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**Advisory Stakeholder Group on Autism-Related Needs: Meeting Minutes**

(Version: 1; created: 07.2.2022)

**Date:** Tuesday, 06/07/2022

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Location:** Zoom Meetings®

**I: Call to Order:** \*Meeting called to order late due to Chair being delayed due to a family emergency.

a) **Meeting called to order:** 6:37 pm, by Katie Gandy and Steve McAdams

b) **Stakeholders in Attendance:** (listed alphabetically by last name)

Arker, Emily

Benevides, Elizabeth (Beth)

Brown, Carmen

Ceely, Christine

Forsyth, Nancy

Furman, Janet

Gandy, Katie

Guyton, Michelle

Harris, Nikki

LeBlanc, Nicole

London, Rachel

Marshall, Raymond (Ray)

McLaughlin, Annie

Pratt, Emily

Prince, JaLynn

Pugh, Peggy

Rienzi, Rebecca

Robinson, Gregory

Roddey, Ryan

Rosenberg, Melissa

Saleem, Fatima

Southerland, Devan

Stiles, Jennifer

Taubenfeld, Ami

Wiederlight, Lisa

c) **State of Maryland/GCO/GOCI Leadership in Attendance:** (listed alphabetically by last name)

Lally, Patrick

McAdams, Steven

d) **Support Staff in Attendance:** (listed alphabetically by last name)

Hall, Elizabeth

Hanbury, Claudia

Steele, Cathy

e) **Stakeholders Absent:** (listed alphabetically by last name)

Miele, Christian

Suskind, Walter

Thibaudeau, Roger  
West, Shannon

- f) **Quorum Present:** Yes
- g) **Public Meeting Registrations:** 0

**II: Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

N/A (2/15/2022 Meeting was introductory for the Stakeholders and leadership, no minutes necessary)

**III: Agenda Items/Discussion Topics:** (listed herein in the order topics were discussed live)

- a) **Agenda Topic:** State of Autism Listening Sessions **Presenter:** K. Gandy

**Discussion Conversation**

Katie presented a brief overview of the 24 listening sessions that she conducted between February and early June, 2022. Listening sessions were held in each of Maryland's 23 counties, plus Baltimore City. Summary data was 697 participants total (in all sessions), with Howard, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel counties having the largest number of participants in their sessions. Katie will send the report out to the entire Stakeholder Group to review once reviewed and approved by GOCI Executive Director, Steve McAdams. Topics discussed in the listening sessions were many, however the majority of them are well known.

**Action Item:**

Distribute report from listening Sessions to all stakeholders.

**Responsible Party:**

K. Gandy

**Deadline:**

Upon approval

- b) **Agenda Topic:** Autism Data for Maryland **Presenter:** J. Prince, G. Robinson, K. Gandy, S. McAdams, group discussion

**Discussion Conversation**

Ms. Prince discussed the autism data released by the CDC in December 2021. Although that data was not comprehensive in all states (certain counties in a limited number of states were selected for survey, so this was not a national survey comprised of all 50 states, etc. She discussed the CDC's data determining that nearly 2.1% of United States citizens are affected by autism. She mentioned several ways she was aware of, and is willing to share with the Stakeholder group, to decipher the data the CDC presented in their 12/2021 report in order to get a number of Marylanders with autism that would hold up well to scrutiny.

Group determined that more data was necessary. Steve suggested that we discuss the data needed via a Strategic Plan Workgroup who could not only create a framework/draft outline of the Strategic Plan and provide the entire group with action items and suggestions for data necessary to create our plan with the most current data available.

**Action Item:**

Vote on assembling a Strategic Plan Workgroup to begin on our framework and layout so we can determine what (if any) additional data and other pertinent information was needed for our report to be timely and accurate in terms of data.

**Responsible Party:**

S. McAdams, K. Gandy

**Deadline:**

ASAP

- c) **Agenda Topic:** Strategic Plan/Strategic Plan Workgroup **Presenter:** Steve McAdams, Patrick Lally, Katie Gandy, group discussion (also, see chat)

**Discussion Conversation**

Group discussed the Strategic Plan, it's general components (the 4 pillars) as well as HB847 (2022) and its due date/requirements for the plan's completion and submission. Steve suggested the creation of a Strategic

Plan Workgroup who could get together to create a basic framework for the Strategic Plan that the whole group would use as a guide and outline to support our work going forward and provide us with an overall guide to how we should proceed and determine what data/reporting/information is needed in order to compile the strategic plan. This group would create the framework and subsequently present their draft outline to all Stakeholders for review and discussion.

**Action Item:**

Vote on creating Strategic Plan Workgroup

**Responsible Party:**

S. McAdams, K. Gandy

**Deadline:**

Today

- d) **Agenda Topic:** Strategic Plan/Strategic Plan Workgroup      **Presenter:** S. McAdams, P. Lally  
K. Gandy, group discussion (also, see chat)

**Motion to initiate vote by:** S. McAdams, **Seconded by:** K. Gandy

**Vote Results:**

**Yay:** all

**Nay:** none

**Result:** Motion passed unanimously; Strategic Plan Workgroup will be created imminently.

**Notes:** S. McAdams asked for Stakeholders interested in joining the Workgroup to come forward at this time or after the meeting via email. S. McAdams noted that individuals interested in the workgroup would be contacted by him within the next two weeks to schedule a meeting and begin discussing the path forward for this group. Stakeholders interested in participating on the Strategic Plan Workgroup are Ami Taubenfeld, Lisa Wiederlight, JaLynn Prince (all indicated interest during this meeting). Several additional stakeholders participated the Workgroup who had indicated interest via email to Steve; those Stakeholders are Jennifer Stiles, Rebecca Rienzi and Rachel London.

- e) **Agenda Topic:** Date for Q3 Stakeholder Group Mtg.      **Presenter:** S. McAdams, K. Gandy

**Discussion Conversation:**

All stakeholders agreed that all meetings should begin at 6:30 pm or after. The Q3 2022 full body Stakeholder Group meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (pending vote)

**Motion to initiate vote by:** S. McAdams, **Seconded by:** G. Robinson

**Vote Results:**

**Yay:** all

**Nay:** none

**Result:** Motion passed unanimously; next meeting date will be Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 anytime after 6:00 pm, per vote. Calendar invitation, meeting agenda and supplemental documents forthcoming.

**IV: Names of Resource Personnel:**

**V: Meeting Conclusion**

**Gavel Down Motion:** N. LeBlanc, **Seconded by:** C. Ceely

**Vote Results:**

**Yay:** all

**Nay:** none