



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Council Meeting Minutes Monday, March 18, 2024

Present:

Kevin Armstrong, Angie Auldridge, Richard Bauernschub, Damon Briggs, Carmen Brown, Kalani Brown, Laura-Sun Cefaratti, Amanda Distefano, Kay Han, Kathy Hargett, Marlana Hutchinson, Jarred Jones, Karenna Jones, Meghan Jones, Kim McKay, Dr. Sohail Qarni, Dee Sapp, Maureen van Stone, and Russell Young

Absent:

Jody Boone, Meeka Caldwell, Lucy Caltagirone, Laura Chavez-Luna, Staci Forrest, Tiffany Joseph, and Kate Szymanski

Staff:

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

Guests:

Jennifer Eastman, Department of Disabilities; Bailey House, MD Department of Health and Office of Youth with Special Health Care Needs; Shelly McLaughlin, Pathfinders of Autism; Leah Saal, Loyola University; and Erica Wheeler, Ethan Saylor Alliance

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 December 14, 2023 minutes.

Chair Report - Dee Sapp

- Reviewed the details for Council Retreat. The Retreat will be held at the Lakehouse Marriott Merriweather in Columbia, MD.
- Executive Committee approved a \$30,000 to the Abilities Network. This funding will provide training to teachers at childcare providers about children with disabilities and how to be more inclusive. The funding will support providers throughout the state of Maryland.
- The Nominations Committee will be soliciting Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair positions for the Council.

Executive Director Report - Rachel London

- The Federal Government released more of the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 funding through the Continuing Resolution.
- We are expanding the reach of the inclusive playground framework that we did in partnership with the Department of Disabilities by developing a website. The website will provide a broad overview of the framework and toolkit, and much more. The website will include an interactive map about where the inclusive playgrounds are throughout the state. The designer for this project will be Laura Hatcher and we plan to continue our partnership with the Department of Disabilities.
- A Think Tank is being formed to address the DSP workforce shortage in close partnership with the Developmental Disabilities Administration but this will be an in-house Council activity. We are contracting with a Consultant to coordinate meetings. There will be written recommendations that will be provided to the Department of Health. Marlana Hutchinson, Deputy Secretary is supporting this initiative.

Membership Committee - Meghan Jones and Christopher Rogers

- The Membership Committee reviewed 11 applications from people with developmental disabilities and family members. The committee invited 7 to interview. The Committee selected 3 of the candidates. The 3 individuals that were selected are Theresa Kuhns, Justin Stocker, and Marcus Whitman.
- There is a motion from the Membership Committee to approve the 3 new Council members. S/P to approve the new Council members.

Criminal Justice State Plan Objective Updates:

Pathfinders of Autism - Shelly McLaughlin

- The Council is assisting with the funding for 2 of the Mock Traffic Stops. The first mock traffic stop is with the Baltimore County Police. There are 13 individuals that registered to participate in this event. The second mock traffic stop will be held in Laurel, Maryland and they are partnering with the MD Transit Police, Montgomery County Police, and the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office.

Leading to Learn Project - Leah Saal, Loyola University

- The Leading to Learn Project provides training to Correctional Supervisors in the Jessup region of Maryland on how to work with individuals in the prison system with developmental disabilities. This is a pilot program in partnership with the Council. The goal of this initiative is to improve the care for individuals with developmental disabilities while incarcerated.

Ethan Saylor Alliance - Erica Wheeler, Chair and

Jennifer Eastman, Department of Disabilities

- The Ethan Saylor Alliance provided an overview of the objectives and training that was adopted by the Training Commission to establish a model curriculum for Police Officers and Law Enforcement Professionals. The Alliance is now accepting applications for the Community Impact

Grants. There has been a website developed to launch the grants.
Applications from community-based organizations are due April 5, 2024.

1st Quarter FFY 2024 Budget Report – Rachel London

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

Legislative Updates – Rachel London

- A review was provided of all the bills that Council members testified about. Other bills were also highlighted.
- One bill created a program to increase access to families with low and moderately low income for attorneys, advocates, and consultants to help them through the special education process. \$1 million was included in the budget.

Meeting Adjourn at 6:07 p.m.