



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, June 13, 2024

Present:

Kevin Armstrong, Angie Auldridge, Richard Bauernschub, Jody Boone, Damon Briggs, Carmen Brown, Kalani Brown, Meeka Caldwell, Lucy Caltagirone, Laura-Sun Cefaratti, Amanda DiStefano, Staci Forrest, Kathy Hargett, Meghan Jones, Tiffany Joseph, Theresa Kuhns, Kim McKay, Dee Sapp, Justin Stocker, Kate Szymanski, Maureen van Stone, Marcus Whitman, and Russell Young

Absent:

Laura Chavez-Luna, Kay Han, Marlana Hutchinson, Jarred Jones, Karenna Jones, and Dr. Sohail Qarni

Staff:

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

Guests:

Sophie Ehrich, KKI; Dr. Antoine Hickman, MSDE; and Hope Sadler, University of Oklahoma

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. by Dee Sapp, Council Chairperson.

Welcome and Introductions – Dee Sapp

- Dee Sapp welcomed everyone. She led introductions of Council Members, Staff, new members, and visitors.

Public Comments – Dee Sapp

- No public comments

Approval of Minutes – Meghan Jones

- M/S/P to approve the March 18, 2024 minutes.

Chair Report – Dee Sapp

- The term for Council member Russell Young ended. This will be his last meeting. Russell received a small gift and Governor’s citation for serving as a member for 10 years.
- September’s Council meeting will be on September 19, 2024 from 1:00 - 7:00p.m. It will be the Council retreat. Diversity is the theme for the retreat.

Executive Director Report – Rachel London

- Interviews are scheduled for the new Policy Specialist position.
- The Council received our Federal Fiscal Year 2024 monies. The funding amount is \$1,262,502.
- Listening sessions will be scheduled around Maryland with military families to develop informational resources.
- The Maryland housing publication is being created with Jennifer Bishop. This publication will provide personal stories of individuals with developmental disabilities.
- The Council is partnering with MDOD to develop a website to expand the inclusive playground framework. The website will also include an interactive map about where the inclusive playgrounds are located throughout the state of Maryland. The designer for this project is Laura Hatcher.
- The Council is leading a Direct Support Professional (DSP) Workforce Shortage Think Tank. The purpose of this initiative is to provide recommendations to the

Maryland Department of Health about how to increase the DSP workforce and address workforce shortages.

5-Year State Plan Overview – Rachel London

- The next 5-Year State Plan review will be discussed at September’s Retreat.

Updates from the Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services, Maryland State Department of Education – Dr. Antione Hickman, Assistant Superintendent

- Dr. Hickman provided a comprehensive overview of educational services provided to students with disabilities and their families.

Nominations Committee – Russell Young

- Motion from the Nominations Committee to approve Dee Sapp for Chairperson and Megan Jones for Vice Chairperson of the Council starting July 1, 2024.

M/S/P to approve the nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Diversity Work Team Update – Dr. Stephanie Dolamore

- The DWT has been monitoring the Cultural Brokering grants. The DWT has also been working on a diversity statement. They will share that statement at the Retreat in September.

2nd Quarter FFY 2024 Budget Report – Rachel London

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

Meeting Adjourn at 6:10 p.m.