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**CONNECTICUT COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 10:05 a.m. – 12:52 p.m.**

**(Hybrid - Online via Microsoft Teams & at the East Hartford, CT DDS)**

The 250th meeting of the Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, from 10:05 a.m. to 12:52 p.m. on Teams and at the East Hartford DDS Branch.

**Presiding:**  Francis Traceski, Acting Chair

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

**Members Present:**  Emily Ball, Michelle Baughman, Robert Berriault, Laurie Cantwell, Emily Cowen, Lena Esposito, Lynn Frith, Karen Healy, Shannon Jacovino, Bryan Klimkiewicz, Rene Lambert, Ashley McClain, Rachel Mirsky, Elena Poma, Kaitlynn Ramos, Graziela do Carmo Reis, Kathie Strout, Julie Vigil, Matthew Walker

**Members Absent:**   Andrew Black, Andy Cirioli, Sierra Scott,

**Members of the Public:** Heather Ferguson-Hull, Jacqueline Kelley, Jacob Loor, Adrianna Ramirez, Nicholas Turcotte, CT-N: Riley Bartolomeo

**Staff:**  Walter Glomb, Executive Director

1. **Call to Order:**  With no quorum present, Fran Traceski, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
2. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
3. **Comments by Representative from the Office of Policy and Management – Analysis of Employment Program for Public Act 23-137;** **An Act Concerning Resources and Support Services for Persons with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability:** Heather Ferguson-Hull and Jacob Loor from the OPM spoke to the Council about Public Act 23-137. Jake is the Project Lead of the Employment Study at the OPM. It was commissioned last year in **House Bill, No. 5001 – An Act Concerning Resources and Support Services for Persons with Intellectual Developmental Disability**. The study is analyzing all assistance programs for people with disabilities in Connecticut, especially those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They will be using this information to make recommendations on increasing access to employment for these communities. A Disability Employment Study Community Survey is available for people to fill out at: <https://forms.office.com/g/KyiRBMBaR6>
4. **Comments by the Interim Chair:**  Fran Traceski, Acting Chair, greeted everyone. He is pleased to be introducing the new draft of the Council’s bylaws to Council members.
5. **Approval of Agenda:** With a quorum present, Fran Traceski, Acting Chair, asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Kathie Strout made a motion to approve the agenda. Michelle Baughman seconded the motion. The motion passed.
6. **Approval of Minutes from May 14, 2024, Public Forum and Regular Business Meeting:**  Fran Traceski, Acting Chair, asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from Tuesday, May 14, 2024. Shannon Jacovino motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Michelle Baughman. The minutes were approved. Bryan Klimkiewicz abstained.
7. **Nominations and Election of the Council Chair and Vice Chair:**  Fran Traceski, Acting Chair, moved on to the election of a new Council Chair and Vice Chair. He asked Council members for their recommendations. Michelle Baughman nominated Francis Traceski, Acting Chair, for the position of Council Chair. At this time, Fran is unable to serve as full Chair for reasons stated in the Council’s bylaws. Presently, a new draft of the bylaws has been given to the Council.

Shannon Jacovino nominated Adriano Cirioli, III, for the position of Council Chair until September. Michelle Baughman seconded the nomination of Andy. Shannon Jacovino nominated Kathie Strout, for the position of Council Vice Chair until September. Michelle Baughman seconded the nomination of Kathie. Emily Ball also seconded her nomination. Andy Cirioli was voted in as the Council’s Chair. Kathie Strout was voted in as the Council’s Vice Chair.

1. **Report from the Council Executive Director:** Walter Glomb, Council Executive Director, sent members his very detailed report well ahead of the council meeting. He continues to set time aside before every Council meeting to go over his report with any Council member who asks him to review it with them.

Walt said the Council’s Annual Meeting will be held in September and they will be asked to vote on a budget for the new fiscal year, along with approving new grant applications. The Council is in the third year of their State Five-Year Plan. Currently, 15 projects are being funded by the Council. The Council was also mentioned in 5 sections of Public Act 23-137.

Two of the sections of Public Act 23-137 have been completed. The results were the report on the occurrence of higher rates of Dementia in persons with developmental disabilities; and the review and revision of the rights of persons with disabilities, a section of the state statute that applies to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

Walt is participating in the Human Services Workforce pipeline and is a member of the advisory council that has just produced an internal report. He is one of the reviewers of the report and will update the Council after it has been officially approved.

Regarding eligibility criteria, Walt received an update from Tara Viens at the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). They have a consultant who is finishing an analysis and survey report of how this is done in other states and what technical problems they found. When the report is complete, they will hold a forum for public comment on it.

Successful site visits for all active Council grantees were conducted in June and have continued into July. The Council has produced valuable resources through a number of their grants that need to be given to people and organizations that can use them. He’d like the Council to discuss ways this can be done, and suggested one way to do this was through collaborating with the grantees. At least 7 of the grants in the past 3 years have resulted in products for people to use for different purposes. These include a booklet on microbusinesses from Futures, Inc.; the Yale D-LEAN manual on disability advocacy for underserved communities; the Yale Autism Ethnography materials; Rocky Hill Public Schools Dream Café; the new website for Access to Healthcare; resources for Assistive Technology, etc.

The Council’s new Request for Grant Proposals Form is posted on the Council website and the deadline for applications is August 23. The Proposal Review Committee will need to meet immediately after August 23, to review the new grant applications and have their recommendations ready to present to the Council at the annual meeting on September 10.

For 2 years, Walter Glomb, Council Executive Director, has been leading the Bridging Disability and Aging Networks Community of Practice in Connecticut. Out of the 15 states running their own Community of Practices, Connecticut was chosen to present at the USAging Conference in Tampa, FL, held from July 8 through July 10. Online meetings have included many presentations from various departments of state agencies; discussions on person-centered planning tools; talks about state senior centers and how they should be available to people who have disabilities; information on state-wide events; and other topics. The group has received a lot of praise on the national level for their work.

Walt met with State Senator Matt Lesser, Deputy Majority Leader, two weeks ago about his healthcare bill that he will reintroduce to the State Legislature again this coming year. Last year it was **Senate Bill No. 425 – An Act Prohibiting Discrimination by Health Care Providers in the Provision of Health Care Services in the State**. It would prohibit discrimination in health care against people with disabilities and other protected classes. He has high hopes of getting support put in place for it.

He will be arranging to meet with State Representatives Lucy Dathan and Jillian Gilchrest in August. He asked the Council to be thinking about what they would like to see in future bills, and be ready in October with their suggestions for the Speaker of the House, Representatives Dathan and Gilchrest, and other leaders in the Legislature.

**Discussion/Vote on Two Off-Cycle Grant Proposals:** Walter Glomb, Council Executive Director, asked the Council to vote on 2 grants for events in October and November that would fall into the next fiscal year. The Council has funded grants and activities for both organizations requesting funding. The first grant application is from the State Independent Living Council (CT SILC). They are requesting $20,000 for the 2024 Candidates’ Forum to be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. Kathie Strout, Interim Vice Chair, made a motion for the Council to approve funding to the SILC for $20,000 for the 2024 Candidates’ Forum. Shannon Jacovino seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The second grant application is from Aging CT. They are requesting $10,000 for the 2nd Aging CT Summit to be held at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT, on Tuesday, November 19, 2024. Emily Ball made a motion for the Council to approve funding to the Aging CT for $10,000 for the Aging CT Summit. Laurie Cantwell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

1. **Report by the Executive Director on the Fiscal Year Council Budget:** Renovations continue from severe water damage at the Council Offices. Staff has been working remotely from the DDS cafeteria, the OPM, and out of their homes.A target date for completion of the renovations was set for the beginning of July, but they are running over schedule. The Council hopes to return to their offices by the fall. The budget is on track and staff continue to look for opportunities to save money and cut back on costs whenever possible.
2. **Council Committees’ Updates:** A new Council member to represent a non-profit organization needs to be found to replace Michael Finley from Mental Health Connecticut. Lena Esposito, Bryan Klimkiewicz, Rene Lambert, and Ashley McClain volunteered to serve on the Membership Committee.

Fran Traceski, Legislative Policy and Planning Committee (LPP) Chair, and Acting Council Chair said the group will be meeting in August to get an early start on what will be happening this fall for the future long legislative session and new state budget. He plans on the year being a very busy one. Robert Berriault would like to join the Committee.

Members who volunteered to join the Proposal Review Committee are Emily Cowen, Lena Esposito, Kathie Strout, Interim Vice Chair; and Julie Vigil. The Committee will be meeting shortly after August 23, the deadline for grant applications.

Graziela do Carmo Reis and Kaitlynn Ramos (APIE) Co-Chairs, said the Advocacy, Public Information, and Education Committee will meet in August.

1. **Governance Committee – Review of Proposed Changes to the Council Bylaws:** Fran Traceski, Governance Committee Chair, Legislative Policy and Planning Committee (LPP) Chair, and Acting Council Chair, sent a color coded revision of the Council’s bylaws out to all members for review at today's meeting. The Council will vote on the revised bylaws at their annual meeting on September 10.
2. **Discussion of September Annual Meeting Agenda:** Walter Glomb, Council Executive Director, gave an overview of what will be on the Council’s Annual Meeting agenda. There will be a number of votes required from members during the business part of the meeting. Members will vote on a Council Chair and Vice Chair; the budget; the funding of grant proposal recommendations; and the Council’s revised bylaws. Council grantees will present on their projects and programs in the morning from 10:00 am – noon. This year the Council may be interested in having longer and more in-depth presentations from a handful of selected grantees instead of having very short presentations from all grantees. Walt asked Council members to send their thoughts on or suggestions for the agenda to him or Fran Traceski, Acting Council Chair.
3. **Community Announcements:** Michelle Baughman said the Stanford University Neurodiversity Summit 2024 will be held online in September. People who are interested can register for it now. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn many details about neurodivergent conditions, such as Autism, ADHHD, Tourette’s Syndrome, etc. <https://med.stanford.edu/neurodiversity/SNS24.html>
4. **Adjournment:** Fran Traceski, Interim Chair, asked for a motion for adjournment. Julie Vigil made a motion for adjournment. Karen Healy seconded the motion. The meeting concluded at 12:53 p.m. The next Council meeting will be the Council’s Annual Meeting, a hybrid meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.