



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, September 21, 2023

Present:

Kevin Armstrong, Angie Auldridge, Richard Bauernschub, Jody Boone, Damon Briggs, Kalani Brown, Meeka Caldwell, Laura – Sun Cefaratti, Laura Chavez-Luna, Kay Han, Kathy Hargett, Karenna Jones, Meghan Jones, Tiffany Joseph, Kim McKay, Dr. Sohail Qarni, Dee Sapp, Bernie Simons, Maureen van Stone, Kate Szymanski, and Russell Young

Absent:

Carmen Brown, Amanda Distefano, Staci Forrest, Harold Gomes, Jarred Jones, and Lucy Caltagirone

Staff:

Dr. Stephanie Dolamore, Rachel London, Shawan Pearson and Chris Rogers

Guest:

Kelly Meissner for Carmen Brown (MSDE)

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Dee Sapp, Council Chairperson.

Welcome and Introductions – Dee Sapp

- Dee Sapp welcomed everyone, the Members of the Council, guests, and newly hired Director of Engagement, Chris Rogers.

Public Comments – Dee Sapp

- No public comments

Approval of Minutes – Meghan Jones

- M/S/P to approve the June 22, 2023 minutes.

Vice Chair Report – Meghan Jones

- Meghan Jones shared the accomplishments and special announcements that Council Members shared before the meeting.

Chair Report – Dee Sapp

- The Chair reviewed the upcoming meeting dates and reviewed the meeting schedule for 2024.
- The Chair created a private Facebook group for current and past members to share information. It is not sponsored officially by the Council. She asked everyone to join.
- Reviewed the Conflict of Interest Policy and the Ground Rules with Council Members and informed everyone to please complete the forms.

Executive Director Report – Rachel London

- Updated the Council of the Inclusive Playground framework. There is a meeting scheduled with Secretary Beatty of the Maryland Department of Disabilities and Secretary Kurtz of the Department of Natural Resources to discuss partnership and ways to facilitate the implementation of the Inclusive Playgrounds Framework across Maryland.
- The DDA committed to updating the Low Intensity Support Services Guide to plain language.
- The DDA and the Council partnered with Zoe Gross of the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network to provide a 2 hour training about plain language. Staff

from DDA's regional offices, DDA Headquarters, MDOD, and the Council attended. Next, this training will be offered to the broader community.

- The Council and DDA are giving a joint presentation at the National Association of State DD Directors Annual Conference in November, 2023. The presentation will highlight all the joint collaborations, including our work on plain language.
- Outreach to different state agencies has been a focus. The focus is on ways to collaborate, providing resources in plain languages, and preparing for the next 5-year State Plan.

Diversity Work Team – Kay Han (VOTE)

- The Diversity Work Team (DWT) reviewed 11 proposals for the Cultural Brokers in Maryland grants. There is a motion from the DWT to fund the following 3 organizations.
 - \$60,000 - Doreen Shing with People Power & the Howard County Burmese Society to support 5 cultural brokers and 80 people with developmental disabilities in the Burmese immigrant community.
 - \$60,000 – Ethiopian and Eritrean Special Needs Community to support 8 cultural brokers who will provide resources and information to Ethiopian and Eritrean immigrants with developmental disabilities, their families, and organizations that are in their lives.
 - \$35,000 – The Arc Prince George's County to hire 5 cultural brokers to provide information and resources to 150 people with developmental disabilities and their families in the Spanish-speaking community.

After much discussion about the 3 proposals, there was a new motion to fund the 3 projects for a total of \$155,000 in the following amounts:

- Doreen Shing at \$45,000
- Ethiopian and Eritrean Special Needs Community at \$60,000
- The Arc Prince George's County at \$50,000

M/S/P to fund a total of \$155,000.

3rd Quarter FFY 2023 Budget Report – Rachel London

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

Meeting Adjourn at 6:35 p.m.