**- Approved -**

**CONNECTICUT COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**(Online via Microsoft Teams)**

The 240th meeting of the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, from 10:01 a.m. to 12:52 p.m. on Microsoft Teams.

**Presiding:**  Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair

**Recorder of Minutes:**  Donna Devin, Program Assistant

**Members Present:**  Emily Ball, Michelle Baughman, Chuck Bergamo, Kevin Daly, Antonia Edwards, Michael Finley, Lynn Frith, Karen Healy, James Hexter, Vice Chair; Shannon Jacovino, Bryan Klimkiewicz, Graziela do Carmo Reis, Kathy Strout, Jennifer Switalski, Fran Traceski, Tara Viens, James Welsh

**Members Absent:**   April Burke, Andy Cirioli, Kaitlynn Ramos, Damaris Santos, Louis St. Felix,

**Staff:**  Walter Glomb, Director

1. **Call to Order:**  With a quorum present, Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Michelle Baughman motioned to approve the agenda. Chuck Bergamo seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

1. **Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2022, Public Forum & Council Meeting:**  James Hexter, Vice Chair, motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Michelle Baughman. The minutes were approved.
2. **Comments by the Chair:**  Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, applauded the Council and thanked them for making her first month as the Council’s Chair, and the year, a memorable one.

She informed the Council that Governor Lamont had announced Connecticut received a $13.9M grant to increase competitive, integrated employment for individuals with disabilities. This was an objective in the Council’s previous Five-Year Plan.
3. **Introduction of New Council Members:**  Karen Healy, and Kathie Strout, two new members who were present, introduced themselves to their fellow members.
4. **Report from the Council Executive Director on State Plan Activities for Fiscal Year 2022:** Walter Glomb, Council Executive Director, reported to the Council on the status of their grantees and activities occurring to assist the Council in meeting its goals and objectives. The Arc of Eastern Connecticut, Community Autism Socials at Yale (CASY), Western Connecticut Association of Human Rights (WeCAHR), Rocky Hill Public Schools, the State Independent Living Council (SILC), Asperger/Autism Network (AANE), Connecticut Health Policy Project, PATH/Family Voices, and the Connecticut Association for Human Services’ Keep the Promise Coalition were among the grantees discussed.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) approved a no cost extension on the Council’s 2021 fiscal year funding to People First of Connecticut. The Arc of Connecticut is guiding them through a transition period as the group reorganizes.

Once again, the Council will be working with Connecticut Public, Media for the Curious. The Public Broadcasting System (PBS) and National Public Radio (NPR) are under their wing. They created the Council’s “Able Lives” series, and the “Building A Great Life” documentary, along with 4 vignettes. They will be developing one minute stories for the Council.
5. **Report by the Director on Expanding the Public Health Workforce (CT Community Health Workers):** The Council has an MOU with Health Equity Solutions. They will be working with the Community Health Workers Association of Connecticut to develop a training program on accommodations for individuals with developmental disabilities. This collaboration will include assistance from the UCONN UCEDD.
6. **Report by the Executive Director on the Bridging Aging and Disability Community of Practice Program:** Walter Glomb, Council Executive Director, said the Council hosted a successful and well attended in-person event on Wednesday, September 28, at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill. Dr. Joe Caldwell from Brandeis University gave a presentation on bridging aging and disability services. Commissioner Amy Porter from the State Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS), and Commissioner Jordan Scheff from the State Department of Developmental Services (DDS), opened the event with remarks in support of the new project. The Community of Practice team is holding regular bi-weekly meetings via Teams.

Walt will speak about the Council’s work on their vaccine clinic last year, on an ACL national call during the week of November 7. Connecticut has been recognized as a state that did remarkable things with the vaccine grant funding. It was done in a way that has evolved into new connections, and continuing work under other grants with the new Aging and Disability Community of Practice program and the Community Health Workers training.

Walt has a Teams meeting run by the Connecticut Family Support Network (CTFSN), the week of November 7, to address the lack of affordable housing for individuals with disabilities.

1. **Report by the Executive Director on the Fiscal Year 2022 Council Budget:** The Council’s Disability Policy Specialist is on medical leave, budget is on track and staff continues to look for opportunities to save money and cut back on costs whenever possible.
2. **Report From the Proposal Review and Evaluation Committee and Motions to Approve Recommendations:** Charles Bergamo, the Chair of the Committee, spoke on behalf of the Committee. The Committee recommended three (3) grant funding requests be approved by the Council.

Connecticut Public, Media for the Curious – $48,500 in funding for a Council project discussed earlier in the Executive Director’s report. James Hexter, Council Vice Chair, motioned to approve funding for Connecticut Public, Media for the Curious. Shannon Jacovino seconded the motion. The proposal was approved.

Futures –$33,000 in a second round of funding for their micro-enterprise program. Doris Maldonado Mendez, Council Chair, asked for a motion to approve funding for Futures. Michelle Baughman made the motion. Chuck Bergamo, Committee Chair, seconded the motion. The proposal was approved.

Yale Community Health Program – $33,000 in renewed funding for their outreach program. They will take the information they learned from their community conversations on issues of barriers to access in marginalized communities and incorporate it into training modules on advocacy and how to access services for community leaders and their teams to use. Doris Maldonado Mendez, Council Chair, asked for a motion to approve funding for Yale. Chuck Bergamo, Committee Chair, made the motion. Tara Viens seconded the motion. The proposal was approved.

1. **Discussion of Formation of the Executive Committee:** Doris Maldonado Mendez, Council Chair, opened a discussion on the formation of the Executive Committee. The Council’s Chair and Vice Chair are required to serve on it.

Walt, Council Executive Director, suggested only the Chair of the Council’s other committees be a member of the Executive Committee for improved efficiency. To do this, the Council by-laws would have to be amended.

The other committees are the Advocacy, Public Information and Education Committee; Legislative Policy and Planning Committee, the Membership Committee and the Proposal Review and Evaluation Committee. Any Council member who hasn’t yet selected a committee to serve on should select one and plan on attending regularly scheduled meetings.
2. **Discussion of Public Policy Issues:** Walt Glomb, Council Executive Director, began a general discussion on public policy issues. He stressed the areas of focus in the DD Act; regarding housing, education, health care, etc. The Council discussed specific topics such as housing, healthcare, special education, access, eligibility, the caregiver crisis, and transportation.
3. **Announcements and Adjournment:** Doris Maldonado Mendez, Council Chair asked for a motion for adjournment. Chuck Bergamo made a motion for adjournment. Michelle Baughman seconded the motion. The meeting concluded at 12:52 p.m. The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, online via MS Teams.