The Council would again partner with Maryland Works who would allocate \$15,000 - \$20,000. Marni Greenspoon questioned if the providers currently receiving the grant would be permitted to apply for funding again. Rachel London stated that they would not; this RFP is for new service providers only. The Work Team decided to re-issue the RFP to assist new service providers.

Julie Randall used The Arc of Southern Maryland as an example of an organization with multiple locations and questioned if they would be allowed to apply again from one of their other offices. Rachel explained that The Arc of Southern Maryland would not be able to receive additional funding because the RFP is specific to technical assistance across the entire agency.

M/S/P to approve \$40,000 for the second round of TIP grants.

Aileen, Aaron, and Lisa returned to the meeting.

Guest speaker Senator Craig J. Zucker was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute.

Dinner Break

Farwell & Remarks by Departing Members – Eric Cole

Citations from the governor and paperweights were presented to departing Council Members. Eric Cole thanked them for their service and contributions. Each member spoke briefly about his or her experience on the Council.

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Nominating Committee Motion for Vice Chair – Jamal Cannady

The Nominating Committee put forth the motion to nominate Damon Briggs as the new Council Vice Chair. Before the decision, Damon Briggs stepped out of the room. Several Council members spoke strongly in support for Damon to be elected as the new Vice Chair.

M/S/P to nominate Damon as new Vice Chair.

Damon returned to the room.

Executive Director's Report – Brian Cox

Brian Cox reported that this fiscal year the Council received its full funding allotment of \$1,005,670. He provided an overview of the status of the President's FY 2018 budget proposal to merge DD Councils with the State Independent Living Council and Traumatic Brain Injury Programs and cut more than half of the funding. The Council is leading efforts to educate Congressmen and Senators and has engaged supportive legislators who oppose this plan. Russ Young attended a meeting with Senator Van Hollen and Julie Randall is reaching out to Representative Steny Hoyer. Documents that demonstrate our impact were created and will continue to be distributed. Our work continues to ensure a positive outcome.

Brian provided an update on the status of the healthcare bill. (At the time, the House bill passed but the Senate bill was delayed.) He reported that Council Member Russ Young attended the Medicaid rally in D.C. with his son Andy and Russ spoke about the event.

Both bills cut about \$800B in Medicaid over 10 years (MD: \$14B – over 10yrs) with 22-23m people losing health insurance over 10 years, impacting the healthcare and long-term services for people with disabilities. Documents with analyses and more details were distributed.

Council Activities:

The Photo Contest reached 24,000 people. The winning photos were shown and Russ Young, Damon Briggs, and Amanda Lay commented about serving on the Photo Contest Work Team.

Teri Sparks provided an update on the Community of Practice for Supporting Families statewide event and showed pictures.

The Council was asked to meet with a delegation from Belarus interested in inclusive practices in education and early childhood. Rachel London represented the Council and provided an overview.

Members were asked to complete their affiliations form to note potential conflicts of interest and return to Faye Bell-Boulware.

The Status Report was provided in the meeting packet.

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Executive Committee Funding Report – Aaron Kaufman

Education & Training Event Sponsorships

Five requests were received; one was funded—a \$2,500 grant for the University of Maryland’s Disability Summit.

Eric attended as a presenter; JoEllen Barnhart, who was appointed by the University of Maryland board to serve on the committee, also attended with her family. Eric mentioned that in addition to the presentations that were given, there was an opportunity to display posters.

Small Grant Requests

Eight requests were received but only two were funded: the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) was funded for \$2,500 and The Arc of Prince George’s County was funded for \$2,500.

Additional details about these grants were provided in the meeting packet.

State Agency & Sister Agency Updates

Marni Greenspoon – Disability Rights Maryland (DRM)

- DDA is changing its eligibility process and definition of developmental disability for eligibility purposes. On May 18, 2017, the DD Coalition hosted a disability symposium with five regional and national experts; there were over 100 attendees including 90 DDA staff.
- Marni congratulated Bernie Simons on his leadership with DDA, especially in expanding services to children with disabilities. Under his leadership, the eligibility decisions for children are much more likely to follow the statute and DDA is expanding services to children. DRM is in the process of hiring a new Executive Director and the posting on this job is listed on their website. She encouraged members to forward.

Jed Miller, M.D., M.P.H. - Office of Family and Community Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, DHMH

- DHMH is focusing efforts on care coordination across Maryland.
- Effective July 1, 2017, DHMH will be renamed the Maryland Department of Health (MDH).

Carmen Brown - Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

- MSDE is in the process of enrolling 100 additional applicants to the Autism Waiver program, bringing the number up to 1100 this year. They are working to reach out to those who have been on the list for more than ten years.
- MSDE is also working to enhance service delivery for transition-age youth.

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- A number of webinars and in-person meetings have been held since the legislative session ended to educate local school systems about the impact of the new laws on students, families, and school.

Bernie Simons - Developmental Disabilities Administration

- July 1, 2017 will be posting for official comment for the new family supports waiver. The governor has approved funding for 400 individuals. Expected start date is January 1, 2018. There were four listening sessions – one in each part of the state. Overall, there has been good collaboration among the DD Coalition and others on this initiative.

Rosanne Hanratty - MD Department of Aging

- The department was successful in the legislative session with five bills passing, allowing the department to receive funding from multiple sources.

Rebecca Oliver - Maryland Medicaid Program, DHMH

- The State Transition Plan addressing the HCBS Community Settings Rule was submitted to CMS, and CMS granted initial approval. MDH is in the process of writing related new regulations.
- Funding has been secured for training with DDA for provider training and conferences for consumers and family

Announcements – All

In March, the Supreme Court, on one of the most significant decisions impacting students with disabilities, ruled in the Endrew F case that schools must provide higher educational standards for children with disabilities. In other words, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), does in fact require the IEPs are designed to enable students to make progress each year. Aaron Kaufman questioned Carmen Brown about this decision and what impact if any will it have on MSDE. Carmen stated there hasn't been in-depth talk on this yet.

Ruth Shipp: enjoyed Pride weekend in DC.

Miguel Mercado: he is looking into support for military families who have children and spouses with developmental disabilities. Eric Cole expressed interest in the topic.

As there was no further business to discuss, M/S/P to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourn

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