



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

EMPOWERMENT • OPPORTUNITY • INCLUSION

**December 7, 2017
Oakland Mills Meeting House – Columbia, MD**

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Guests</u>
JoEllen Barnhart	John Bratcher	Faye Bell-Boulware	Stacy Israel
Damon Briggs	Harold Gomes	Brian Cox	Bette Ann Mobley
Carmen Brown	Tobi Ojo	Rachel London	Robin Murphy
Kalani Brown	Jill Pierce	Krista Mason	Megan Rusciano
Jamal Cannady	Chris Smith		
Eric Cole			
Brent Debnam			
Lisa Derx			
William Frank (representing Carol Beatty)			
Kay Han			
Rosanne Hanratty			
Kathy Hargett			
Teresa Herbert			
Meghan Jones			
Amanda Lay			
Jed Miller			
Rebecca Oliver			
Julie Randall			
Patricia Sastoque (representing Bernie Simons)			
Irene Souada			
Ruth Shipps			
Teri Sparks			
Adam Vander Hook			
Russell Young			

AGENDA

Eric Cole called the meeting to order at 3:48 pm by welcoming everyone.

Introduction of New Members – Damon Briggs, Chair, Membership Committee

Current Council Members introduced the following new Council Members: Meghan Jones, Laura-Sun Cefaratti, Kathy Hargett, and Irene Souada.

The following guests were present and introduced themselves: Megan Rusciano, an attorney at Disability Rights Maryland; Betty Anne Mobley, Director of MD ABLE; Sylvia Jones, Meghan Jones' mother; Staci Israel of Best Buddies Maryland, and Robin Murphy, Executive Director of Disability Rights Maryland.

Approval of Minutes

M/S/P to approve the September 14, 2017 minutes.

Presentation: Maryland ABLE Program, Bette Ann Mobley, Director

Eric Cole introduced Bette Anne Mobley, Director of the Maryland ABLE Program. Maryland ABLE launched on November 28 with a kickoff celebration in Annapolis. Bette Anne shared a PowerPoint, provided handouts, and answered questions about the new program.

Small Grant Policy Change – Eric Cole

Eric Cole explained that the Executive Committee is putting forth a motion to increase the small grant award amount from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per grantee in an effort to receive stronger proposals and to reach out to new partners. It was proposed that this change would be implemented as a pilot to start—the Council will re-assess in June to determine if this is a policy that should be continued.

Executive Committee Member Amanda Lay shared she felt this was a wonderful initiative that will allow the Council to establish relationships with different partners.

M/S/P to increase the amount from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

Five-Year State Plan – Brian Cox

A. Year 1: Progress By the Numbers

Brian Cox reminded current members and shared with the new members that the Council's five year State Plan runs from October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2021. Year 1 of the Work Plan ended September 30, 2017. He highlighted and shared some of the top outcomes "by the numbers" (featured on the Council's website) and said additional information will be shared in the beginning of 2018.

B. Year 2: Work Plan Revisions

Brian Cox reported that some revisions to the Year 2 Work Plan are needed based on the progress made in Year 1 and the decisions made by the Council over the past year. Brian briefly discussed each revision.

Goal 1: Kay Han asked if there are local self-advocacy group (s) the Council is currently working with on a consistent basis. Brian explained that the Council has worked with People on the Go (POG) consistently for decades and they have local affiliates. In addition, the Council has awarded small grants directly to some local self advocacy groups..

Goal 2: Rosanne Hanratty and Kay added that they think it would be beneficial to translate Planning Now into additional languages other than Spanish. Brian Cox said this can be explored and added to the Work Plan.

Irene Souda asked who would conduct the survey about Planning Now. Brian Cox explained that previously we have sent a follow-up survey but the response rate is low so Council staff is currently looking at various options.

He shared that the Council is continually looking for the best ways to reach diverse populations in the state, and has explored state commissions and advertising.

M/S/P to approve changes to 2018 Work Plan, including the Han/Hanratty recommendations.

New 2018 Funding Priorities - Brian Cox

Brian Cox explained that there is \$156,000 available that the Council must obligate by September 30, 2018. He reviewed the State Plan to identify activities that either haven't been implemented yet or need more funding to broaden our impact. This analysis determined two areas: leadership development and employment. Leadership development requires more funding because the Parents' Place of Maryland Southern Maryland LEADers program covers one area of the state and only required \$37,000. The work team has indicated a desire to do much more. Employment is another area that could benefit from more funding. We have had two successful rounds of TIP grants supporting 24 agencies, but there are more providers that need support in the state. Brian suggested that the Work Teams for these areas could develop RFPs to be approved at the March meeting and selected proposals could be approved at the June meeting.

Kathy Hargett asked if there is any way to obligate funds sooner. Brian said no and explained the timeline of the RFP approval process.

Julie Randall asked how the amounts would be allocated to each priority area. Brian recommended that the work teams develop what they want to do and identify the amount needed. If the amount exceeds \$156,000, the Executive Committee would then decide to either lower them or apply additional funding.

M/S/P to have the Work Teams develop the RFPs for leadership development and employment for review at the March meeting

Expectations Matter / Expect Ability Campaign - Krista Mason

Krista Mason shared that this campaign addresses State Plan Objective 3.1 (Increase the expectations that family members, providers, educators and others have about people with developmental disabilities.) To approach this goal, the Council convened a "Think Tank" that gathered in the summer. It was a diverse group of twenty people including people with disabilities, parents of people with disabilities, and various professionals. Laura Hatcher, a graphic designer professional and also a mother with a son who has developmental disabilities, led the Think Tank. Some Council Members attended this group and Krista thanked those who attended.

The tagline entitled "Expectations Matter/Expect Ability" came from the Think Tank collaborations. People were asked to share this message by posting photos of themselves holding a sign with the message in their everyday lives and using the hashtag #ExpectationsMatter #ExpectAbility. The Council is posting this message along with various resources for parents, employers, providers, and educators that are listed on the Council's new website. The website also has all graphic images for the campaign, including an "Expectations Circle," and the Council is encouraging people to use these images in as many ways as they see fit—in training workshops, in PowerPoints, in meetings, and more.

The feedback on social media and from other Councils has been very positive. The campaign is being used by Councils in Maine, Utah, and Washington State and the Facebook frame is also being used widely.

Teresa Herbert spoke about sharing the message with various people at an IEP meeting for her son Jesse, which led to a productive discussion.

Eric Cole shared that Jubilee, an organization that provides services for adults in the community, used the tagline in a recent mailing. Krista encouraged Council members to share and use this message widely and to let her know about any ideas they have to keep this campaign going.

Kathy Hargett asked if buttons could be made for Council members to wear. Brian Cox stated that we plan on ordering some for DD Day but can share them more widely when available. He also encouraged members to share other ideas/suggestions with Krista.

Jed Miller asked if this campaign modeled after anything. Krista replied that this campaign is “home grown,” originating from the State Plan. Brian Cox added that in developing the State Plan, expectations became a theme that ran through almost everything, so it was added as a stand-alone objective.

Patricia Sastoque shared her enthusiasm for the message, adding that the tag line will be used in DDA communications and trainings.

Webinar Topics – Eric Cole & Brian Cox

In an effort to save time, Eric Cole stated that Council members will receive an email asking for webinar topic ideas.

Committee Reports and Motions:

A. Child Care Work Team: Funding Motion– Kalani Brown

Kalani Brown reminded the group that \$52,500 was left over from the Upper Shore Inclusive Child Care grant. The Council voted in September to add an additional \$22,500 to this initiative for a total of \$75,000 to fund technical assistance for child care providers. After reviewing the RFPs, the Work Team decided that the Abilities Network proposal was the strongest. The organization already has a program in place called Project ACT that it can build upon, and their proposal was very thorough and complete.

Julie Randall asked about the reach that Abilities Network has to various regions of the state. Kalani provided this information.

Jed Miller asked about how the number of children who will benefit is measured. He advised that as part of their work plan, Abilities Network could include information on the number of new children who were served as a result of having received the technical assistance. Rachel London said that if approved, we will work with Abilities Network to clarify these measurements in their work plan.

M/S/P to approve the Child Care Work Team motion to provide funding to Abilities Network in the amount of 75,000.

B. Employment Work Team: Updates on Initiatives – Damon Briggs

Damon Briggs shared that a writer, photographer, and designer were awarded contracts for the Council's employment publication and that two people have already been identified to be featured in the publication.

The first round of TIP grants finished their work. The second round of TIP grants will begin October 1, 2018. A TIP grant recipient shared feedback: "If the Council hadn't started this ball rolling a few years ago, many of the recipients wouldn't have thought through these steps. In my travels to other states, I always share the leadership of MD's DD Council has had and the impact on transformation."

Executive Committee Funding Report – Damon Briggs

In the interest of time, this item wasn't discussed, but it was provided in the meeting packet.

Executive Director's Report – Brian Cox

Brian Cox explained that Congress has until tomorrow to pass the FY2018 budget or another Continuing Resolution (CR). If neither occurs, the federal government will shut down. A short-term CR is most likely. The only impact on the Council if there is a shutdown would be a possible delay in the federal government processing our drawdown of funding. We can still continue operations because the state pays our bills and then is reimbursed by the federal government when we do the drawdowns. However, because we are operating on FY2017 funds, which have been approved and are safe, the Council budget will not be impacted, at least until September 2018. If Congress and the President decide to cut FY2018 funding, that would have an impact.

The vacant Director of Public Policy Initiatives position should be filled by mid-February.

In the interest of time, Brian did not provide additional quarterly highlights. Instead, he referred members to the quarterly Status Report and asked them to contact staff with questions.

The next quarter will focus, among other things, on 1) supporting the Work Teams to develop new RFPs, 2) preparing for and engaging in the legislative session, during which time we typically are active on about 60 bills and monitor over 100 others, 3) expanding the Expectations Matter campaign, and 4) continuing work on all of the other Year 2 Work Plan activities noted in the Status Report.

Public Policy Platform – Rachel London

Rachel London reminded the Council that the Public Policy Platform document was updated with minor changes. It will be sent to Maryland Legislators, as well as various stakeholders. She mentioned this document would also be posted on our website.

State Agency and Sister Agency Updates

William Frank - Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD)

- Congratulated Bette Ann Mobley on the great roll out on MD ABLE last week. MDOD is very involved in this program. Carol Beatty sits on the board.
- Legislative session starts on January 10, 2018 and is a busy time for MDOD.
- Currently advertising to hire an Accessibility Program Manager.

Carmen Brown - Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)

- The Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services is focused on implementation of the Strategic Plan through a regionalized focus on the three strategic imperatives: early childhood, secondary transition, and access and equity. Professional learning opportunities began early in the fall and will continue through February in the 5 regions to address each imperative.
- Assistant State Superintendent Marcella Franczkowski has continued facilitating regional listening forums with local directors to ensure they are always informed with the most up to date information. It is also an opportunity to obtain their feedback and direct the delivery of performance support.
- Marcella has been presenting regionally to local leadership, including local superintendents. She presents critical data to support their decision making process, and to assist them to understand the impact of their data.
- Marcella presented to the Maryland State Board of Education two days ago on Maryland's approach to significant disproportionality. The Board approved draft regulations to move through the process.
- MSDE is partnering with The Arc Maryland, MDOD and the Council on the "Together We're Better" initiative.

Rebecca Oliver - Maryland Medicaid Program, MDH

- End of year federal reporting of waivers is currently being done.
- The Balancing Incentive program was just completed.

Rosanne Hanratty - Maryland Department of Aging

- Working on the durable medical equipment reuse program.
- Focusing on people waiting for benefits.

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

- MDH is currently taking a comprehensive look at block grant federal funding.
- On December 6, 2017, Jed was appointed as the Director for the Office for Genetics and People with Special Health Care Needs.

Patricia Sastoque - Developmental Disabilities Administration

- CMS approved the Community Supports waiver today. Now both the Family Supports Waiver and Community Supports Waiver have been approved.
- Current goal is to ensure families are being talked to on the waiting list to make sure services can be offered to them and streamline the process that will allow individuals to receive services by February 2018.
- Two hundred hours of technical assistance has been awarded to DDA by the federal Office of Disability Employment Policy. The focus is on transformation and leadership building.
- Interagency agreement with MDOD was just approved to look at housing options in Maryland.
- The RFP to support the development of inclusive higher education programs for \$250,000 is scheduled for release by the end of December.

- DDA's approved Person- Centered Planning format will be posted on DDA's website on December 8, 2017.
- The RFP to provide training on the Person-Centered Planning format recently closed. DDA will make an award by the end of December.

Teri Sparks - Disability Rights Maryland (DRM)

- A press conference was held today to release the report entitled "Beyond Incarceration". This is a public report that DRM developed. The main highlights were that people are being secluded and segregated and placed alone in segregated cells. Maryland is doing this more than any other state in the nation. The majority of those segregated have disabilities, which are exacerbated by the isolating experience. A few copies of this report were circulated and will be posted on DRM's website. DRM hopes to educate people about this issue in view of anticipated legislation aimed at regulating the lengths and frequency of such segregation.

Adjourn