



**Maryland Developmental  
Disabilities Council**

EMPOWERMENT • OPPORTUNITY • INCLUSION

**June 28, 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	John Bratcher	Faye Bell-Boulware	Kendall Foster
Carol Beatty	Kay Han	Brian Cox	Lynne Pattison
Damon Briggs	Kathy Hargett	Rachel London	Adrianna Shoemaker
Carmen Brown	Teresa Herbert	Michael Lewis	Allysa Ware
Kalani Brown	Rebecca Oliver	Krista Mason	
Jamal Cannady	Adam Vander Hook		
Laura Sun-Ceferati			
Eric Cole			
Brent Debnam			
Lisa Derx			
Harold Gomes			
Rosanne Hanratty			
Meghan Jones			
Amanda Lay			
Jed Miller			
Tobi Ojo			
Jill Pierce			
Julie Randall			
Ruth Shipps			
Bernie Simons			
Chris Smith			
Irene Souada			
Teri Sparks			
Maureen Van Stone			
Russell Young			

**AGENDA**

Eric Cole called the meeting to order at 3:42 pm by welcoming everyone.

**Welcome and Introductions – Eric Cole**

Eric Cole mentioned this was Chris Smith's last meeting and welcomed Maureen van Stone from the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at the Kennedy Krieger Institute (MDDC/KKI) Adrianna Shoemaker and Alyssa Ware from Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) attended.

### **Approval of Minutes**

One correction was noted for the December minutes: Laura Sun-Ceferati was present and not absent as the March 12, 2018 Council minutes stated.

*M/S/P to approve the March 12, 2018 minutes.*

### **Grantee Presentation: Southern Maryland LEADers Alyssa Ware, LEADers Trainer, Parents' Place of Maryland**

Eric Cole introduced Alyssa Ware, a social worker, advocate and mother to a daughter on the autism spectrum. Alyssa currently works with the Children's National Medical Center's Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders and provides case management and care coordination services to families, which includes assistance with the special education process, community resources and medical care coordination. Additionally, she is Co-Leader of the Southern Maryland LEADers program that was funded by the Council. Alyssa provided a summary of the Southern Maryland LEADers program activities, outcomes and lessons learned, a handout and answered questions.

Julie Randall suggested using the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center if future events or programs are to be held in Southern Maryland because it is centrally located and accessible to people in all three counties.

Alyssa answered questions from members.

### **Funding Update & Next Steps – Brian Cox**

Brian Cox reported the Council has received updated guidance from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) regarding the amount of time the Council has to use funding and complete all work. For the past several decades the Council has had two years to obligate funds, meaning write an award letter or contract and one additional year to complete all work, referred to as the period of performance. Now the Council has been told there is only two years to obligate funds and complete all work, not three. Additionally, the final year will be used just to finish paying all of the invoices. Therefore, in order to give grantees at least one whole year to perform the work, the Council really will have to obligate the funds by end of first year (rather than within 2 years). This means doing the following within one year: select a State Plan priority, develop, approve and issue an RFP, review and select proposals, negotiate with the grantee, and write the award letter.

The one year performance period is very problematic because one year is not always enough time for a grantee as they sometimes need extra time. Most importantly, the RFP and selection process takes about nine months. The Council can't start planning and issuing an RFP until AIDD provides an award letter and that cannot happen until the President and Congress pass a budget. For many years, this has not happened so the Council receives approval for a couple months at a time via the Continuing Resolution process.

AIDD has said this will take effect with the FY2019 allotment. We are working with other DD Councils and NACDD to change AIDD's ruling or get more time to implement if that is not successful. Regardless, we must plan now as if it will take effect so we must start planning to award a lot more funding by October of next year. Current estimate is over \$450,000. The Council will make these funding decisions at our September and December meetings.

## **Committee and Work Team Reports & Motions**

### A. Chair Report – Eric Cole

- *New Work Team*

The Executive Committee has discussed and voted to establish a diversity work team that will ensure the activities the Council is engaging in is reaching the most diverse group in Maryland. This will also include members of the Council staff. He encouraged members to inform Council staff if interested in serving on this work team.

- *Executive Committee Appointments*

In July 2018, this committee will have two vacancies. The motion from Eric Cole and Kalini Brown is to appoint Julie Randall and Megan Jones to the Executive Committee.

*M/S/P to appoint Julie Randall and Megan Jones as new members on the Executive Committee.*

### **Executive Committee Funding Report – Damon Briggs**

Damon Briggs reported on the following: the Executive Committee approved \$10,000 to double the number of copies of “Planning Now” and \$10,000 to translate and print this same document in Spanish; \$15,000 to produce a reader-friendly guide about the Maryland ABLE program; \$30,000 to sponsor a Sibling Conference in the Spring of 2019 and \$20,000 to support local self-advocacy groups. Additionally, awarded grants were: \$10,225 in small grants; \$8,000 in Education and Training Event Sponsorships (ETES) and \$730 for a person with developmental disabilities to attend a national self-advocacy conference. Additional information on grants was provided in the meeting packets.

### **Leadership Development Work Team Partners in Policymaking – Amanda Lay**

Amanda Lay reported on the motion from the Leadership Development Work Team to fund the proposal submitted by the Arc Maryland to administer and manage the Partners in Policymaking® program. The work team was unanimous in the decision to fund and are excited about this partnership. A very strong proposal was submitted that addressed all of the Council’s requirements. This organization is well positioned to be successful and work collaboratively with the Council.

If approved, a total \$157,924 (\$100,000 Council funds plus \$57,924 in matching funds from the Arc Maryland) will be budgeted. If necessary, the Arc Maryland will commit up to an additional \$7,000 to cover hotel stays for participants traveling long distances, interpreters, and learning facilitator stipends.

Julie questioned where the in-person training would take place and asked about making sure people from around the state were represented. Brian Cox noted that this is a requirement of the grantee and participant selection would be determined by the steering committee, which includes the Council.

Additional information on this proposal was mailed.

*M/S/P to fund \$100,000 to the Arc Maryland to facilitate a Partners in Policymaking® program*

### **Employment Work Team: TIP Grants – Damon Briggs**

Damon Briggs reported over the last two years, 23 proposals have been submitted by providers, eight of which focused on increasing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities living in rural areas that were awarded a TIP Grant.

The purpose of TIP Grants is to improve the employment outcomes of people with developmental disabilities by building the capacity of community service providers licensed by the Developmental Disabilities Administration.

The Council approved \$50,000 to fund a third round of TIP grants. Fourteen proposals were received and the Employment Work Team would like to fund 12 of the proposals. Out of the 12, three proposals focused on rural areas. Seven of the 12 proposals have been approved for a total of \$67,425 (\$50,000 Council funds and \$17,425 in matching funds from Maryland Works) and require no further action by the Council.

The motion from the Employment Work Team is to allocate an additional \$30,000 to fund the five remaining proposals. Maryland Works will provide more funding as well. If approved, a total \$116,335 (\$80,000 Council funds plus \$36,335 in matching funds from Maryland Works) will fund the 12 jointly selected proposals.

*M/S/P to allocate an additional \$30,000 to fund the five remaining proposals.*

### **Child Care Work Team: Grantee Spotlight – Kalani Brown**

Kalani Brown reported the Council previously approved a \$75,000 grant to Abilities Network to provide intensive, customized Technical Assistance (TA) to Childcare providers to increase their skills, knowledge and capacity to serve children with developmental disabilities. Kalani noted that since work began in January, Abilities Network has been effectively completing activities and seeing good outcomes already. A story highlighting the results for one child care provider was included in the meeting packets.

### **Photo Contest Work Team Report – Brent Debnam**

This year's contest was a photo & story contest with the theme entitled "Expectations Matter" which focused on people who exceeded the expectations of society regardless of their disabilities. The story and photo contest ran for one month in March during Developmental Disabilities Awareness month and there were a total of thirty-five entries received. All entries were reviewed by the work team that consisted of Brent Debnam, Russell Young and Kay Han. This team selected first through third place winners along with a fan favorite winner. The total number of people reached through social media for fan favorite voting on Facebook was 15,467.

Back in October of 2017, Brent was part of the Raising Expectations Think Tank, which gave him the opportunity to work on the expectation matter message.

### **Farewells - All**

Eric Cole, thanked Chris Smith for the time he served on the Council, shared memories and wished him well on his retirement. Eric presented Chris with a Governor's citation. Chris shared departing words.

Brian Cox informed the group that Krista Mason, Council staff, was also leaving the Council. He acknowledged because of Krista's time with the Council, the Council's communication and reporting was tremendously improved by all that she did. Eric Cole also mentioned and thanked Krista.

Brian noted that Eric's and Damon Briggs' terms on the Council were completed and expressed gratitude for their many contributions. He presented both with a Governor's Citation and a gift. Additionally, Brian gave them each a Memory book with pictures and quotes from members. Council members shared words of encouragement, personal experience and departing words for Eric and Damon.

### **Executive Director and Staff Reports – Brian Cox, Rachel London & Michael Lewis**

Brian Cox shared the DD Council's work had benefitted other states. Technical assistance was provided to the Louisiana and Illinois Developmental Disabilities Councils about child care and employment. Both Councils are using our child care videos. Additionally, the Louisiana Council has incorporated the online child care training a DD Council grantee developed as part of a new initiative they are funding to support child care providers.

Michael Lewis shared CoP's statewide meeting was held on June 12 & June 13, 2018 and representatives from all nine CoP's regions throughout the State were present. CoP is developing resources to give out to different agencies on how to access services, working on developing a statewide website and social media for CoP. In April 2018, Michael attended CoP's national annual meeting in Kansas City for the CoP's national annual meeting. The focus was how utilizing and embracing life tools to assist people with planning for a best life. Also, in process of working with the Arc of Maryland, Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) and other disability groups to create a questionnaire for the gubernatorial and congressional candidates.

Rachel London provided the following updates: a final draft of the updated *Planning Now* should be finished by the end of July 2019; the Council, in partnership with Parents' Place of Maryland will be releasing a survey about the transition on students with disabilities from school; and, the Council is planning a fall webinar series about issues affecting students with disabilities.

Council members in action: Meghan Jones & Teresa Herbert attended the National Disability Policy Summit in April and met with Congressional delegation staff to inform and educate them on our priorities. Fact sheets were provided in the packets.

Small grantee in actions: The Autism Society of Baltimore Chesapeake Region hosted an event cosponsored by the Council; over 400 people registered including; 32 people with autism. Photos and quotes from participants were shared.

Members were referred to the Status Report for more information on all activities and outcomes since the last Council meeting.

Brian referred members to the Status Report in the packet.

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

### *Carmen Brown - Maryland State Department of Education*

- For the second year in a row, Governor Hogan has funded the Autism Waiver to receive an additional 100 slots; the Waiver is now able to serve 1200 children with Autism and their families in the community.
- The MSDE recently held Autism Waiver Spring Trainings to support and enhance services from providers and service coordinators to benefit the children and families served through the Waiver.
- The Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services is releasing annual funding to support statewide initiatives aligned with the implementation of the strategic plan in each imperative: Early Childhood; Access, Equity, and Progress; and Secondary Transition.
- Planning for Professional Learning Opportunities in each initiative for the 2018 and 2019 school year is underway.

### *Rosanne Hanratty - Maryland Department of Aging*

- A two-year Hospital to Home project, funded by Money Follows the Person monies in partnership with the Department of Health, ended on 6/30/18. The project was designed to connect people with community-based services upon discharge via a warm handoff from hospital discharge staff to Area Agency on Aging (AAA)/Maryland Access Point staff. Local partners were individual AAAs, hospitals and local health departments. Project goals are to provide optimal services upon discharge and prevent readmissions—thus potentially realizing cost savings for hospitals, which are penalized for readmissions.

### *Teri Sparks - Disability Rights Maryland (DRM)*

- DRM continues to work on individual cases of abuse & neglect as well as advocating for deinstitutionalization of people, including youth who are stuck in hospitals.
- DRM is focusing on the needs of children with developmental disabilities who are raised in foster care.
- DRM has posted some employment opportunities on their website. Please help spread the word.
- DRM is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A gala event will be held on September 27, 2018.

### *Chris Smith - Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities*

- In July, Maureen van Stone will become the interim MCDD Director and the representative to the Council.
- An additional special education attorney who is also a bilingual (Spanish speaking) has been hired.
- A director of training was also hired.
- The Summer Learning Series just started and three sessions have been held at the MCDD offices.
- Outreach was made to the Western Maryland for training for Allegany County Public Schools.

### *Jill Pierce - Division of Rehabilitation*

- In response to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), DORS has an updated Supported Employment policy which enables the agency to serve a more diverse

group of individuals through supported employment. The policy is available online at [www.dors.maryland.gov](http://www.dors.maryland.gov).

- Sue Page, Director of DORS, will retire on June 29, 2018. Scott Dennis, will be the Interim Director. The Superintendent is planning on doing a national search for this position.

*Carol Beatty – Maryland Department of Disabilities*

- July 30, 2018, Maryland will celebrate the anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act with a reception w at the Lowe House Office building with a focus on employment. A PSA that was developed along with MD Public Television will be shown and the Governor will be there to present a proclamation and give remarks. The PSA will premiere at an Orioles game on July 26, the anniversary of the ADA.

*Jed Miller, M.D., M.P.H. - Office of Family and Community Health Services, Maternal and Child Health*

- Michael Spencer is now the new director of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Mr. Spencer has a background as a social worker in developmental pediatrics. He worked for several years in Texas' program for children with special health care needs, and for the federal Health Resources & Services Administration as part of the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program.

*Bernie Simons - Developmental Disabilities Administration*

- The Community Pathways waiver was approved by CMS on June 27, 2018 for a July 1, 2018 start date.
- Applications for the two new support waivers and comprehensive Community Pathways waiver since January 1, 2018 total 1393 with 777 approved as eligible and 580 in process.
- Tonia Ferguson will join DDA as [BC1]the new Chief of Staff.
- Adding contractual positions for more oversight of the Coordinators of Community Services agencies.
- Phase 1 of new IT system -LTSS- goes live on August 1, 2018

Adjourn