

**APPROVED MINUTES – COUNCIL QUARTERLY  
MEETING DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**  
Tuesday, May 31, 2022,  
TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM  
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

**Members Present**

**Advocates**

Laurel Deans  
Amelia Dickey  
Emma Farris  
Crystal Garcia

**Family Members**

John Arango  
Katie Stone  
Valentin Anaya  
Deanna Cole  
Joel Davis  
Tarra Main  
Selma Ramos Nevarez  
Jennifer Sanchez

**Agencies Present**

Joel Davis (Elevate the Spectrum)  
Casey Stone-Romero (DVR)  
Katie Gordon, proxy (DRNM)  
Eli Fresquez (CYFD)  
Michal Hayes, proxy (ALTSD)  
Pat Osbourn (UNM, CDD)  
Deborah Dominguez-Clark (PED)  
Mathew Molina (Non-Government Agency)

**Staff Present**

Alice Liu McCoy (DDC Executive Director)  
Joe Turk (DDC Chief Operating Officer)  
Michelle Tregembo (DDC Special Education State Ombud)  
Rachel Romero-Lovato (DDC Office Manager)  
Daniel Ekman (DDC CSA Manager)  
Donna Vigil (DDC COO)  
Lindsay Sloan (DDC CSA Advocate Trainer)  
Michelle Varela (DDC CFO)

**Advocates Absent**

Lystra John  
Elisheva Levin  
Richard Segura

**Family Members Absent**

Joseph Melvyn Jaramillo  
Chinda Lucoski

**Agencies Absent**

Lanthia Miles (Non-Government Agency)  
Melanie Buenviaje (HSD)  
Jason Cornwell (DOH, DDS)

**Public Guests**

Jade Delfin (CYFD)  
Amanda Owens (parent)  
Miguel Lorenzo (NMPED)

**Call to Order/Introductions/Housekeeping**

John Arango called the meeting to order, completed the roll call, and housekeeping was conducted. The meeting convened at 1:37 PM.

**Approval of May 31, 2022 Agenda – Action Item**

Katie Stone moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by John Arango. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of February 28, 2022 Quarterly Meeting Minutes – Action Item**

Valentin Anaya moved to approve the Minutes as written, seconded by Katie Stone. Motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Director Report – Alice Liu McCoy**

Alice discussed end of state fiscal year and introduced new agency staff and roles: OOG Legal Director Joe Turk, DDC CFO Michelle Varela, DDC COO Donna Vigil. DDC plans to request funding from the Legislature to fully staff the agency. Alice emphasized the importance of elevating the voices of self-advocates in DDC legislative advocacy efforts.

**DDC Program Updates**

Daniel Ekman presented information about the spring Leadership Academy and expanding statewide inclusion.

Joe Turk discussed the rollout of the Falling Colors NM STARS data system for OOG, improving the OOG complaint process, and the Supported Decision Making Task Force. Alice discussed the NM STARS data system and the court visitor pilot project.

Michelle Tregembo presented information on the Office of the Special Education Ombud, including individual case information and ombud training efforts.

Donna Vigil discussed the status of the Marilyn Martinez State Jobs Program and announced the intern selections.

**NMPED Strategic Plan & Martinez-Yazzie Discussion Draft Review – John Arango**

John Arango led the discussion on the *Martinez Yazzie* lawsuit and NMPED's responsive documents. Katie Stone discussed the lack of clarity on how funding is specifically allocated to special education. Valentin Anaya stated that recruitment of better and diverse teachers and staff is not happening on the ground, and that equity councils are not active. Pat Osborn asked questions about supporting teachers, how the community of practice is implemented, microcredentials for educators, and how NMPED will measure progress in meaningful ways. Joel Davis discussed a lack of responsibility placed on administration and leadership in districts. Alice discussed increased interagency collaboration.

**Break**

The Council recessed at 3:03 PM and reconvened at 3:36 PM.

**Council Committee Breakouts**

Self-Advocacy

Chairs – Amelia-Ann Dickey

Staff Lead – Lindsay Sloan

Education

Co-Chairs – Katie Stone & Deborah Dominguez Clark, PED

Staff Lead – Michelle Tregembo

Employment

Co-Chairs – TBD & Casey Stone-Romero, DVR

Staff Lead – Donna Vigil

Health & Community-Based Services

Co-Chairs – Tarra Main & Jason Cornwell, DDS

Staff Lead – Daniel Ekman

Legal & Civil Rights

Co-Chairs – Gary Housepian, DRNM (proxy – Katie Gordon) & Melanie Buenviaje

Staff Lead – Joe Turk

**Council Committee Updates**

Self-Advocacy:

Lindsay Sloan stated the committee is working on translating training and resources into other languages focusing on border areas. The next meeting is scheduled for June 10 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Education:

Katie Stone stated the committee is working with Special Education Ombud on higher education improvement and the recruitment and retention of teachers and EAs. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 9 from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM, but may change due to potential scheduling conflicts.

Employment:

Donna Vigil discussed the Marilyn Martinez Jobs Programs and working with DVR to develop OJT opportunities within state agencies. The interns begin in mid-June. The next meeting is scheduled for June 24 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

Health and Community-Based Services:

Daniel Ekman discussed provider capacity, elimination of DD waiver waitlist, child pend, emergency room and urgent care diversion, and Centennial Care Community Benefit. The next meeting is scheduled for June 23, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM.

Legal and Civil Rights:

Joe Turk discussed supported decision-making and restraint and seclusion. Next meeting will be announced.

### **Legislative & Systemic Priorities**

Katie Stone presented on the lack of accessibility in higher education institutions, as well as the lack of programs for students with IDD. Alice discussed the Special Education Transformation Team and their work on a proposed restraint and seclusion bill. Alice discussed the Supported Decision Making Task Force's work on a proposed SDM bill.

### **Member Announcements**

Valentin Anaya mentions that Socorro schools are vulnerable to active shooters because of students' physical disabilities. Jennifer Sanchez discussed the issues with shelters for individuals affected by the NM fires. Alice announced Katie Gordon as the designated proxy representing DRNM.

### **Public Comment**

Amanda Owens asked in the chat about committee meetings. Alice stated the committee meetings are open to the public.

### **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be held in August 2022. Motion to adjourn was made by Valentin Anaya and seconded by John Arango. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.