

**Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.**

**Full Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday May 16, 2024 & Friday May 17, 2024**

**In-Person**

**Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, Florida**

**Thursday May 16, 2024**

**Council Members Present:** Eddie Hall, Chair; Elly Hagen; Dr. Dennis Hart; Yolanda Herrera; Dr. Jean Sherman; Carla Mercer; Lauren Modawell; Danielle McGill; Ariona Jenkins; Michael Sayih; Charlotte Temple; Andrea Gary; Enrique Escallon; Christina Cordova; Caitlyn Clibbon; Mirna Diaz; Victoria Gaitanis; Kali Wilson; Austin Noll; Kimbery Quinn; and Dr. Beth Boone.

**Council Members Absent:** Denise Anderson; Kira Houge; Susan Nipper; Jennifer Duggar; Sarah Goldman; and Victoria Zepp.

**Staff Present:** Valerie Breen, Executive Director; Dr. Susan Kabot; Kristin Vandagriff; Lisa Taylor; Kristen Conlin; and Margaret Hooper.

**Guest:** Michael Winn, President/CEO of RBOA.

Breen conducted roll call and quorum was established. Hall called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

**I. Adoption of the Agenda**

Action Taken: Wilson made a motion to accept the agenda changes for Day 1 and Day 2, moving the presentation of RBOA to the first day and the Executive Director report to the second day. Temple seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**II. Adoption of the January 26, 2024, Minutes**

Action Taken: Escallon made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. McGill seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Chair Report**

Breen introduced Hall as the official Chair of the Council based on the final evaluation of FDDC's bylaws. Hall provided brief opening remarks. He encouraged the Council members to aspire to leave a legacy to change things for the better for people with disabilities.

**IV. Vice Chair Election**

Each candidate, Enrique Escallon, Yolanda Herrera, and Arizona Jenkins spoke on why they wanted to serve as Vice Chair. Ballots were completed by each voting member of the Council. Hagen and Taylor tabulated the votes.

Action Taken: Hall announced Escallon was chosen by the Council membership as Vice Chair. Hall also announced he would appoint Herrera and Jenkins to the two remaining At-Large seats on the Executive Committee. Terms begin effective May 16, 2024.

## **V. Presentation by RBOA**

Michael Winn, President and CEO of RBOA, presented on the communications work completed for the Council. He stated that his team works to amplify and enhance the reputation and visibility of the FDDC brand. Goals and objectives, target audience, content pillars, tools and channels, as well as how to measure results were all discussed.

## **VI. Legislative Outcomes for 2024**

Hagen stated that she was filling in for Public Policy Chair, Sarah Goldman, since she was unable to be present. Hagen stated that the first order of business was to adopt the Public Policy Committee March 2024 meeting minutes.

Action Taken: Escallon made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Temple seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Hagen summarized the outcomes from the Council's *Invest in Home and Community-Based Services* legislative platform priorities. Hooper recognized the strong advocacy that occurred in this legislative session and discussed the outcomes of 14 bills that were tracked throughout the legislative session. She provided a summary of the legislative outcomes in a spreadsheet provided to the Council members and reviewed the bills that passed and did not pass.

## **VII. Public Comment**

Hall opened the floor to public comment. No public comments were given.

Hall adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

## **Friday May 17, 2024**

**Council Members Present:** Eddie Hall, Chair; Elly Hagen; Dr. Dennis Hart; Yolanda Herrera; Dr. Jean Sherman; Carla Mercer; Lauren Modawell; Danielle McGill; Arizona Jenkins; Michael Sayih; Charlotte Temple; Enrique Escallon; Christina Cordova; Caitlyn Clibbon; Kali Wilson; Dr. Beth Boone; Victoria Gaitanis; Mirna Diaz; Austin Noll; and Andrea Gary.

**Council Members Absent:** Jennifer Duggar; Victoria Zepp; Kira Houge; Susan Nipper; Sarah Goldman; and Denise Anderson.

**Staff Present:** Valerie Breen, Executive Director; Dr. Susan Kabot; Kristin Vandagriff; Lisa Taylor; Margaret Hooper; and Kristen Conlin.

Breen conducted roll call and quorum was established.

Hall called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

## **I. Approval of Agenda**

Action Taken: Boone made a motion to accept the agenda. Escallon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## II. Executive Director Report

Breen provided members with an Executive Director's report presentation with updates occurring since the last Council meeting. The FDDC Annual Report was provided to members and included highlights of activities conducted over the past year. Three anchors were discussed: 1) awareness – keeping DD top of mind, 2) education, 3) being agents of change. Members were reminded that the Council's Advocacy Toolkit and Advocacy and Leadership Opportunities Guide serve as resources and are located at [fddc.org/advocacy](http://fddc.org/advocacy). Power mapping imagery was shared and discussed.

## III. What Is the New State Plan All About?

Dr. Kabot presented the initial process to develop the next State Plan to prepare members to have meaningful participation in State Plan development. A competitive bid was issued to hire a provider to develop the Comprehensive Review and Analysis (CRA) for the Council. This work was described to be slated to begin August 1, 2024.

## IV. State and Sister Agency Reports

**Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD):** Nipper was not able to attend. A report was not provided.

**Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA):** Noll presented for the agency. He reported that federal authority was granted for the Medicaid managed care pilot for persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). He noted that the Statewide Managed Medical Care (SMMC) procurement was completed, and they are now in the protest period. Five awards would occur, two statewide and three regionally.

**Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA):** Houge was not able to attend. A report was not provided.

**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)- Florida Department of Education:** Gaitanis presented a Power Point covering the State of the State of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). Information about VRs structure within Florida's Department of Education was shared.

**Bureau of Exception Education and Student Services (BEESS), Department of Education:** Duggar was not able to attend. A report was not provided.

**Department of Health, Children's Medical Services (CMS):** Early Steps was reported to be launching a new data system to capture better referral data as well as data on the provision of services. She shared that the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) has all 18-member slots filled, so they can initiate the Department's next 3-year planning process.

**Mailman Center-University of Miami:** Sherman reported that Mailman Center had its delayed 50th celebration with several hundred in attendance in-person and virtually. Sherman stated that the Mailman Center is looking at using avatars and artificial intelligence to increase community outreach.

**Florida Center for Inclusive Communities (FCIC)-University of South Florida:** Dr. Beth Boone had to leave early. She stated that she will share her report later with the Council.

**Disability Rights Florida (DRF):** Clibbon noted that DRF is conducting training on Supported Decision-Making (SDM), since it passed this legislative session. She reported that the training will include training judges. DRF will provide both SDM and fair hearing presentations at Family Café 2024.

Breen noted that FDDC will be at Family Café with a booth and several presentations.

**V. Council Standing Committee Reports**

**State Plan Committee (see attached):**

Action Taken: Herrera made a motion to adopt the report as presented. Hart seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Finance Committee (see attached):**

Action Taken: Escallon made a motion to accept the report as presented. Herrera seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Committee (see attached):**

Action Taken: Escallon made a motion to adopt the report with a note that paragraph 3 on the rate page in the Pay Grade and Compensation Report issued by Towery does not match the current position titles listed on the fddc.org website. Escallon's motion was to adopt the report except the section noted to be held until an updated version on the website is provided. Hart seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Managed Care Ad Hoc Task Force- adoption of the March 2024 Minutes**

Action Taken: Escallon made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Hart seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Public Comment**

Hall opened the floor to public comment. No public comments were given.

Hall stated that the next Council meeting is scheduled for September 19 and 20, 2024 at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center.

Hall adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m.