



Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council

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Governor Appointed Members

Kaiya Andrews

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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,

