



# Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

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## Governor Appointed Members

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**Kaiya Andrews**

Rutland

**Amanda Bianchi**

Swanton

**Gina Carrera**

Essex

**Julie Cunningham**

Families First

**Anastasia Douglas**

Barre

**David Frye**

Charlotte

**Mike Gruteke**

Derby

**Terry Holden**

Jeffersonville

**Francoise Kahindo**

Winooski

June 25, 2020

## Black Lives Matter

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council strongly condemns the murder of George Floyd. Even though we did not know him personally, we know his life mattered very much, and we are grieving his loss. We extend our condolences to George Floyd's family and friends. Our hearts go out to all the people of color who have been victims of systemic racism and violence.

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council is a social justice organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights of people with disabilities. We recognize that the abuse of power is something experienced by all marginalized groups. We recognize that silence is complicity, and we will not be silent about racism and police brutality. **We will not be silent about abuses of power.**

The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council recognizes that diversity is a strength. **Our diversity as a Council gives us strength.** We are from every corner of Vermont – Derby Line to Bennington, Swanton to Brattleboro. We are gay and straight; we are married and single; we identify as Black, Asian, Brown, and

**Steve Kieselstein**

Burlington

**Dion LaShay**

Bennington

**Hannah Neff**

Brattleboro

**Ed Paquin**

Disability Rights VT

**Candice Price**

Addison

**Courtney Quinlan**

Burlington

**Jesse Suter**

UVM - CDCI

**Havah A. Walther**

White River Junction

**Crista Yagjian**

Guilford

White. Our youngest member is 26. Our oldest member is 67. Some of us have disabilities, some of us are family members of people with disabilities, some of us work in disability-related fields.

**All of us say, “Enough.”** Police abuse and the murder of Black people by public authorities must end now.

As a Council, we commit to use our strength, diversity, and resources to combat racism in Vermont.

- We commit to work as an ally with racial and social justice organizations.
- We commit to educating ourselves personally and as a Council about issues of racial injustice and the intersection of racism and ableism.
- We commit to advancing the leadership of people of color within our organization.
- We commit to doing the work necessary for us to be an anti-racist organization.

In solidarity,

Signed by Council Chair, Courtney Quinlan,

