



**Maryland Developmental  
Disabilities Council**

EMPOWERMENT • OPPORTUNITY • INCLUSION

**March 12, 2018  
Oakland Mills Meeting House – Columbia, MD**

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>	<b><u>Staff</u></b>	<b><u>Guests</u></b>
JoEllen Barnhart	Carol Beatty	Faye Bell-Boulware	Erin Prangley
John Bratcher	Carmen Brown	Brian Cox	Sylvia Jones
Damon Briggs	Harold Gomes	Rachel London	Kathy Plamanta
Kalani Brown	Rebecca Oliver	Michael Lewis	Jennifer Briemann
Jamal Cannady	Irene Souada	Krista Mason	
Eric Cole			
Brent Debnam			
Lisa Derx			
Kay Han			
Rosanne Hanratty			
Kathy Hargett			
Teresa Herbert			
Meghan Jones			
Amanda Lay			
Jed Miller			
Tobi Ojo			
Jill Pierce			
Julie Randall			
Christine Schoenberger (representing Chris Smith)			
Bernie Simons			
Take out extra line here			
Ruth Shipps			
Teri Sparks			
Adam Vander Hook			
Russell Young			

**AGENDA**

Eric Cole called the meeting to order at 3:39 pm by welcoming everyone.

**Introduction of New Staff**

Brian Cox introduced the Council's new Director of Public Policy Initiatives, Michael Lewis. Michael will be staffing the Self Advocacy and the Leadership Development Work Teams and co-leading the CoP for supporting for families with the DDA. He will also monitor Council grants and will serve on several committees. Michael introduced himself and shared with members that before coming to the Council, he was an Associate Director of the Virginia Catholic Conference for five years where he advocated for healthcare and Medicaid, among other issues. He is a UNC graduate and is married and has two children. Council members and Council staff also introduced themselves.

The following guests introduced themselves: Sylvia Jones, Meghan Jones' mother; Kathy Palmenta of Gallagher Services (TIP grant recipient); Jennifer Briemann, Deputy Director of the Maryland

Catholic Conference. Christine Shoenberger from MDDC/KKI, representing Chris Smith, also introduced herself.

### **Approval of Minutes**

*M/S/P to approve the December 7, 2017 minutes.*

**Presentation: Erin Prangley, Director, Public Policy National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities** - Eric Cole introduced Erin Prangley. Erin updated the Council on federal budget and legislative news and she answered member questions.

### **Election of Officers – Eric Cole**

Eric Cole asked Kalani Brown and Brent Debnam to leave the room. He explained that both his term and Damon Briggs' term expire in June, so the Nominating Committee (Damon Briggs, Eric Cole, and Amanda Lay), met to determine nominees for a new Chairperson and Vice Chair, effective in July. The committee motioned for Kalani Brown to serve as the new Chair and Brent Debnam to serve as Vice Chair. Eric opened the floor for discussion.

Ruth Shipps expressed her appreciation for the great job the current officers have done. Kathy Hargett recommended that name tent cards be used at Council meetings so members can learn names more quickly and get to know one another. Russ Young said that he thinks Kalani and Brent are superb choices. John Bratcher asked what the two nominees do for Council Members. Eric explained that the Chair runs the Council meetings, ensures there is a balanced representation and participation on the work teams, and is responsible for nominating other members to the Executive Committee. Damon Briggs explained that the Vice Chair's duties include filling in for the Chair when necessary and overseeing a number of initiatives, such as small grants. He said that the two nominees are exemplary candidates and will represent the Council well, and the Nominating Committee put a lot of thought and care into the choices. Amanda Lay stated there were a lot of wonderful nominees but the Committee had to consider longevity and leadership when concerning the nominations. Tobi Ojo added that he recommended both individuals and thanked Eric for being the Chair.

*M/S/P to approve Kalini Brown as Chair and Brent Debnam as Vice Chair.*

Kalani and Brent re-entered the room. Eric congratulated both for their appointments.

### **Work Team Reports & Motions**

Eric Cole reminded members that the Council chose Employment and Leadership Development as the focus areas for the next round of grants. The Council has \$160,000 to obligate by the end of September. The work teams were tasked with recommending how to use these funds.

#### *A. Employment Work Team – Damon Briggs*

- Damon Briggs explained that the work team recommends putting forth a new round of TIP Grants. Eric Cole asked anyone with a conflict or potential conflict to step out of the room during voting. Kathy Plamenta from Gallagher Services stepped out.

Damon explained that TIP grants provide funds for technical assistance from subject matter experts to improve the way employment supports and services are provided. In the past two years, the Council has funded 23 grants; the summaries of each were

mailed. The Employment Work Team was pleased with the past results. The Employment Work Team recommends using \$50,000 for a third round of TIP grants, opening the RFP for prior TIP recipients to apply again if they serve multiple counties. Maryland Works has agreed to partner with the Council again and will add an additional \$20,000. Damon Briggs opened the floor for discussion.

Ruth Shipps stated that she thinks it is unfair that people with disabilities are not allowed to work more than 20 hours a week. Kalani Brown requested clarification about the timing of the initiative. Eric Cole stated by the time the RFP is issued, it would be FY2019. Kalani Brown asked which counties receive TIP grants. Rachel London stated that counties were not specified, but eight of the 23 organizations that received TIP grants are in rural areas.

Kay Han said she was happy to see the progress that has been made in the past two years. She asked if this funding supplements the organizations' programs or if this funding was something that is entirely new. Rachel London explained that the funding provides for consultants to come in and work with agencies to transform and change the way those agencies provide supports. Their proposals must indicate ways in which they want to change. Damon Briggs added that organizations are changing from sheltered workshops to employment. Brian Cox reminded members that the organizations must rate themselves on the applications in terms of their transformation goals.

M/S/P, to approve the Employment Work Team motion to fund another round of TIP Grants in the amount of \$50,000.

*B. Leadership Development Work Team – Teresa Herbert*

- Ready at Five Proposal – Teresa Herbert explained an unsolicited proposal that was received from Ready at Five, a statewide organization that improves the quality of early childhood education in Maryland so that more children have foundational skills upon entering kindergarten. She said the Leadership Development Work Team had lengthy discussions and the team thinks Ready at Five is worthy of funding, referencing highlights of the proposal, which was mailed to members.

Julie Randall, Kay Han and Kalani Brown expressed the need for more details. Brian Cox said that if funded, the Council will work with Ready @ Five to make sure the trainings are in diverse regions. Eric Cole said that if the Council supports the training but feels there is not enough information, Brian can be charged with the responsibility to ensure the organization's responses are satisfactory before finalizing the award. If the responses are still unclear, the Work Team can then reconvene and decide next steps.

The Council agreed that more information will be requested about: who will be trained and where; the criteria for selecting the local organizations to conduct the trainings; and evaluation methods. In addition, demographic information about participants will be gathered.

M/S/P to fund the Ready at Five proposal for \$14,968 with stipulations.

- *Partners in Policymaking Leadership Training Proposal* - Eric Cole reminded those who have a conflict of interest to step out of the room. He explained what could constitute a conflict with this motion. No one left the room.

Teresa Herbert reminded the Council that the Leadership Development Work Team received many proposals from the last year's Leadership Development RFP but only the Parents' Place of MD proposal met the criteria and aligned with the Council's mission. The work team discussed the best options for meeting our leadership development goals, and decided to recommend funding a Partners in Policymaking program. Teresa explained the main points of the program, which was developed in 1987 by the Minnesota Developmental Disabilities Council (material was shared). Over 27,000 people have graduated from this program both nationally and internationally. The work team is recommending soliciting letters of interest for an organization to administer this program in partnership with the Council. Russ Young asked how the team arrived at the \$100,000 figure. Brian Cox explained that that is the amount of funding available, and because of past funding of this project, we know that it can be done for that amount of money. The letters of interest will include what funding and in-kind contributions organizations will make if selected, which will be considered in the selection process. Julie Randall asked if there are licensing fees for the program and if other programs were considered. There are no licensing fees and research confirmed that Partners in Policymaking is the only program of this caliber, depth, experience and widespread support. . The Partners structure will be used, but to adapt it to meet the needs of Maryland.. The Council will be a part of the steering committee and a part of the decision-making process for the program. Kalani Brown said she researched this and thinks it is good that we are requiring eight sessions—other Councils have averaged five to seven sessions. She asked if there is longitudinal data. Brian explained that the data shared in the written materials covered the classes the Council funded over 10 years. Our other leadership grant has a built-in requirement is to be in touch with the graduates two-three years after graduation and this will be done with Partners. Letters of Interest must explain what strategies will be utilized to support the ongoing involvement of graduates. Kay Han commented that she thinks the program sounds outstanding and suggested that the Leadership Development and Employment Work Teams collaborate on this. Brian said he would discuss this idea further with her.

M/S/P to fund Partners in Policymaking for \$100,000.

### **Executive Committee Funding Decisions – Damon Brings**

Five small grant proposals were received. Only Independence Now Inc. was funded for \$2,500 for the Youth Leadership Forum. Three Education and Training Event Sponsorships were received -- only The Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance was funded for \$800. Two conference participation requests were received but neither one was funded.

### **Legislative Session Update – Brian Cox & Rachel London**

Updates and highlights were given on DD Day at the Legislature 2018. Eric Cole shared that more than 800 people registered for DD Day—a record number. There were a number of legislators in attendance and there was great enthusiasm overall. He stated this was the largest group ever and

encouraged Council members who didn't attend to attend next year. This year, the Council paid for a real-time Spanish to English interpretation and Spanish translation of documents.

Brian Cox briefly discussed the increases to the DDA budget. Rachel London discussed MSDE's budget.

Rachel and Brian briefly gave a synopsis of key bills that the Council is advocating for this year. Meghan Jones shared part of the testimony that she gave for SB0461/HB0287 "Selling or Providing Alcoholic Beverages to Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Others – Repeal of Prohibition." Rachel shared the Senate committee that heard the bill voted in favor after Meghan's testimony. Kay Han testified for a bill that improves the MD ABLE program. She shared that testifying was a very positive experience and recommended it for other Council members. Brent Debnam and Damon Briggs have also testified for the Council this session.

On April 12, 2018, from 12-1pm, the Council will hold a 2018 Legislative Session Wrap-Up Call. In an effort to provide legislative information to more people and to allow people to ask questions about the session.

### **Executive Director's Report – Brian Cox**

Brian shared that the quarterly status report is in the meeting packets. In the interest of time, he will send his report to the Council by email.

### **Expectations Matter-Expect Ability Campaign Update – Krista Mason**

Krista Mason shared the following highlights of the Expectations Matter campaign. The message was prominent at DD Day this year—with hash tags, buttons and photo frames. March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness month. To celebrate, the Council is holding an Expectations Matter photo/story contest. Krista asked members to share the Expectations Matter Contest flyer and promote the contest. She thanked Russ Young, Kay Han and Brent Debnam for being on the photo/story contest judging committee. Eric Cole also asked members to help in getting the word out about the contest. Council Members cannot enter the contest, but they can share their stories and photos with Krista to promote the campaign. Krista said there is an ad and article about the contest in the March issue of Baltimore's Child. (Council Members received a copy). Krista thanked Teresa for her role in sharing her story with the editor of Baltimore's Child. She asked Teresa to share her story about Expectations Matter and about the Expectations Matter poster that Teresa's son Jesse made at school and gave to the Council. Give away items have been ordered such as buttons, pins, sticky notes, etc. and will be disseminated to grantees and other organizations for events when applicable. Council Members received these giveaways. The contest and message are also being promoted throughout the month of March through 15-second sponsorship ads on WYPR. Krista played the recorded WYPR radio announcement. The Council expressed enthusiasm for the ad.

### **State Agency and Sister Agency Updates**

*Rosanne Hanratty – Maryland Department of Aging*

- DOA is working with DOD on a grant that was received from the ACL for assistive technology.

- DOA recently issued an RFP for a statewide program for opting-in to calls that alert seniors about weather events, scams, etc.—these calls could lead to wellness checks if necessary. Maryland is the first state to implement this program.

*Teri Sparks - Disability Rights Maryland (DRM)*

- DRM continues to work through the revised Person-Centered planning format with DDA and other stakeholders. There will be training opportunities coming up for people receiving services through DDA and family members, so watch for opportunities, participate if possible and help spread the word!

*Christine Schoenberger - Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities*

- The MCDD has hired a new training director, Dr. Mirian Ofonedu, who has been with Kennedy Krieger since 2004. She is a clinical psychologist and licensed clinical social work who most recently worked for the Center for Diversity in Public Health Leadership and Training and Center for Child and Family Traumatic Stress and Center at Kennedy Krieger Institute.

*Jill Pierce – Division of Rehabilitation (waiting to hear back)*

- Just awarded Frederick and Anne Arundel public schools the Maryland Work-based Learning Collaborative grant (Way 2 Work).
- Actively working with DDA in collaboration to serve mutual consumers.

*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 (waiting to hear back)*

- The Maryland Department of Health's Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control received a grant from the CDC in 2016 that seeks to address the observation that chronic disease affects people with disabilities at higher rates than people who don't have disabilities. This grant established the Disability Health Inclusion Program, which will promote disability awareness and inclusion at the organizational level by building internal staff capacity, offering training and technical assistance, establishing a formal relationship with the Maryland Department of Disabilities, and expanding internal and external partnerships to improve the inclusion of people with disabilities in public health programs.

*Bernard Simons - Developmental Disabilities Administration*

- Since the approval of the Family Supports Waiver and the Community Supports Waiver, the DDA has made 747 initial contacts which have resulted in 645 meetings to complete the application process. To date, 230 applications have been approved for all three waivers including the Community Pathways Waiver.

Adjourn