**- Approved -**

**CONNECTICUT COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 10:04 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.**

**(Online via Microsoft Teams)**

The 242nd meeting of the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, from 10:04 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. on Microsoft Teams.

**Presiding:**  Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair

**Recorder of Minutes:**  Microsoft Teams

**Members Present:**  Emily Ball, Michelle Baughman, Chuck Bergamo, April Burke, Andy Cirioli, Antonia Edwards, Michael Finley, Lynn Frith, James Hexter, Vice Chair; Kaitlynn Ramos, Graziela do Carmo Reis, Kathie Strout, Fran Traceski, James Welsh

**Members Absent:**   Kevin Daly, Karen Healy, Shannon Jacovino, Bryan Klimkiewicz, Damaris Santos, Louis St. Felix, Jennifer Switalski, Tara Viens

**Staff:**  Walter Glomb, Director

**Guests:** Ellen Andrews, Connecticut Health Policy

1. **Call to Order:**  With a quorum present, Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Andy Cirioli motioned to approve the agenda. Chuck Bergamo seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

1. **Approval of Minutes from January 10, Council Meeting:**  April Burke motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Fran Traceski. The minutes were approved.
2. **Comments by the Chair:**  Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, said the Council has been extremely busy with the Legislative session in full swing. She and Walt Glomb, Council Executive Director have been testifying in front of the Legislature and submitting testimonials on behalf of the Council. She commented it’s been a wonderful outpouring of support and educational opportunity for the Legislators to be educated on the experiences of parents, caregivers, and adults.

She, Walt, Kathie Strout, and a group of parents have been meeting and discussing House Bill No. 5001 – An Act Concerning Resources and Support Services For Persons With Intellectual Disability. She thanked Walt for the testimony he gave at the House Bill hearing. She said it was crucial and placed the Council in a very wonderful situation with Legislators asking for Council advice and comments.

In his testimony, Walter Glomb, the Executive Director of the Council, thanked the Legislature for the bill, especially for section 4 that would develop and recommend new state definitions for intellectual disability and developmental disabilities. He submitted written testimony on the bill addressing all 12 sections of it, some of which are very detailed. He said the Council is prepared to assist the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS), and other departments of the administration.

Doris and Walt have been meeting with several members from the IDD Caucus leaders and freshman Legislators who are eager to learn. The Council has tremendous support from State Senator Lisa Seminara, who is a parent with lived experiences. The Council is receiving applause and support from both sides of the aisle.

1. **Report from the Council Executive Director on State Plan Activities for Fiscal Year:** Walter Glomb, Council Executive Director, applauded the efforts of Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, and Kathie Strout, Council member, on their testimonies they presented to the Legislature.

It is an extremely busy time for the Council who are currently overseeing more than 20 projects. Walt is very focused on the Assistive Technology conference being held by the DDS and the Tech Act Project in June. Plans are being solidified and people can expect another terrific technology conference.

Futures would like to hold a statewide convention or conference of individuals, who are running their microbusinesses and are self-employed. The Council would like to assist them in this venture and have some other organizations help sponsor the event as well.

Walt is working on recruiting people to participate in Connecticut Public Radio’s interviews with six individuals. He reached out to some individuals and are in discussions with them. His next steps are to introduce the people to the folks at Public Radio and create a contract for the project.

Rocky Hill Public Schools have signed their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Council and sent in their first invoice. Walt will be scheduling a meeting with them on the launch of their project.

The Council will be working closely over the next year with the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Walt has already been talking to them about an objective in the Council’s State Plan, regarding assisting the Governor’s Office and all the State Advisory Councils, etc. OPM is the new lead agency for Autism in Connecticut. Claudio Gualtieri, Senior Policy Advisor at the OPM has requested the Council’s input. The OPM is also the agency in charge of sorting out new definitions for ID/DD.

Partners in Policymaking is holding their 2nd reunion on Saturday, April 1. All Partners’ graduates have been invited to the event.

Ellen Andrews, Executive Director of the Connecticut Health Policy Project, Inc., continues to do research and provide Walt with data on the issue of healthcare accommodations. She has proposed a speakers’ series and has also met with the Office of Health Strategy on behalf of the Council.

1. **Report by the Executive Director on the Fiscal Year Council Budget:** The Council’s Disability Policy Specialist is on medical leave, the budget is on track and staff continues to look for opportunities to save money and cut back on costs whenever possible.
2. **Discussion of the Role of the Council Executive Committee:**

Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, recommended the Council’s bylaws be amended to allow the Council’s Executive Committee to meet and vote without the presence of Committee Vice-chairs. The Executive Committee would consist of the Council’s Executive Director, Council Chair and Vice Chair, and the Chairs of the Council’s Committees. Vice-Chairs would only need to attend the Committee meeting if a Council Committee Chair is unable to attend the meeting. The Executive Committee has full power and authority over the affairs of the Council between regular meetings of the Council. They have been meeting regularly between Council meetings and are available as needed.

 An amendment to the bylaws was proposed and discussed. It will be voted on at the May 9, Council meeting. Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, opened the amendment up for discussion before asking for a motion to be made.

Walter Glomb, Council Executive Director, said in the current bylaws, there is a section that describes the membership of the Executive Committee. Currently it says the Executive Committee consists of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council, plus the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Council Committee. Because the goal is to have a smaller and more effective Executive Committee that can meet more frequently with a quorum, it was suggested in that section, the Council would simply strike the inclusion of the Committee Vice-Chairs. Then it would read the Executive Committee consists of the Chair, the Vice Chair, and the Committee Chairs. If the Committee Chair is unavailable to attend the meeting, the Committee Vice-Chair would step in. Chuck Bergamo read Article 6 of the Council’s Executive Committee. He recommended in Section 1 of the bylaws to strike Vice-Chair Person.

Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, asked for a motion to amend Article 6 of the bylaws to strike “and Vice-Chair Person”. Chuck Bergamo made the motion to amend Article 6, Section 1 of the Council’s Bylaws, striking “and Vice-Chair Person” three times. Andy Cirioli seconded the motion. A discussion was opened. The Council Chair put the motion to a vote. All approved and the motion passed.

1. **Council Membership:** A couple of Council members are on the last leg of their second terms and replacements will need to be found. An additional two slots may be opening up also.

**Adjournment:** Doris Maldonado Mendez, Council Chair asked for a motion for adjournment. James Hexter, Council Vice Chair, made a motion for adjournment. Andy Cirioli seconded the motion. The meeting concluded at 12:10 p.m. The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, online via MS Teams.