Council Members Present
Susan P. Evans EdD, Education Program Specialist for Early Intervention Program, Commissioner of Health and Senior Services Appointee.

Mr. Judah Zeigler, Associate Vice President of Sharp's Retail & Consumer Marketing Group and a father of an autistic son, Senate President Appointee.

Caroline Eggerding, MD, Executive Vice President of Pediatric and Adolescent Services for Bancroft NeuroHealth, Assembly Speaker Appointee.

Linda S. Meyer, MPA, EdD, Executive Director, Autism New Jersey (formerly known as NJCOSAC), Autism Organization Representative.

Ms. B. Madeleine Goldfarb, Founder/Director of the Noah’s Ark Children’s Association, Autism Organization Representative.

Barbie Zimmerman-Bier, MD, University of Medicine and Dentistry – New Jersey Medical School, Academic Institution Representative.

Kendell R. Sprott, MD, JD, Acting Director of Pediatrics, University of Medicine and Dentistry – New Jersey Medical School, Academic Institution Representative.

Yvette Janvier, MD, FAAP, Medical Director for the Children’s Specialized Hospital in Toms River, Healthcare Organization Representative.

Grace M. Reilly, RN, MSN, APN-C, Adult Nurse Practitioner for Riverview Medical Center, Individual with Autism or Family Member Representative.

Absent
Jessica C. Guberman, PhD, Executive Director for Community Options, Inc., Autism Organization Representative.

NJ Department of Health and Senior Services Staff Attendees
Celeste Andriot Wood, MS, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Health Services

Michael A. Gallo, Jr, PhD, Executive Director, Governor’s Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Marilyn Gorney-Daley, DO, MPH, Medical Director, Special Child Health and Early intervention Services

Diane DiGiovacchino, Administrative Assistant 3, Special Child Health and Early Intervention Services
I. Welcome
Meeting called to order at 6:12pm by Dr. Gallo.

A. Introduction of Council Members and Department of Health and Senior Services’ staff.

B. Introduction by Celeste Andriot Wood
Ms. Wood welcomed and thanked Council members for their service and attendance.

Ms. Wood stated that the Council’s participation is critical and its role is to provide guidance and information for the Department through support of research and clinical enhancement activities. She further stated that autism is a major initiative and priority of the Governor even with the state’s severe fiscal crises, and that the Governor and Commissioner of Health and Senior Services support the various activities associated with autism and the Council will receive updates.

Autism-related activities that are supported by the DHSS include:

- **Autism Registry** - The Special Child Health Birth Defects Registry has been expanded to include the Autism Registry. Rules are currently out for public comment, and individuals on the Council or the Council as a whole are encouraged to comment.

- **Autism Guidelines** – Legislation developed guidelines for health care professionals to use in evaluating infants and toddlers to ensure their timely referral to the Early Intervention Program. A draft of the guidelines should be available soon.

- **First Responders Training** – Legislation established an autism awareness training course and curriculum for first responders. This measure was signed into law September 9, 2008 by Governor Corzine.

Ms. Wood emphasized that it is critical that the Council move forward with its research agenda for next fiscal year. She explained that the Department worked with UMDNJ to continue the Basic Research grants, but that the 2-year grant cycle is ending and preparation for a new set of Requests for Applications (RFA) must be made quickly to move the process forward. Ms. Wood also noted that plans must also be made for the future of the Clinical Enhancement grants.

C. Overview of PL2007, Chapter 168 Law provided by Dr. Gallo
Dr. Gallo explained that Public Law 2007, Chapter 168 was signed by Governor Corzine on September 7, 2007, and that once the legislation was signed into law, the process of moving the Council and money from UMDNJ to the Department of Health and Senior Services began. Dr. Gallo then explained that a key issue for the Law is the incidence of autism in New Jersey. According to the CDC one of every 94 children in New Jersey is on the autism spectrum. It is therefore essential to have a statewide Council in place to set-up a Center of Excellence to move forward with making grant awards and develop a statewide network of research and clinical services to attract federal money. The Center of Excellence can be a single entity or grouping of entities which is currently the Council’s approach.
Composition of Council

In highlighting the Public Law, Dr. Gallo stated that the Council is composed of 14 members of which ten persons have been appointed. As stipulated by the law, the Governor is to appoint the following eleven individuals:

- **Public Members (2 persons)** - who are members of the public who do not occupy a leadership position in any of the organizations represented on the Council, of which one shall be a person with a diagnosis of autism or autism spectrum disorder or the family member of such a person.
  - Ms. Grace Reilly - Family Member with autism
  - Vacant - General Public Member

- **Academic Members (4 persons)** - to be appointed in consultation with the presidents of academic institutions in New Jersey that are engaged in autism research.
  - Kendell R. Sprott, MD, JD - Academic Institution Recommendation 1
  - Barbie Zimmerman-Bier, MD - Academic Institution Recommendation 2
  - Vacant - Academic Institution Recommendation 3
  - Vacant - Academic Institution Recommendation 4

- **Health Care Organization Member (1 person)** - who is representative of a health care organization with demonstrated clinical expertise in the evaluation and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.
  - Yvette M. Janvier, MD, FAAP

- **Autism Organizations Member (4 persons)** - who represent autism organizations in New Jersey (each of whom represent no more than one organization).
  - Linda S. Meyer, EdD, MPA - Autism Organization Representative 1
  - Ms. B. Madeleine Goldfarb - Autism Organization Representative 2
  - Jessica Guberman, PhD - Autism Organization Representative 3
  - Vacant - Autism Organization Representative 4

- **President of the Senate Appointment (1 person).**
  - Mr. Judah Zeigler

- **Assembly Speaker Appointment (1 person).**
  - Caroline Eggerding, MD

- **Commissioner of Health and Senior Services Appointment (1 person).**
  - Susan Evans, EdD

**Election of Chair and Terms**

One of the tasks to accomplish for this meeting is to elect a Chair by the members of the Council present this evening. Nominations have been received and the Council is open to receiving additional nominations. Dr. Gallo explained that a Chair is to be elected at the first meeting of each calendar year, and that members of the Council shall serve a term of three years. It was further stated that if a member is unable to serve a full term the Governor will replace the member and that replacement member shall then serve the remainder of the term.
Quorum
A majority of members of the Council constitutes a quorum. The Council is currently composed of ten (10) members, so six (6) members constitutes a quorum.

Executive Director
The Executive Director is an appointment of the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, as such the direction of the Council and Council-supported autism research is communicated through the Executive Director to the Department.

Council Purpose/Mission
The purpose of the Council is to strengthen autism research in New Jersey by establishing a Center of Excellence through the grant award process to public and private non-profit entities. Funding opportunities also exist for training physicians to use various evaluation techniques. Dr. Gallo also noted that the Council can call upon the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services for additional resources.

Public Information
The provision of a mechanism allowing the public to obtain information on various autism activities is currently in the process of being established. An official website that will speak to all of the stakeholders in the autism community is currently being developed by the Department of Health and Senior Services’ Office of Communications. The content of the website will be updated as necessary.

Scientific Advisory Committee
A five-member Scientific Advisory Committee shall be established to assist and make recommendations to the Council in the research area. The Committee shall be comprised of three biomedical scientists and two medical clinicians. Dr. Gallo will send to the Council members a list of individuals to be considered for the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Funding
Continually seek federal and other monies to fund the activities of the Council to allow the transition to fade out the current funding as stipulated in PL 2007, Chapter 174 (which stipulates that one dollar from every motor vehicles violation goes to autism research).

II. Ratification of Council’s Policies and Bylaws
The Policies and Bylaws were written as a first draft and emailed to all Council members for comments. Comments and suggested revisions were received from Mr. Zeigler, Dr. Evans and Dr. Meyer. Additional comments include:

- Article VI, Section 6, Notice of Meetings to include language so that additional regional State newspapers are notified of meetings.
- Accept Robert’s Rules of Order as frame work for conducting meetings.
- Make Center of Excellence primary goal as noted in the Public Law and include statement “additional goals as agreed to by Council”.
- Use “Rules of Order” wording in place of “Policies and Bylaws”.
- Define Center of Excellence as stipulated in Public Law 168.
Comments/revisions to the Rules of Order will be made by Dr. Gallo, and the revised version of the Rules of Order will be emailed to all Council members and voted on at the next meeting.

III. **Election of Council Chair**
Election moved on the agenda to take place after the discussion of the existing grant programs and before the discussion of the Council’s financial accounting to allow for more interaction among Council members.

IV. **Status of 2007 Existing Grant Program**
The first existing grant program discussed was the Basic Science and Clinical Research grant program which was carried over from UMDNJ. Initially, three million dollars was authorized to fund ten grants for this program. However, final approval for funding was made for $3.3 million to fund 11 grants. The grant period for these awards end April 30, 2009. Dr. Gallo and Ms. Wood stated that allocating money to bridge grants could allow currently-funded grantees to compete for the next round of Basic Science and Clinical Research funding. Dr. Gallo explained that the research grants cover many various areas of research, such as: genetic, biomedical, epidemiology and population science. As stipulated in the Public Law, the Council sets the tone for the type of research initiatives that will be developed.

The second grant program discussed was the 2008 Clinical Enhancement grant program. This program began at UMDNJ and was then transferred to the Department of Health and Senior Services and became a Department initiative. Dr. Gallo commented that it was a major step for Council to fund centers to increase their capability to diagnose patients in the State of New Jersey. He further noted that the grant funding has been used to enhance staffing, which has resulted in a decrease in patient wait times across centers.

Dr. Gallo also stated that a major component of the grant program is data collection, and that the diagnostic data collected by these centers will be used to create a collective database, and that this database used to forward future research and clinical initiatives. New Jersey is the only state in the nation that will have a statewide database and it is important to create consistency across the state and encourage the Centers to work together. Grace Reilly suggested to Dr. Gallo that in discussing the personnel of the centers language labels such as, “allied health care professionals” be used so as not to exclude any group of professionals.

Yvette Janvier, MD presented an overview of the accomplishments of her clinical enhancement grant, The Autism Center of Excellence at Children’s Specialized Hospital. Dr. Janvier stated that the grant funding at Children’s Specialized has resulted in the:

- Expansion of assessment and intervention services by providing training to pediatricians.
- Expansion of staff training by providing training to pediatric nurse practitioners in the full evaluation of autism and expand team evaluations.

V. **Election of Council Chair**
Dr. Gallo stated, that as stipulated by the Public Law, the Council Chair serves a 1 year calendar term, and that there are no term limits. Initial nominees for the position of Chair were Kendell Sprott, MD, Caroline Eggerding, MD and Barbie Zimmerman-Bier, MD. Dr. Sprott removed himself from consideration and nominated Judah Zeigler and
Madeleine Goldfarb. Ms. Goldfarb removed her name from consideration. Therefore, the final nominees for the position of Chair were Dr. Eggerding, Dr. Bier and Mr. Judah Zeigler. Each candidate spoke briefly to what he/she could bring to the position of Chair and the vision that he/she had for the Council.

Dr. Gallo stated that balloting based on Robert’s Rules requires a plurality of votes. Therefore, given that there were nine Council members present, a nominee needed five votes to be elected.

Voting - Round One
Dr. Caroline Eggerding - 6 votes received
Dr. Barbie Zimmerman-Bier - 1 vote received
Mr. Judah Zeigler - 2 votes received

Dr. Caroline Eggerding elected Council Chair.

VI. **Financial Accounting**

Approximately $3-$3.5 million will be allocated to the Council each State fiscal year. Since the beginning of Fiscal Year 2009 (which began on July 1, 2008) $1.5 million has been deposited into the Council’s account.

**FY2009 Actual Budget Commitments:**
- Clinical Enhancement Centers $2,850,000
- Bridge Grants (11 - 3 month grants) 330,000

VII. **New Grant Initiatives suggestions**

  - Model RFA on the National Research goals in order to be in line with national and international experts.
- Include a Governor’s Council Conference with recipients of grants to present.
- Look at community groups to generate community-based research initiatives; Scientific Advisory Committee could set criteria.
- Look at New Jersey’s strengths in the scientific community.
- With the reconstitution of the Council it is important to look at what the Council is designed to do and what is priority.
- Instruct six grantees to do community outreach, collect information and bring the information back to the Council as part of their goals.

**MOTION** by Dr. Sprott: provide bridge grants of $10,000/month up to five months for current Basic Science and Clinical Research grantees so that grantees will be able to retain their research teams in order to compete for the next round of Council-sponsored Basic Science research grant funding; seconded by Ms. Goldfarb and passed.

**MOTION** by Ms. Goldfarb: make commitment to fund RFA for the next cycle of Basic Science and Clinical Research grants and have priorities of the RFA reflect the national priorities developed by the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC); seconded by Dr. Janvier and passed.
Dr. Gallo will develop the RFA and present to the Council at the next scheduled meeting. Dr. Gallo also to email to the Council members a list of recommended individuals to serve on the Scientific Advisory Committee and requests recommendations of individual researches and clinicians from the Council members.

Next Council Meeting scheduled for February 2, 2009, 6pm - 8pm. Location to be determined.

MOTION by Dr. Evans: adjourn meeting; seconded by Dr. Janvier.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.