



## **Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council**

### **Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, June 5, 2025**

#### **Present:**

Kevin Armstrong, Angie Auldridge, Richard Bauernschub, Jody Boone, Damon Briggs, Carmen Brown, Kalani Brown, Laura-Sun Cefaratti, Laura Paloma Chavez, Staci Forrest, Jarred Jones, Karenna Jones, Tiffany Joseph, Theresa Kuhns, Dee Sapp, Justin Stocker, Katelyn Szymanski, Marcus Whitman

#### **Absent:**

Meeka Caldwell, Lucy Caltagirone, Amanda Distefano, Kay Han, Kathy Hargett, Marlana Hutchinson, Kim McKay, Maureen van Stone, Lauren Whiteman

#### **Staff:**

Rachel London, Stephanie Dolamore, Shawan Pearson, Chris Rogers

#### **Guests:**

- Nova Evans, DDA Representative for Marlana Hutchinson
- Chris Mason-Hale, KKI Representative for Maureen van Stone

**The meeting was called to order by Dee Sapp, Council Chairperson.**

#### **Welcome and Introductions – Dee Sapp**

- Dee Sapp welcomed everyone to the Council meeting.

#### **Public Comments**

- No Public Comments

## **Approval of Minutes**

- M/S/P to approve the March 10, 2025 minutes.

## **Executive Director Report – Rachel London**

- Federal funding updates: We got the rest of our FFY 2025 funding. Right now, we expect to see a slight decrease for FFY 2026. The proposed federal budget includes a \$1 million decrease in funding for all Councils. **UPDATE: The Senate committee passed a version of the FFY 2026 funding for Councils that keeps us funded at the same amount as this year.**
- The Executive Committee paused funding in FY 2026 until we know more. A contingency plan was developed and reviewed. The Committee wants to prioritize staff salaries.
- Medicaid funding updates: The Reconciliation cuts about \$800 million from Medicaid. More advocacy is needed. **UPDATE: The Reconciliation (Big Bill) was signed on July 4, 2025 with significant cuts to Medicaid.**
- The DDA will release proposed waiver amendments next week. Comments are due 30 days after.

## **Council Budget – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FFY 2025 Overview** – Stephanie Dolamore

- The quarterly budget was reviewed. There were no questions, comments, or concerns.

## **Nominations Committee** – Jarred Jones

- The Nominations Committee moved to elect Damon Briggs and Rich Bauernschub as co-vice chairpersons.
- After a second, the motion passed.

## **Next State Plan: Small Group Discussion**

Before small group discussion, Rachel provided the following information about the process to develop our next State Plan:

- There are many stages to figure out how to focus our time and resources over the next five years:

- We are getting broad community input through the survey.
- Using our time together to identify priorities, generate ideas to address them, and think critically about what we should do over the next five years.
- Before the Work Teams start talking about specific areas like education, community supports, and advocacy, we want to have some broader conversations about our vision for Maryland.
- Tonight we are going to do that in small groups.
- We are going to use something called appreciative inquiry. It focuses the discussions on:
  - Identifying the best of what is
  - Envisioning what might be
  - Discussing what we want for the future
  - Being creative about how to get that future

**Meeting Adjourned after dinner.**