



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

EMPOWERMENT • OPPORTUNITY • INCLUSION

**Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 22, 2021**

Present:

- Angie Auldridge
- Monique Binger
- Damon Briggs
- Carmen Brown
- Kalani Brown
- Jamal Cannady
- Laura-Sun Cefaratti
- Brent Debnam
- Harold Gomes
- Elizabeth Hall (Representing Carol Beatty)
- Kay Han
- Kathy Hargett
- Teresa Herbert
- Jill Hill
- Jarred Jones
- Kareenna Jones
- Meghan Jones
- Amanda Lay
- Jed Miller
- Dee Sapp
- Ruth Shipps
- Irene Souada
- Teri Sparks
- Maureen van Stone
- Bernie Simons
- Liz Weintraub
- Russell Young

Absent:

- Ronetta Stanley
- Lisa Derx
- Rebecca Oliver

Staff:

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

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 Gabrielle Breven, MSW, the newly hired Director of Grant Management & Reporting.

Public Comments

- No public comments presented.

Approval of Minutes – Kalani Brown

M/S/P to approve the December 3, 2020 minutes.

Council Chair Report – Kalani Brown

- The Employment Work team will review consultant applications for the DDA Provider Transformation RFP next month. The consultant will provide technical assistance to five providers, licensed, certified, or approved by the Developmental Disabilities Administration, to transform service delivery models following the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Departing comments to Ruth Shipps for serving as Council Member.

Executive Director Report – Rachel London

- ACL extended the deadline for the Periodic Program Report (PPR).
- FY 2020 Highlights, the public annual report will be designed by Fat Cat, the same company that designed FY 2018 and 2019 Highlights.
- Council staff drafted an RFP for a Communications Specialist to manage social media, the communications plan, and work with the plain language consultant.
- The daughter of former Council member Julie Randall passed away. Council staff and members send condolences to the family.

Plain Language Document Review – Rachel London

Council staff continue to work with the plain language consultant to translate all public facing documents into plain language. In addition, we created a plain language reference guide for use by Council staff, grantees, and our partners.

2021 Legislative Updates – Keith Walmsley & Rachel London

- 584 people attended DD Day at the legislature virtually. Over 2,000 watched the live stream on Facebook.
- The Council posts priority legislation and bills to monitor each Friday on the Council website.
- The plain language consultant created an “easy read” version of the 2021 Public Policy Priorities, available to download on the website.

FFY20 Final Budget Report – Christy Russell

A presentation and overview for the 1st quarter of FFY 2021 Council budget.

State Plan Work Team - Amanda Lay

- M/S/P to approve the 5 Year State Plan goals, objectives, and strategies as presented.
- M/S/P to approve the Targeted Disparity objective for the next 5 Year State Plan.
- M/S/P to approve the Collaboration objective for the next 5 Year State Plan.
- Next steps – goals and objectives will go out for public comment through May 17, 2021.

State Agency and Sister Agency Reports

Carmen Brown – Maryland State Department of Education

Marcella Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) continues to host the Assistant State Superintendent Advisory Council.

The DEI/SES submitted the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), a federal grant opportunity that would allow the Division to create demonstration sites in four elementary schools within two local school systems. The purpose is to increase elementary math proficiency, social-emotional competency, and an evidence-based practice model for professional development.

With stakeholder input, the DEI/SES enhanced virtual, hybrid, and in-person educational and support practices within local school systems and public agencies, they also plan to update the Maryland Online IEP (MOIEP), and provide guidance for compensatory education and transitions and social-emotional well-being.

Meeting Adjourn @ 5:33p.m.