

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council Overview

Prepared and presented by the DDAC

March 25, 2022

Membership of the DDAC

Shameka Andrews Self-Advocate	Geri Athenas Family Member	Daniel Brown Provider; Non-Governmental	Nicholas A. Cappoletti Chair Provider; Non-Governmental	Janice Chisholm Provider; Governmental	Donna Colonna Provider; Non-Governmental	Barbara DeLong Family Member
Janice A Fitzgerald Family Member	Stuart Flaum Family Member	Gary S. Goldstein, DDS Provider, Non-Governmental	Susan A. Hetherington, PhD Other, Non-Governmental	Lawana Jones Provider; Non-Governmental	Paul Joslyn Provider; Non-Governmental	Michele Juda Vice-Chair Family Member
Suzanne Lavigne Provider; Governmental	John Maltby Provider; Non-Governmental	Delores McFadden Provider; Governmental (retired)	Robert Pitkofsky Family Member	Margaret Puddington Family Member	Kai Roman Family Member	Sumantra Sarkar Family Member
Stephanie Speaker Self-Advocate	Leah Steinberg Provider; Non-Governmental	Valeria Valdez Family Member	Meyer Wertheimer Provider; Non-Governmental	Melissa Stickle Ex-Officio Local Mental Hygiene Directors	Vicky Hiffa Ex-Officio DDPC	

Legislative Charge of the DDAC

Mental Hygiene Law, Chapter 27, Section 13.05

No executive, administrative or appointive duties

Foster public understanding and acceptance of developmental disabilities

In cooperation with the commissioner of developmental disabilities, provide recommendations for statewide priorities and goals for services for individuals with developmental disabilities

Legislative Charge of the DDAC

Mental Hygiene Law, Chapter 27, Section 13.05

Advise the commissioner on matters related to plan) development and implementation of the statewide comprehensive plan (the 5.07 plan)

NOTE: NYS Mental Hygiene Law “§ 5.07 Establishment of statewide comprehensive plans of services for persons with mental disabilities.... (a) (1) The behavioral health services advisory council and the advisory council on developmental disabilities shall provide recommendations for statewide priorities and goals to guide comprehensive planning, resource allocation and evaluation processes for state and local services for persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and/or those with substance use or compulsive gambling disorder...”

(<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/MHY/5.07>)

Legislative Charge of the DDAC

Mental Hygiene Law, Chapter 27, Section 13.05

The advisory council shall have the power to consider any matter relating to the improvement of the state developmental disabilities program

Shall advise the commissioner of developmental disabilities thereon and on any matter relating to the performance of their duties with relation to individuals with developmental disabilities

Shall advise the commissioner on policies, goals, budget and operation of developmental disabilities services

Legislative Charge of the DDAC

Mental Hygiene Law, Chapter 27, Section 13.05

The council shall review all proposed regulations and report its recommendations on the proposed regulations to the commissioner within thirty days.

The council shall assist the commissioner of developmental disabilities with the development and assessment of the triennial state plan issued by the office.

The council shall periodically assess the local planning process and make recommendations thereon to the commissioner and to the council for mental hygiene planning.

(<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/MHY/13.05>)

The Role and Function of Committees of the DDAC:

Where the work gets done!

The council shall establish such committees as deemed necessary by the chair with advice from the commissioner.

Such committees shall consider matters related to the various service populations served, and programs certified by the office, as well as other matters, including planning, fiscal, and consumer affairs.

The council shall prepare and issue such reports on its activities as deemed necessary.

Current DDAC Committees

Residential, John Maltby/Chair

The work of the committee is to inform the Council on trends and issues in certified and non-certified housing for people with I/DD. The committee may, from time to time, formulate recommendations to the council on how to improve and increase housing options for people living in certified or non-certified housing.

Systems, Delores McFadden and Michele Juda/Co-Chairs

This committee contributes to the work of the DDAC by identifying broad service system initiatives and frameworks that warrant exploration and analysis in order to make recommendations to OPWDD. Topics are selected based on their relevance to the strategic initiatives of OPWDD along with other issues impacting the needs and concerns of those receiving services and their families as they arise. It pays special attention to how those initiatives and issues are experienced and how communication impacts access to and effective utilization of services.

Health and Wellness, Gary Goldstein, DDS/Chair

The mission of this committee is to improve the equity, effectiveness, and efficiency of medical, behavioral, and dental services for New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). It makes recommendations for meaningful improvements in their overall health, while stressing the importance of providing these services in the most integrated community setting that is appropriate.

Current DDAC Committees

Self-Direction, Stuart Flaum/Chair

The intent of this committee is to encourage and support individuals and families in exercising their option to self-direct their services. It will examine the design of the service in its ability to meet people's needs including resource allocation, access, providers (brokers, fiscal intermediaries) and identify opportunities to improve the service.

Employment and Meaningful Activities for Adults, Susan Hetherington, PhD and Shameka Andrews/Co-Chairs

This committee was formed to facilitate the employment of and meaningful community activities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities within the OPWDD system. The committee plans to assess current employment and engagement in meaningful community activities; determine the level of satisfaction of people with IDD with their employment or community activities; find innovative ways to improve success and satisfaction with employment and community engagement; and enhance cross systems collaboration in collecting data and enhancing employment opportunities.

Family Support Services (FSS), currently represented to the DDAC by Margaret Puddington

Established by statute as a standing committee of the DDAC, the FSS Committee's purpose is to advise the Commissioner of OPWDD about the needs of families who are caring at home for their relative with IDD. The Committee provides recommendations on the design, implementation, and monitoring of FSS programs and services, and it serves as a liaison between the local FSS advisory councils and the statewide FSS Committee. The Committee is composed of one representative from each of the regional offices. Members are elected locally.

Executive Committee, Nick Cappoletti/Chair

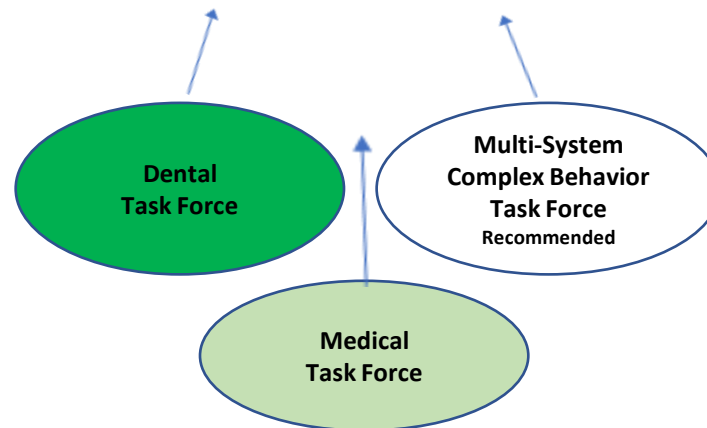
Comprised of committee chairs, it sets priorities for the DDAC to include development of meeting agendas.

NYS OPWDD Commissioner's Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (DDAC)

Nick Cappoletti, Chair Michele Juda, Vice Chair

Committees of the DDAC

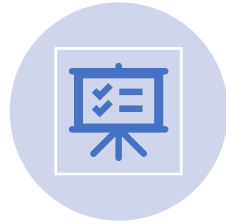
Membership: May consist of both council and non-council members that reflect a diverse group of stakeholders from across the state, each with co-chairs that are members of the DDAC, with the exception of the FSS Council which operates under its own legislative authority.



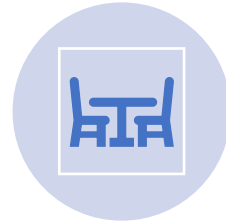
Committee Process



Committee meetings are called and facilitated by co-chairs.



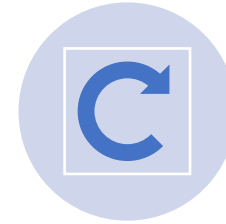
Committee recommendations are prioritized based on level of impact and feasibility and drafted by the co-chairs.



Once approved, draft recommendations are submitted to the DDAC chair and vice chair for review, and may be modified as a result.



The final draft is presented to the full council for review, discussion, and endorsement through a vote, then presented as a written proposal to the Commissioner.



At or before the next full council meeting, OPWDD either accepts with next steps, requests changes prior to approval, or rejects recommendations with an explanation.

Committee Guidance

- The DDAC meets at least quarterly, but much of the work is performed via designated committees. All council members are expected to serve on a committee.
- When making a report to the Council, a committee should, in addition to reporting any recommendations of the committee, report any significant deliberations leading to such recommendations as well as any significant comments, opinions, or recommendations of committee members who did not support the recommendations.
- For formal consideration, a committee recommendation must be presented as a written proposal to the Commissioner by the Chair and the committee chair. Recommendations must have the support of the majority of the committee to be advanced and must be voted on by the full Council with majority support prior to being accepted as a resolution of the Council to be provided to the Commissioner.
- A record of recommendations of the Council, determined by majority vote of Council members present, shall be maintained by OPWDD.

General Guidance

- All council members should be familiar with Mental Hygiene Law §13.05 which establishes the OPWDD Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council (DDAC), its bylaws and practices as described in OPWDD's orientation booklet for new council members.
- It is essential that members are fully aware of conflict-of-interest policies and understand recusal procedures. (Public Officers Law §74)
- Minutes of meetings include requests, responses, and actionable items to be reviewed for follow-up at the next meeting, as necessary.