



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 14, 2023

Present:

Kevin Armstrong, Richard Bauernschub, Jody Boone, Carmen Brown, Kalani Brown, Meeka Caldwell, Amanda Distefano, Laura Chavez-Luna, Kay Han, Kathy Hargett, Jarred Jones, Karenna Jones, Meghan Jones, Tiffany Joseph, Kim McKay, Dr. Sohail Qarni, Dee Sapp, Kate Szymanski, and Maureen van Stone

Absent:

Angie Auldridge, Damon Briggs, Lucy Caltagirone, Laura-Sun Cefaratti, Staci Forrest, Tiffany Joseph, Kimberly McKay, Bernie Simons, and Russell Young

Staff:

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

Guests:

Bruce Clopein, Manager of Adaptive Programs, Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park

Kirsten Robb-McGrath, Director of Health and Behavioral Health Policy, Maryland Department of Disabilities

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Dee Sapp, Council Chairperson.

Welcome and Introductions - Dee Sapp

- Dee Sapp welcomed everyone, the Members of the Council, visitors, and guests.

Public Comments - Dee Sapp

- No public comments

Approval of Minutes - Meghan Jones

- M/S/P to approve the September 21, 2023 minutes.

Chair Report - Dee Sapp

- Reviewed the new Status Report format with Council Members.
- Reviewed the Cultural Broker grants summary report.
- Council Members will be receiving a 10-question survey to provide their opinions/ideas on how the Council can capitalize and/or have a greater impact.

Executive Director Report - Rachel London

- Thank you to the entire Council Staff for assisting in the completion of the PPR report, which is the Council's formal Annual Report for the Federal Government. Special thanks to Dr. Stephanie Dolamore, Deputy Director, to ensure that the report is submitted ahead of the due date.
- The 2024 Maryland Legislation Session will begin on January 10, 2024 and ends on April 8, 2024. We heard that over 3,000 bills were prefiled for this year's session.
- Today, the Spending Affordability Committee will be releasing the State's budgetary final projections for the next fiscal year.
- The Council has signed a MOU to partner with the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs to develop information and resources for military families with family members that have developmental disabilities. The Council will host listening sessions to learn from military families about what they need and want.

- Bernie Simons, Deputy Secretary of MDH, will be retiring officially at the end of the year. Marlana Hutchinson will be the new Deputy Secretary as of January 10, 2024.

2024 Public Policy Priorities – Rachel London

- 2024 Public Policy Priorities reviewed. No questions, comments, or concerns.

4th Quarter FFY 2023 Budget Report – Rachel London

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

FFY23 Overview – Summary of Major Activities – Rachel London

- Reviewed a summary of the accomplishments of Year 2 of the 5 year State Plan.

Goal 1 – People with developmental disabilities are leaders and advocates.

- Youth and adults with disabilities increased their leadership skills. They used those skills to become leaders in their communities.
- People with DD increased their knowledge and advocated more because of POG activities
- People with DD participated in leadership positions alongside people from different backgrounds

Goal 2 – People with developmental disabilities and their families are empowered to live the lives they want.

- 27,357 got information from the Council.
- People with DD and their families have a better understanding of the issues that are important to them.
- People with DD and their families are better able to participate in advocacy work.

- People with DD and their families in diverse and underserved communities have better access to information and resources that can help them live the lives they want.

Goal 3- People with developmental disabilities and their families have access to their communities, and services and supports. They are treated with dignity and respect.

- 36 policies, laws, and programs improved for people with DD.
- More people with DD received community services and supports.
- The Council made progress on priority topics such as inclusive housing, employment, recreation, education and more.
- 188 Legislators were educated about issues related to DD.

Inclusive Recreation Presentation

Adaptive Programs: Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park

- Bruce Clopein provided an overview of the mission of Adaptive Programs and events that are offered to individuals with disabilities.

Playgrounds for All Framework: Kirsten Robb-McGrath, Maryland Department of Disabilities

- Kirsten provided an update of the collaboration efforts between MDOD and the Council about the framework for inclusive playgrounds.

Meeting Adjourn at 6:10 p.m.