

**NYS Development Disabilities Planning Council**  
**Full Council Meeting Minutes**  
February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Present:**

Shameka Andrews  
Wendy Cece  
Peter Cole  
Daniel Cunningham  
Dave Deuel  
Melinda Dolezal  
Bin Feng  
Stuart Flaum  
Susan Fox  
Ketrina Hazell  
Suzannah Iadarola  
Julie Keegan  
MaryEllen Moeser  
Colleen Scott  
Joanne Siegel  
Dora Lee Stanley  
Suzanne Swan  
Jennifer Thau  
Debora Thivierge  
Paula Vera  
Tara Wood

**Absent:**

David Feickert  
Tamelia Fritz  
Angela Lauria-Gunninck

**DDPC Staff:**

Vicky Hiffa  
Drew Webster  
Jacqueline Hayes  
Jesse Kendell  
Viktoria Borsuk  
Kanisha Parfait  
Kay Broughton  
Elizabeth McCormick  
Kimberly Berg  
Jennifer Goldman

**Guests:**

Kerri Neifeld, Commissioner, NYS Office for Developmental Disabilities  
Joshua Phelps, AIM Services, Inc.  
Carol Napierski, NY Alliance  
Izel Obermeyer, Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD)  
Patricia Calandra, Parent and Master Housing Navigator

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by the Interim Chairperson Susan Fox. The meeting agenda was reviewed.

**Approval of Minutes**

Shameka Andrews made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ketrina Hazell. The June 17, 2021 Full Council meeting minutes were approved as presented. Daniel Cunningham abstained.

**Funding Motions**

**Motion 1:** Jackie Hayes presented a motion to provide an additional year of funding to 6 of the COVID small grants of up to \$250,000 due to the ongoing need and additional work to be accomplished during the second year. Joanne Siegel made a motion to vote. Stuart Flaum seconded. DDPC members voted to approve the motion. Shameka Andrews, Bin Feng, and Jennifer Thau recused.

**Motion 2:** Jackie Hayes presented a motion to award the amount of \$180,000 for one year to the Rose F. Kennedy University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (RFK UCEDD) to increase access to and understanding of information about the COVID vaccine and vaccine boosters among individuals with IDD and their family members, to assist with making an informed decision, with a particular focus on underserved communities across NYS. Peter Cole made a motion to vote. Bin Feng seconded. DDPC members voted to approve the motion. Joanne Siegel recused. Peter Cole abstained.

**Motion 3:** Jackie Hayes presented a motion to award the amount of \$50,000 per year for 1 year to In the Driver's Seat to expand informational resources and supports on self-direction to better enable people with IDD and their families to self-direct. Susan Fox made a motion to vote. Colleen Scott seconded. DDPC members voted to approve the motion. Colleen Scott abstained.

**Motion 4:** Jackie Hayes presented a motion to award the amount of \$300,000 (\$150,000 a year for 2 years) to the Office for New Americans (ONA) to enhance their capacity to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families and to assist New Americans with IDD and their families in connecting with needed information, resources, and services. Bin Feng made the motion to vote. Maryellen Moeser seconded. DDPC members voted to approve the motion.

**Motion 5:** Jackie Hayes presented a motion to award the amount of \$75,000 per year for 5 years (\$375,000 total) to the Self-Advocacy Association of NY (SANYS) to strengthen the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) of New York's self-advocacy network. Maryellen Moeser made the motion to vote. Dora Lee Stanely seconded. DDPC members voted to approve the motion. Jennifer Thau and Shameka Andrews recused.

**Motion 6:** Kim Berg presented a motion to extend the Cerebral Palsy NYS and The Center for Discovery contracts for one additional year of funding (\$100,000 and \$150,000) due to program disruptions as a result of COVID-19. Deborah Thivierge motioned to vote. Dave Deuel seconded. DDPC Member voted to approve the motion, contingent on the ability to do the in-person activities.

### **Presentation from Acting Commissioner Neifeld**

Acting OPWDD Commissioner Kerri Neifeld made a presentation regarding OPWDD's proposed plans for improving I/DD services in Governor Hochul's State of the State Address and Executive budget. The Acting Commissioner emphasized that she is always welcoming stakeholder input.

### **Leadership Reports**

Shameka Andrews, Caucus Chair, Susan Fox, Interim Council Chair, Vicky Hiffa, Acting Executive Director provided their reports. Jesse Kendall provided the fiscal report. Jenn Goldman provided State Plan updates. Kim Berg provided cross-systems updates.

### **Housing Panel**

The housing panel focused on innovative solutions for housing for people with IDD. Panelists spoke on topics such as institutional bias in housing, assistive technology, and the NY Alliance Regional Housing Collaboratives Grant.

### **Open Forum/Closing**

Members shared their topics of interest for future DDPC projects. The next meeting will be held on June 15th, 2022 (Caucus) and June 16th, 2022 (Full Council) virtually.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:42pm.**