

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Summer Quarterly Council Meeting

Thursday, July 24, 2025

9:00 am – 5:00 pm Mountain Time

Joe R. Williams Building, Aspen Conference Room

700 W State Street, Boise

Attendees

Council Members Present

Sara Bennett

Eric Brown

Janice Carson

Randi Cole

Amy Cunningham

Jenna Garrett

Deedra Hunt

Jennifer Johnson

Maria Juarez

Angela Lindig

Mike MacGuffie

Ann Martindale

Marilu Moreno

Danielle Reff - DR

Melissa Roa

Michael Sandvig

Carly Saxe - CHAIR

Kevin Swearingen

Edgar Zuniga

Council Members Absent

Julie McConnel

Rochelle Larsen

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards

Mona Engelbrecht

Miguel Juarez

Christine Pisani

Jill Smith

Presenters

None

Guests

Morgan Poloni, Budget and Policy Analyst, Legislative Services Office

Madeline Escobedo, Spanish Language Interpreter

Criselda Cuevas, Spanish Language Interpreter

Minutes**Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda**

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Guests were welcomed; guidelines and ground rules were reviewed. Reviewed agenda with request for any changes needed.

Consent Agenda

- a. Draft Meeting Minutes: April 24-25, 2025
- b. Draft Meeting Minutes
- c. Executive Director Report
- d. Chair Report

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, provided a report on her activities during the last quarter and recent instructions regarding staff and state and federal budgets.

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, provided a report.

ACTION: Consent Agenda

- I, DR Reff, motion that we approve the consent agenda.
- Marilu Moreno seconded.
- Motion passed.

Presentation: Financial Report, Mona Engelbrecht, Financial Analyst

Mona Engelbrecht presented the financial report from the second quarter.

ACTION: Financial Report

- I, Edgar Zuniga, make a motion to accept the report.

- I, Kevin Swearingen, second.
- Motion passed.

Presentation: Council Meeting Options – Christine Pisani, Executive Director

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, presented the need to move the October 23-25 Council meeting to October 14-17. As directed by the Governor's Office, this meeting will take place online using Zoom. The meeting will take place in 2.5-hour blocks of time from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm Mountain Time or 9:00 am - 11:30 am Pacific Time.

Christine presented the following dates for 2026 Council meetings:

Winter 2026 Meeting: January 22-23, 2026, in-person

Spring 2026 Meeting: April 23-24, 2026, online using Zoom, times to be determined

Summer 2026 Meeting: July 16 in-person

Fall 2026 Meeting: October 22-23 online

Discussion with Council members included ways to make virtual meetings as effective as possible. Suggestions included making sure Council members have the support they need to participate fully. Council members want to make sure all participants in the meeting, including guests, understand the ground rules and when and how to ask questions (via the chat or using raise hand functions.) One suggestion is to have the Chair or presenter call on people specifically to help address any hesitation to participate. Christine would like each Council member to speak with staff before the October meeting to ensure there is full participation of members.

ACTION: Date Change for October 2025 Meeting

- Jenna Garrett moved to approve the proposed changes to October 2025 Council meeting dates as presented.
- Mike MacGuffie seconded.
- Motion passed. One opposed, one abstention.

ACTION: Council Meeting Dates 2026

- Michael Sandvig moved to accept the proposed meeting dates for 2026 as discussed.
- Edgar Zuniga seconded.
- Motion passed. One abstention.

Working Lunch: Council Member Networking, Council Members

Council Members met with the newly appointed Council Members and completed an activity to strengthen member relationships.

Presentation: Council Outcomes, 2026 Workplan, and 2026 Budget – Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst and Mona Engelbrecht, Financial Specialist

Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst, shared the outcomes of the current year's work as it relates to the 2026 Work Plan objectives. Council members were encouraged to ask questions and make recommendations on each goal area and proposed activities for 2026. Mona Engelbrecht, Financial Specialist, reviewed the projected budget for the proposed 2026 Work Plan.

ACTION: 2026 Work Plan

- I, Kevin Swearingen, motion to accept the 2026 Work Plan as presented.
- Edgar Zuniga seconded.
- Motion passed.

ACTION: 2026 Budget

- I, Edgar Zuniga, move to approve the 2026 Budget as presented.
- Mike MacGuffie seconded.
- Motion passed.

Presentation: Five-Year Plan Discussion – Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst

Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst, presented a timeline of the five-year planning process. Marieke also shared information from the two regional public forums that have been completed and initial survey data. The goal for survey participation is to receive almost 400 responses and we have received under 200. Council members were encouraged to assist in getting more responses. Council

members were also provided with the timeline for completing the five-year plan for its' required final submission of August 15, 2026.

Discussion: Teambuilding Report Back – Carly Saxe, Council Chair, All Council Members

Council members paired up to learn more about each other and when and why each chose to become Council members.

Discussion: Evaluation – Carly Saxe, Council Chair, All Council Members

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, led a discussion about today's meeting. She asked all members to share their feedback on what they felt was important about today's meeting, any areas needing more information, and how members would like to receive that information.

Discussion: Hands Around the Capitol – Christine Pisani, Executive Director

Reviewed schedule for this event occurring after the meeting adjourns Friday.

Meeting will resume at 9:00 AM, Friday, July 25.

Friday, July 25, 2025

9:00 am – 11:00 am Mountain Time

Joe R Williams Building, Aspen Conference Room

700 W. State Street, Boise, ID

Attendees

Council Members Present

Sara Bennett

Eric Brown

Janice Carson

Randi Cole

Amy Cunningham

Jenna Garrett

Maria Juarez

Jennifer Johnson

Angela Lindig

Mike MacGuffie

Marilu Moreno

Ann Martindale

Danielle Reff – DR

Melissa Roa

Michael Sandvig

Carly Saxe - CHAIR

Kevin Swearingen

Edgar Zuniga

Members Absent

Randi Cole

Rochelle Larsen

Julie McConnel

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards

Mona Engelbrecht

Christine Pisani

Miguel Juarez

Jill Smith

Presenters

Janice Carson, Associate Director, Center on Disabilities and Human Development

Amy Cunningham, Executive Director, Disability Rights Idaho

Eric Brown, Bureau Chief, Bureau on Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Welfare

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

Guests

Laura Leavitt, Spanish Language Interpreter

Madeline Escobedo, Spanish Language Interpreter

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Ground rules were reviewed.

Presentation: Vice-Chair Election – Carly Saxe, Council Chair

Kevin Swearingen presented his nomination to the Council.

ACTION: Vice-Chair Election

- I, Marilu Moreno, make the motion to elect Kevin Swearingen by unanimous consent.
- I, Janice Carson, second.
- Motion passed.

Carly welcomed Kevin Swearingen to serve as the Vice-Chair for the upcoming year.

Presentation: Policy Updates and Discussion – Janice Carson, Associate Director, Center on Disabilities and Human Development (CDHD), Amy Cunningham, Executive Director, Disability Rights Idaho (DRI), Christine Pisani, Executive Director, Eric Brown, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Welfare

DD Act partners Janice Carson and Amy Cunningham shared updates on federal funding proposals that may impact their organizations. Janice Carson, Associate Director, reported that as of Oct 1, 2025, the CDHD, University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) is expected to lose their Core funding. Core funds are what supports the work they do as required by the DD Act. This affects all UCEDD's across the country. The CDHD's other work is funded through other sources like grants and contracts (example: the Idaho Assistive Technology Project (IATP).

Amy Cunningham, Executive Director, reported on the status of the Protection and Advocacy federal funding as outlined by the latest Health and Human Services budget. Idaho's Protection and Advocacy organization is Disability Rights Idaho (DRI). Congress is currently reviewing budgets from each branch and program. It is unclear when the Health and Human Services budget will be reviewed. There may be a Continuing Resolution used to support ongoing funding to avoid a government shutdown.

The uncertainty of funding for Disability Rights Idaho (DRI) and all other Protection and Advocacy (P&A) organizations is a very new situation. DRI has many different sources of funding:

- The Protection and Advocacy grant for People with Developmental Disabilities (PADD) grant, supports their DD Act required activities for people with developmental disabilities
- The Protection and Advocacy grant for people with Mental Illness (PAMI) grant allows DRI to conduct monitoring and investigations within state facilities.

- The Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights grant (PAIR) grant allows DRI to help people with disabilities who may be having problems in such areas as discrimination in housing because of a disability, discrimination in employment because of a disability, or denial of access to services. PAIR services are funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) and are provided free of charge.
- The Client Assistance Program funds DRI to advise and advocate for individuals with disabilities who seek or receive services under the Rehabilitation Act and title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). CAP agencies can assist with employment matters and pursue various remedies.
- The Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA) grant was created under the Help America Vote Act to ensure people with disabilities have full access to the voting process.
- Social Security Administration (SSA) grants help beneficiaries who experience barriers with accessing employment and assists people with the transition from children services to adult services as well as representative payee investigations.

The Health and Human Services budget proposes to eliminate the PAIR, CAP, and PAVA grant have all been proposed for elimination. The PAMI grant is proposed to be eliminated by 66%. DRI has a small grant for Assistive Technology (AT) access that is currently not at risk. This grant allows them to help people appeal Medicaid denials of AT and help with housing accessibility specific to AT. Social Security Administration (SSA) grants are currently not at risk of funding cuts. These funding changes have affected DRI's staffing. DRI now has half the staff (9) from the beginning of the year with 18 staff. Amy is currently the only attorney on staff. If the proposed funding changes take place, it will change how DRI's work will look going forward.

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, reported that projects of national significance are also proposed to be eliminated. The Living Well Grant was an example of a Project of National Significance grant that provided financial investments to states

to help address needs that have been identified through the DD Act Partner annual reports on current needs in their states.

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, reported on federal and state proposed funding reductions. She shared information about House Resolution 1 (also called the One Big Beautiful Act) and its potential impact upon systems and services. 1.2 trillion dollars are projected to be reduced in Medicaid and CHIP spending over the next ten (10) years. This appropriation bill is separate from the funding authorizations that are impacting UCEDDs and the P&As presented earlier.

Beginning in late 2026, Medicaid Expansion enrollees will be subject to eligibility checks twice a year, instead of the current schedule of once a year. Up to 9 million Medicaid enrollees (nationwide) ages 50-64 may be at risk of losing health care coverage if they can't meet eligibility expectations or be exempted from Medicaid work requirements not because they are ineligible, but because they missed a deadline or could not navigate a complex system, missing paperwork deadlines.

Medicaid enrollees were not subject to federal work requirements previously, but going forward, nondisabled adults ages 18-64 without dependents will have to work, volunteer, or be enrolled in school for 80 hours a month to get and maintain coverage. Parents of dependent children ages 13 and under and those who are medically frail are exempt. By early 2027, work requirements for Medicaid enrollees will take effect.

In Idaho the proposed reductions could see a loss of federal funds of up to \$4.3 billion dollars over 10 years.

Eric Brown, Bureau Chief, presented information about the KW v Armstrong Lawsuit. The state is currently meeting with other states to discuss their assessments, as a new assessment must be selected for the State of Idaho.

Presentation: Planning and Reporting Overview – Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst

Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst, updated the Council on the planning and reporting process. The goals and objectives will remain the same throughout the last year of our current five-year plan. Beginning October 1, 2025, the Council will be in its' fifth and final year of the current five-year plan. The final workplan

(October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026) is what we will review and ask for approval on today.

Update: Hands Around the Capitol Event – Christine Pisani, Executive Director

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, provided information available about the Hands Around the Capitol advocacy event coming up on July 25th. This is the celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the signing of the American with Disabilities Act.

Council Meeting Evaluation

Carly Saxe, Council Chair asked Council members to share their experiences during this meeting. Members shared their appreciation for efforts to streamline the meeting and follow the agenda. Although members felt the content of the first day of the meeting was cause for worry, they appreciated the effort to be transparent about funding and contingency planning. A paper survey was also distributed for members to share their feedback and suggestions for improvements.

ACTION Adjourn

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- I, Edgar Zuniga, move to adjourn.
- I, Mike Sandvig, second.
- Motion to adjourn passed at 11:18 AM.