



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

**Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 17, 2021**

Present:

- Damon Briggs
- Carmen Brown
- Kalani Brown
- Jamal Cannady
- Laura-Sun Cefaratti
- Brent Debnam
- Lisa Derx
- Elizabeth Hall (Representing Carol Beatty)
- Kay Han
- Kathy Hargett
- Jarred Jones
- Karena Jones
- Meghan Jones
- Amanda Lay
- Jed Miller
- Dee Sapp
- Irene Souada
- Teri Sparks
- Maureen van Stone
- Bernie Simons
- Liz Weintraub
- Russell Young

Absent:

- Angie Auldridge
- Monique Binger
- Harold Gomes
- Teresa Herbert
- Jill Hill
- Ronetta Stanley

Staff:

- Rachel London
- Shawan Pearson
- Christy Russell
- Keith Walmsley

Guest

- Lisa Todd, Director of State Services of GT Independence

Meeting called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Kalani Brown, Council Chairperson.

Welcome and Introductions – Kalani Brown

Kalani welcomed everyone; the members of the Council, and LaToya Todd, Director of State Services of GT Independence (Guest).

Public Comments

- No public comments

Approval of Minutes – Kalani Brown

- M/S/P to approve the March 22, 2021 minutes.

Council Chair Report – Kalani Brown

Executive Committee approved funding for the following:

- The Arc of Chesapeake - \$15,000 to train middle and high school students with developmental disabilities take control of their IEP/504 plan and advocate for their educational needs.
- Abilities Network/ Project Act - \$30,000 to develop, test, and put in place disability-specific trainings for child care professionals. The topics include:
 - Down Syndrome
 - Cerebral Palsy
 - Seizure Disorders
 - Fragile X Syndrome
 - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
 - Spina Bifida
- Employment Work Team approved \$150,000 to Penn-Mar Human Services and TransCen, Inc. to provide technical assistance for the Rebuilding DDA Providers through Technical Assistance demonstration project. The group selected 5 providers to transform service delivery models and business practices during and after COVID.
- A survey will be sent to Council members about resuming in-person meetings.

Executive Director Report – Rachel London

- Gabrielle Breven resigned from the position as the Director of Grants Management and Reporting.
- The proposed FFY2022 budget includes an additional \$10 million dollars for all Developmental Disabilities Councils.
- The Council received \$70,000 from a partnership between Administration on Community Living (ACL) and the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC) to increase the COVID vaccination rate for people with disabilities. Staff is meeting with partners, including the Centers for Independent Living, to gather information about what people with disabilities, families, providers, and others need.

- Council staff worked closely with the Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services to develop a new regulation and process so students with disabilities receive an endorsement with their certificate of completion when they leave high school.

Draft Council Ground Rules – Rachel London and Kalani Brown

- Reviewed draft Council Ground Rules. The final version will go to the Executive Committee for a vote.

2nd Quarter FFY21 Final Budget Report – Christy Russell

- Quarterly budget reviewed. No questions, comments, or concerns.

State Plan Review and Approval – Rachel London and Christy Russell

- Public Input Survey reviewed. Questions answered and comments recorded.
- Evaluation Plan reviewed. No questions or concerns
- FFY2022 and FFY2023 Annual Work Plans reviewed. No questions, comments, or concerns. M/S/P to approve the Annual Work Plans.
- Staff will submit the State Plan in September.

Meeting Adjourn @ 5:32p.m.