



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

EMPOWERMENT • OPPORTUNITY • INCLUSION

**Council's Meeting Minutes * Thursday, June 20, 2019
Columbia, Maryland**

Present	Absent	Staff	Guests
Jo Ellen Barnhart	Harold Gomes	Brian Cox	Monique Day
John Brachter	Brian Miller	Nichole Drummond	Jarred Jones
Carmen Brown	Jill Pierce	Rachel London	Dee Sapp
Kalani Brown	Irene Souada	Shawan Pearson	
Jamal Cannady			
Laura Sun Cerferati			
Brent Debnam			
Lisa Derx			
Elizabeth Hall			
Kay Han			
Rosanne Hanratty			
Kathy Hargett			
Teresa Herbert			
Megan Jones			
Amanda Lay			
Jed Miller			
Rebecca Oliver			
Julie Randall			
Ruth Shipps			
Teri Sparks			
Maureen van Stone			
Terah Tessier			
Adam VanderHook			
Russell Young			

Meeting called to order at 3:50 p.m. by Kalani Brown, Council chairperson

Welcome and Introductions – Kalani Brown, Council Chairperson

- Kalani opened the meeting by welcoming every one of the Council, and recognizing all invited guests and visitors. The invited guests consisted of the new members that will joining their first official Council meeting in September 2019. She introduced Shawan Pearson the Council’s Administrative Coordinator.

Approval of Minutes

- M/S/P to approve the March 4, 2019 minutes.

Executive Committee Report - Kalani Brown

Nomination of new Executive Committee Member

- Kalani Brown made a recommendation to the Council for Maureen van Stone be appointed to the Executive Committee. The recommendation was made because Julie Randall’s term on the Council ends with this meeting. A motion was presented and approved for Maureen Van Stone to become a member of the Executive Committee.

Employment Work Team – Russ Young

TIP grants

Russ Young provided an update on the progression of the TIP Grants. The Council previously approved \$50,000 to fund a fourth round of employment technical assistance grants (TIP grants) to providers. This is a partnership with Maryland Works, which contributed \$20,000 for a total of \$70,000. The review committee, which included members of the Employment Work Team and Maryland Works, met and reviewed 13 proposals and decided to fund 7, 4 of which focus on rural areas. No further action is required by the Council.

Leadership Development Work Team – Teresa Herbert

Teresa Herbert presented the following updates.

The Arc Maryland, Partners in Policymaking (PIP): More than half of all class sessions have now taken place. The remaining three class sessions will take place during June, August and September. Overall, the project is progressing well, and milestones are being met.

- Council staff have been engaged with designing sessions, choosing speakers, selecting participants, and other activities as was required as a condition of the grant.
- The leadership development work team requested and approved a second and third year continuation proposal from the Arc Maryland for Partners in Policymaking. Year 2 will officially begin July 1.

Parents' Place of Maryland, Eastern Shore LEADers:

- The first three of six total training sessions for parent leaders took place this past quarter. Parent leader participants have reported high levels of increased knowledge after participation in these trainings as indicated by the post-event feedback surveys.
- Development of a LEADers portal began on Parents Place of Maryland (PPMD) website for the current class of LEADers. The portal hosts resources and information relevant to LEADers. The portal is set to launch in the next grant period.
- A “pre-LEADers” training curriculum for Spanish-speaking and Haitian families has continued to be targeted and planned for this fall. To aid recruitment, Parents Place of Maryland (PPMD) staff began working with a current LEADers participant that have strong connections to the Haitian community to help market the training and disseminate resources.
- Overall, the grant is progressing well and is on track to accomplish all activities. In the quarter ahead, additional LEADers trainings will take place and Parents Place of Maryland (PPMD) staff will continue efforts to recruit Spanish-speaking and Haitian families for a fall “pre-LEADers” training.

Parents' Place of Maryland, Serving on Groups:

- The goal of this grant is to increase the number of family members serving on decision-making groups at the state and local level. The leadership development work team reviewed the work plan and Council staff is currently working with Parents Place of Maryland (PPMD) to finalize. Once final, grant activities will begin.

Ready at Five, Engaging Parents of Children with DD in Leadership Development through Learning Parties:

- A draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) was shared with program partners ahead of the planned Parent Leadership Learning Parties (PLLPs) to begin next quarter. Five jurisdictions (Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Frederick County, Howard County, and Washington County) have signed agreements to complete learning parties by September 30th. The remaining jurisdictions are in the process of finalizing and signing their memorandum of understandings.
- Overall, after a delayed start to grant activities, Ready at Five has taken the necessary steps to get the timeline for grant activities back on track. In the quarter ahead, Ready at Five will finalize the remaining MOUs with program partners and began to collect data from the first planned PLLPs. The Council will continue to monitor the progress of the grant and provide support as needed to Ready at Five to help ensure success of the grant.

Self-Advocacy Work Team – Brent Debnam

People on the Go

Brent Debnam presented the updates of the People on the Go of Maryland (POG) grant. This initiative's focus is promoting and enhancing advocacy and public policy work with individuals with developmental disabilities.

- Trained 182 people this past quarter.
- Collaborated with the national organizations to facilitate developmental disabilities awareness day on Capitol Hill. Congressional staffers attended and were educated about policy issues of importance to people with I/DD.
- Helped create a public awareness video about the importance of ABLE accounts. The video will be disseminated to the public via social media outlets and state agency websites.
- Began planning People on the Go's 30th Anniversary Bi-annual Conference.
- Overall, the grant is progressing well. The Self Advocacy work team invited People on the Go to submit a continuation proposal.
- In May, we announced that the Council is seeking proposals to develop and provide person-centered planning training for people with developmental disabilities and their families about the DDA's person-centered planning (PCP) process. We structured it as a two-year initiative with \$150,000 of total funding available. The deadline for proposals is July 1.

Diversity Work Team – Kay Han

Kay Han reported that the Diversity Work Team has focused on the following activities:

Outreach Effort

- An outreach letter was sent to 25 minority groups in Maryland. The letter introduces the Council with a focused effort on connecting with people with developmental disabilities and their families from minority groups. Nichole Drummond is making calls to follow up the letter. This will be a continuing effort.

Bilingual Volunteer Group

- Members of the work team who are bilingual have volunteered to speak to people with limited English skills who inquire about the Council's work. Kay invited other Council members who are bilingual to also join this effort.

Translation of Publication

- The Diversity Work Team is conducting a cost-benefit analysis to determine what Council publications should be translated and in what languages. Publications that have been considered include the Council brochure, DDA information sheets, What Matters, and Planning Now.

Executive Committee Funding Report – Brent Debnam

• Small Grants:

Three applications were received since last Council meeting. All three of these requests were approved and \$12,530 of total funding was awarded.

These three small grants are funding:

- Costs to support a needs assessment for Asian-American parents raising children with developmental disabilities.
- The production of a video that showcases the Project Search program specific to stakeholders in Howard County.
- Training of people with developmental disabilities to participate in disability awareness activities in 24 elementary schools in Howard County.

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, eight small grants were funded for a total of \$30, 399.

Education and Training Event Sponsorship (ETES):

Five applications were reviewed by the Executive Committee since the last Council meeting three of these requests were approved and \$9,000 of total funding was awarded.

These three ETES awards are funding the:

- 10th Annual Project ACT Early Childhood Conference
- 2019 Wrightslaw Special Education Law and Advocacy Training Conference
- 2020 World of Possibilities Disabilities Expo in Prince George’s County, MD

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, five Event Sponsorships were funded for a total of \$14,500.

Conference Participation

No funding requests have been submitted since the last Council Meeting.

Executive Director and Staff Reports – Brian Cox

Council Budget: Congress is working on the FY2020 federal budget, which includes all funded programs like the DD Council. There is good bi-partisan support for DD Councils. The House has completed its initial mark up and has included a \$4million increase for DD Councils across the country. The mark up also increases funding for our sister agencies - Maryland Disability Law Center and Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities. There has been no Senate action. We will proceed with our planning as if we will receive at least our current level of funding until more is decide at which point we will adjust.

Period of Performance: The National Association of Council Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) board has surveyed Councils and will be considering whether to engage in further activities to retain the three year period of performance, rather than changing to two. We are prepared for either outcome.

Admin for Community Living: There is a re-organization planned. National Association of Council Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) questions the logic of the changes but it will not impact our Council's funding or operations.

Staffing: Brian congratulated Rachel for being selected as the next Executive Director. Brian and Rachel are working on a transition. The Deputy Director position is being changed to Director of Operations and the position has been advertised. Our hope is to have someone in place 2-4 weeks before Brian's last day. Brian Miller is on personal leave but has remained active in our work, which has been a great support.

Grants: The Council approved up to \$15,000 for seven new initiatives at the March meeting. The work teams already reported on four. The status of the remaining three:

- The Maryland ABLE guide will be printed & translated into Spanish later this year when the writing is completed.
- Stipends for people with developmental disabilities to provide training to law enforcement will be attached to a new contract Maryland Department of Disabilities is awarding; likely in July.
- The Expectations Matter think tank met and developed numerous ideas for expanding the campaign using allocated funds. This includes using small grants focused on raising expectations in schools and utilizing communication tools like YouTube, blogging, and memes. Further planning will occur in the coming months.

Since the Council raised the limit for small grants to \$5000, more and better proposals have been received and the Executive Committee has funded more. Our communications plan will include strategies to inform various audiences about what is funded and what is accomplished. This has the benefit of informing people and organizations about the breadth of our reach and also can encourage people to benefit from what is learned from the small grants and perhaps apply for one

Public policy and advocacy activities on many fronts continue, with a particular focus on the Developmental Disability Administration (DDA) system, child care, education and employment. Refer to the Status Report for details. Nichole Drummond provided an update of the CoP for Supporting Families initiative that we co-lead with Developmental Disability Administration.

Publications:

- Highlights 2018 will be completed very soon. The By the Numbers pocket card in the packets focuses on the over-arching data points.
- What Matters is completed and will be printed and distributed soon. Members were shown a visual of some of the pages.
- The Developmental Disability Administration Informational sheets have been translated into Spanish and will be announced soon. Brian acknowledged Disability Rights of Maryland and Maryland Center Developmental Disabilities for their partnership on this project and thanked Teri for her extensive work.
- Planning Now is available in Spanish and will soon be announced.

Dinner Break

State Agency and Sister Agency Reports

Jill Pierce – Department of Rehabilitation Services

- No Report Presented

Carmen Brown – Maryland State Department of Education

- No Report Presented

Jed Miller – Office of Family and Community Health Services, Maternal and Child Health,
Maryland Department of Health

- Jed Miller informed the Council that Maryland's newborn screening program started testing babies for four additional conditions at birth. The names of the conditions are MPS-I, Fabry disease, Pompe disease, and Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Elizabeth Hall (Presented for Carol Beatty)– Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD)

- Elizabeth Hall informed the Council that Maryland Department of Disabilities will be celebrating the ADA's 29th anniversary this summer with its **#AccessibleSummer** campaign highlighting accessible and inclusive recreation opportunities around the state. The campaign kicks off tomorrow. Maryland Department of Disabilities is also celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Maryland Technology Assistance Program (MDTAP). There will be a weeklong celebration in July including a panel presentation, an open house with vendors, and

an accessible gaming event for young adults. For more information please check Maryland Department of Disabilities' Facebook page.

Maureen van Stone – Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD)

- An announcement about the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities' summer learning series will be released soon.

Roseanne Hanratty – Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA)

- The Department was awarded a grant from the Administration on Community Living (ACL) to develop a business case for the No Wrong Door System using data and research.
- The Department will be working with Administration of Community Living to expand national efforts and build on the national model of transition from hospital settings to increase positive outcomes for people in Maryland.
- The grant focuses on people living in Cecil, Baltimore, and Frederick counties, as well as the Eastern Shore.

Teri Sparks – Disability Rights Maryland (DRM)

- Disability Rights Maryland continues to engage in work to investigate incidents of abuse and neglect as well as other activities to insure protection of individual rights.
- Disability Rights Maryland invites all to visit the website to review details of 3 open positions and share with potential applicants. <https://disabilityrightsmd.org/>
- Disability Rights Maryland announces the upcoming Breaking Barriers Gala and Award event on 9/18/19 at the Visionary Arts Museum, see Disability Rights of Maryland website for details.
- Disability Rights Maryland wishes to congratulate Brian Cox on his retirement and recognize his strong and effective partnership with
- Disability Rights Maryland in advancing the rights of people with disabilities over the years.

Upcoming Quarter - Rachel London

- The search is still on for a Director of Operations. The target is to have someone start by August 1, 2019.
- The FY2020 budget is being developed and will be presented at the next meeting.
- Preparations are underway for the Council to consider new funding ideas at the September or December meeting.

- The new person-centered planning grant will be on-boarded and staff will help the selected grantee start its work.

Farewells – All

- Kalani Brown presented Governor Citations and gifts of appreciation to Julie Randall and JoEllen Barnhart whose terms as Council Members are expiring.
- Kalani and Rachel London recognized Brian Cox's retirement, spoke about his contributions, and thanked him for his service. Council members made remarks and comments of appreciation. Brian made remarks and thanked Council members and staff.

Announcements – All

There were no additional announcements.

Meeting Adjourn @ 7:15p.m.