

**DRAFT MINUTES
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNING COUNCIL
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017
625 SILVER AVENUE SW (DDPC CONFERENCE ROOM)
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM**

Members Present

Advocates

Amira Rasheed (Chair)
Sergio Resendiz (Vice-Chair)
Judy Ann Sena

Family Members

Dr. Tim Query
C. Dianne Griego (Secretary/Treasurer)

Attendants

Jeanette Sena
Amira's attendant
Two sign interpreters

Agencies Present

Joan Curtis	DRNM
Kathleen Hardy	CYFD
Ellen Carpenter	DVR
Pat Osbourn	CDD
Coralie Whitman	(by phone) IAD

Staff Present

John Block, III
Barbara Ibáñez
Mary Lou Poli, Assistant
Attorney General

**Staff Present for Meeting
Minute Purposes Only**

Ana Callahan-Segura

Family Members Absent

Charlene Espinoza
Sandy Skaar (Chair Emeritus)

Agencies Absent

Cynthia Shelton (HSD)
Anita Morales (ALTSD)
Roberta Duran (DDSD)

Public Guests

Valerie Romero
Brad Hill
Regina Lewis

Call to Order/Introductions/Housekeeping/Mission Statement

Chairperson Amira Rasheed called the meeting to order at 9:24 am. There were three members missing to make a quorum so it was decided that votes would not be taken until they showed up. At 9:30am, a quorum was established. Introductions were exchanged.

Approve Agenda – Action Item

Dianne Griego moved to approve the agenda; Kathleen Hardy seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve Minutes from August , 2017 Meeting– Action Item

Mary Lou Poli made a correction regarding the minutes on page 1. Barbara made a second correction regarding the spelling of Coralie Whitmore and to remove Suzette Shiji from the Agencies Absent section. Amira Rasheed moved to approve the minutes; Kathleen Hardy moved and Ellen Carpenter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Guests – Valerie Romero

Public Comments

Valerie Romero, represented foster care. Ms. Romero talked about how she went through foster care as a child. Ms. Romero also discussed how the problems regarding Ayudando Guardians Inc. affected people with disabilities in New Mexico communities.

Update on Office of Guardianship (OOG) and Ayudando Guardians, Inc.

Maria Bourassa reported that OOG transferred 166 clients to successor guardians, none went without services and contracts were amended. Ms. Bourassa also reported that some attorneys provided pro bono services to OOG and that all OOG cases have been transferred and have successor guardians in place. OOG has not received notification from the Marshalls office that any of DDPC client's accounts were compromised. It appears that OOG amended 11 attorney contracts and 10 pro bono attorneys took 20 cases. A large amount of cases were in Judicial District 2 and also the Judicial District in the Las Vegas area. OOG had difficulty finding attorneys in the Las Vegas area so it was more costly. John Block announced that insurance companies declined to pay DDPC on any claims until the owners of Ayudando Guardians Inc. are convicted and also it won't be likely that we will be able to recoup any money from the bonding companies. Maria Bourassa and Barbara Ibanez were complimented for their oversight and hard work.

Chair Report

Amira Rasheed stated that she has been busy with DDPC and attended the LFC and LHHS hearings with John Block and the leadership team this past month. She also stated that Dr. Tim Query will be leaving the council after serving five years.

Executive Director's Report – John Block, III, Executive Director

Program Updates

Justin Moore was unable to attend today's meeting, to come to accept well wishes for his recent retirement. Jim Jackson wasn't available to attend today's council meeting to accept a retirement gift either, so it will be postponed until the January council meeting. Jim's contribution to the Council was mentioned and John Block stated that he was grateful for all of the guidance he provided throughout the years.

John Block talked about the National Director's Meeting which took place in Santa Fe. About 40 directors from across the nation attended and toured the New Mexico State Capital. Rep. Liz Thompson

presented in addition with Doris Husted and Jim Jackson. Meow Wolf was visited, as well as, participating in an activity conducted by a famous Santa Fe Santera, Arlene Sena. Hector Balderas, State Attorney General also did a presentation that week. Mr. Block also discussed LFC hearings and the budget request. He stated that Senator White was concerned about Guardianship and asked several questions. Mr. Block stated that New Mexico Legislators appear to be confused and think we do guardianship and conservatorship. DDPC had the annual audit completed in October and Mr. Block talked about the Tim Keller's State Auditor's letter. Mr. Block stated that he was not in agreement with the Emergency Risk Advisory mentioned in the State Auditor's report and also mentioned that we are extremely short staffed in order to do these audits. In the LFC Hearing it was discussed to move the Office of Guardianship to the Attorney General's Office or the Administrative Office of the Courts. Director Block recommended the Council vote on their stance during the January meeting.

Office of Guardianship

Maria Bourassa, the Program Manager, gave an update on Guardianship and reported that there are 160 potential clients on the waiting list with 30 cases that are incomplete and waiting for missing information. The program has 18 attorneys on contract and increasing. She announced there is a need for court visitors and Office of Guardianship is currently recruiting. Two attorneys are needed for each case, one to petition the case and the second is the guardian ad litem, who helps the clients directly. The Guardian Ad Litem and Court Visitor assigned by the court. The court ultimately decides if the clients need guardianship. DDPC currently has 11 court visitors, however more are needed.

Presentation by Mi Via – Brad Hill and Regina Lewis

Presentations were made by Brad Hill who is on the Mia Via Advisory Board and Regina Lewis, Program Director for the Mia Via Program at the Department of Health. Mr. Hill is the parent of a son who is on the Mi Via Waiver. He currently works for the Attorney General's Office and explained the importance for the Council to advocate for support of the threats of Mia Via being reduced statewide. Ms. Lewis presented the challenges for transitional clients such as the responsibilities and limitations and how to exercise their choices. The Mi Via has increased from 200 to 600 since 2014.

Executive Director's Report – (Continued)

Center for Self Advocacy (CSA)

Daniel Ekman reported on the Advocate Leadership Academy session that took place this fall. There were 7 Fellows, 7 Team Leaders. Technology was used to reach one Fellow who attended from Taos. The annual Open House and graduation of the Fellows is scheduled for Monday, November 27th. Ana Callahan-Segura was thanked for getting food sponsors. In the Spring class, advocates will be working on goals with Team Leaders (Peer Mentors). Barbara Ibanez reported on the 5 year State Plan Goals and Ana Callahan-Segura reported about the new way of contractor quarterly reporting on the Program Performance Report. Ms. Callahan-Segura thanked contractors for being open to this new way of reporting.

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

The CFO was participating in a required training out of the office, so John Block gave a short report. DDPC is short in contractual services and the agency completed a budget adjustment reserves of \$15,000 by taking out this amount out of salaries and benefits category transferred it into the other cost categories. There is a large fund balance so DDPC will request three term positions, a compliance officer, a social worker and a paralegal position. More training money will be requested so the social worker can be trained to be a certified guardian. Joan Curtis asked about the large fund balance and John Block explained that OOG contracts with guardianship companies and because cases can go from one year to another, encumbrance balances hold into the next year.

Vacancies

John Block reported on the many vacancies have occurred at DDPC this year. The Outreach Coordinator, Suzanne Kryder left and Lindsay Sloan was promoted to her position. The Advocate Trainer position had been advertised and Marilyn Martinez was selected to fill it. The Compliance Officer position will be filled soon.

Federal Program

Barbara Ibanez talked about Federal Programs and how DDPC staff has been meeting with Federal Program contractors regarding the new format for Quarterly Reporting. The Health Services Survey is being required by all Federal contractors in FY 18. Staff is putting together an Access Database file that will have the surveys in a consolidated system. Ms. Ibanez explained that reduction of time is one of the benefits for the contractor utilizing the new Quarterly Reporting because it related directly to the Scope Of Work for each individual contract. The new format will also save time for us to process the Federal Program Performance Report each year.

Center for Development and Disability (CDD) Report- Pat Osbourn, CDD

Pat Osbourn reported that the CDD is involved in many things currently that are partially funded by DDPC. Partners in Policymaking started last week and it was deemed a successful weekend. Southwest Conference on Disability had approximately 800 attendees this year. Attendance was down from last year. Ms. Osbourn announced that the Southwest Conference on Disability will take a year off. The Department of Health has cut their funding for Camp Rising Sun, so it was not held this year, but replaced with a one week camp from June 13-17.

Policy and By-Laws Committees and Disability Rights New Mexico Report – Joan Curtis, DRNM

Joan Curtis reported that:

- Jim Jackson will be participating in the 2018 Legislature, as a contractor. He will also be doing the trainings and providing legislative updates.
- Know Your Rights trainings throughout the state were successful with over 600 participants attending.
- Trainings for Special Education were conducted throughout the State.
- Majority of the education related complaints are from the northern part of the state with many families fearing retribution. In one school district there is a 3 Year Old program that has been dropped and many individual complaints were made. In another area of the state there are some Medicaid recipients who have been completely dropped for no reason by the Income Support Division.

Member Announcements

Ellen Carpenter announced that the 511 Program is still operational. There is a concern that the current administration may terminate it. This program meets every six months and covers employment issues. The Jackson lawsuit is ongoing and they are waiting on the judge's decision about going back to court.

Next Meeting Dates

January 12, 2018 was previously scheduled for next meeting.

Adjournment

The Council adjourned at 1:41pm.

