

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Fall Quarterly Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

10:00 am – 12:30 pm Mountain Time

Joe R. Williams, 700 W State St., Suite 119

Boise 83702

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81588368604?pwd=bqWfjbU9c5sE6rhPGNSuYa5lIotf7l.1>

Attendees

Council Members Present

Sara Bennett

Eric Brown

Randi Cole

Amy Cunningham

Jenna Garrett

Jennifer Johnson

Maria Juarez

Rochelle Larsen

Angela Lindig

Mike MacGuffie

Ann Martindale

Julie McConnel

Marilu Moreno

Danielle Reff – DR

Melissa Roa

Michael Sandvig

Carly Saxe - CHAIR

Kevin Swearingen -VICE

Edgar Zuniga

Two vacancies

Council Members Absent

Janice Carson

Deedra Hunt

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards

Mona Engelbrecht

Miguel Juarez

Christine Pisani

Richelle Tierney

Jill Smith

Presenters

None

Guests

Madeline Escobedo, Spanish Language Interpreter

Laura Leavitt, Spanish Language Interpreter

Cari Murphy, Interim Director, Idaho Center on Disabilities and Human Development

Sandy Smith

Shawna Springer

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Carly welcomed our newest Council Member, Julie McConnel.

Guests were welcomed and guidelines were reviewed.

Kevin Swearingen, Vice Chair, reviewed the ground rules for meeting protocol.

Consent Agenda

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

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, provided a written report on her activities during the last quarter to members by email. No questions were presented by members.

Kevin Swearingen, Vice Chair, reported on his quarterly activities since being elected during the Summer Council meeting.

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, provided a report on her activities since being appointed Chair at the Summer Council meeting.

ACTION: Consent Agenda

- Angela Lindig moved to accept the consent agenda as presented.
- Kevin Swearingen seconded.
- Motion passed.

Presentation: Financial Report, Mona Engelbrecht, Financial Analyst

Mona Engelbrecht presented the financial report. We have fully spent the 2023 award. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 award information included the no cost extension of roughly 55,000.00. Mona shared information about the FY 2025 award.

ACTION: Financial Report

- I, DR Reff, move to approve the Financial Report as presented.
- Edgar Zuniga seconded.
- Motion passed.

Presentation: Setting Legislative Priorities, Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst

Richelle reviewed past legislative issues. A few highlights included ABLE legislation, the Office of Performance Evaluation request for the study on the Home and Community Based Services Direct Care Workforce Crisis, the START Model, Voting access, Background Check legislation for conservators and guardians, and Adult Protection Rules and Statutes. Richelle provided a review of the Council legislative priority levels:

- Priority One: Leading the Way
- Priority Two: Lending Support
- Priority Three: Keeping Track

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (The DD Act) provides clear expectations that guide the work of all DD Councils.

Review Parking Lot Items: Jill Smith, Program Specialist

None identified today.

Meeting Evaluation: Discussion – All Council Members

Members shared one important or helpful thing about this meeting, any areas of improvement, and any additional requests for information.

Meeting will resume at 10:00 am MDT, Wednesday October 15.

Fall Quarterly Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

10:00 am – 12:30 pm Mountain Time

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Two vacancies

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Staff Present

Marieke Edwards

Mona Engelbrecht

Miguel Juarez

Christine Pisani

Richelle Tierney

Jill Smith

Presenters

Kayla Henley, Human Resources, Department of Health & Welfare

Guests

Cari Murphy, Interim Director, Idaho Center on Disabilities and Human Development

Hannah Liedkie, President/CEO, Opportunities Unlimited, Inc.

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions and Ground Rules

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Guests were welcomed and guidelines were reviewed.

Kevin Swearingen, Vice Chair, reviewed the ground rules for meeting protocol.

Presentation: Policy Updates, Discussion and Setting Priorities – Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst

Richelle identified possible areas of legislative action for the Council. Helping legislators understand disability programs and how they meet clear and unique needs in Idaho is an important area this year. More specifically, the Idaho DOGE Taskforce presents an opportunity to help educate taskforce members on the role and responsibilities of the DD Council and other key disability partners. Idaho DOGE has recommended consolidation or elimination of several Idaho organizations.

Council members provided ideas to explore to help Legislators and the community at large understand the roles key organizations play and their critical responsibilities. Examples include understanding where Adult Protection is housed and the extensive work that has been done around creating the Ombudsman Office and the need for a Caregiver Misconduct Registry.

Amy Cunningham was asked to provide an update on the status of the Guardianship Statute work. Senator Ruchti is hoping to present this the first or second week of the session.

Richelle shared that several managed care organizations have been in contact with Council staff to discuss their experiences and lessons learned in other states. Richelle reviewed the current status of Medicaid cuts and additional policy issues related to the Expansion population. This complex issue is concerning because of the impact on people who rely on their access to Medicaid Expansion, who may also be direct support providers or family members. Without Medicaid Expansion

for health care coverage, people with disabilities are at risk of losing their support providers. The Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Direct Care Workforce Crisis remains a significant area of concern for the Council.

Education related issues are also likely to be a critical issue this legislative session. Richelle explained that no funds are being requested for the START model this year due to the budget shortfall. Mike Sandvig shared the significant impact START services can have on avoiding higher costs if providers and systems are not in place to address complex mental health needs.

ACTION: Set Policy Priorities

- Amy Cunningham moved the Council approve to support the Guardianship Legislation as it comes forward, as a Priority Level 2.
- Julie McConnel seconded.
- Motion passed.

ACTION: Set Policy Priorities

- Julie McConnel moved that we put a Priority 1 on educating legislators about the role of the Council and its mandates and statutes.
- Mike MacGuffie seconded.
- Motion passed.

ACTION: Set Policy Priorities

- DR Reff moved we allow Council staff to make decisions on viewpoints related to advocacy by using the DD Act as a guide.
- Amy Cunningham moved to amend DR's motion as follows: to allow Council staff to make decisions on proposed legislative changes that affect individuals with developmental disabilities and their families using the DD Act and Council values as a guide.
- DR Reff agreed to the amendment.
- Edgar Zuniga seconded.
- Motion passed.

Presentation: Executive Director Evaluation Discussion – Kayla Henley, Human Resources, Department of Health & Welfare

Kayla Henley reviewed the process for evaluating the Executive Director. She will be reaching out to Council members by email and phone to complete the survey. Kayla is happy to provide support to any members to complete the process.

Review Parking Lot Items: Jill Smith, Program Specialist

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, responded to an item brought up yesterday regarding the status and impact of the Federal government shut down.

Meeting Evaluation: Discussion – All Council Members

Members shared one important or helpful thing about this meeting, any areas of improvement, and any additional requests for information.

Meeting will resume at 10:00 am MDT, Thursday October 16.

Fall Quarterly Council Meeting

Thursday, October 16, 2025

10:00 am – 12:30 pm Mountain Time

Joe R. Williams, 700 W State St., Suite 119

Boise 83702

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Randi Cole

Deedra Hunt

Maria Juarez

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards

Mona Engelbrecht

Miguel Juarez

Christine Pisani

Richelle Tierney

Jill Smith

Presenters

None

Guests

Josie Huang, Maternal and Child Health Data Analyst
McKayla Matlack, CEO, Development Workshop, Inc.

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, and Ground Rules

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Guests were welcomed and guidelines were reviewed.

Kevin Swearingen, Vice Chair, reviewed the ground rules for meeting protocol.

Presentation: Overview of Survey & Public Forum Data – Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst

Marieke reviewed the five-year planning process and requirements. She shared survey data collected from 257 respondents and included demographic information. This helped show how survey responses reflect the wide range of Idaho communities. Top priorities from the survey include:

1. Home and Community Based Services: access
2. Home and Community Based Services: quality
3. Medical care
4. Mental health
5. Preventing and recognizing abuse

Discussion: What are the survey respondents telling us? – All Council Members

Council members participated in small group discussions regarding Survey responses. Members provided feedback on what they expected to see, where

there were surprises and how priorities may be different across individuals with disabilities, family members, and service providers.

Review Parking Lot Items: Jill Smith, Program Specialist

Christine Pisani, Executive Director asked Council members for input regarding whether members had enough time to discuss the information presented today. Members requested to be able to answer this question again tomorrow once all Survey and Public Forum information is presented.

Meeting Evaluation: Discussion – All Council Members

Members shared one important or helpful thing about this meeting, any areas of improvement, and any additional requests for information.

Meeting will resume at 10:00 am MDT, Friday October 17.

Fall Quarterly Council Meeting

Friday, October 17, 2025

10:00 am – 12:30 pm Mountain Time

Joe R. Williams, 700 W State St., Suite 119

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Council Members Present

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Two vacancies

Council Members Absent

Randi Cole

Deedra Hunt

Maria Juarez

Edgar Zuniga

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards

Mona Engelbrecht

Miguel Juarez

Christine Pisani

Richelle Tierney

Jill Smith

Presenters

None

Guests

Josie Huang, Maternal and Child Health Data Analyst
McKayla Matlack, CEO, Development Workshop, Inc.

Minutes**Welcome, Introductions, and Ground Rules**

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Guests were welcomed and guidelines were reviewed.

Kevin Swearingen, Vice Chair, reviewed the ground rules for meeting protocol.

Presentation: Overview of Survey & Public Forum Data – Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst

Marieke reviewed additional demographic data from Survey respondents that gave us more information about who filled out the survey. This data also shared more detail about respondents who were representing others with disabilities across the age range. Marieke helped Council members understand how priorities were broken down by different demographic groups. Council members shared their experiences with different priority areas which included education, the need for End-of-Life planning which typically refers to the loss of an aging parent or aging care giver, and economic considerations across priority areas.

Discussion: What did we learn from the Public Forums? – All Council Members

Council members participated in small group discussions regarding stand-out issues of the data gathered so far. Members shared important priorities for the Council to consider addressing. Members also discussed what the Council's role could be when addressing identified priorities.

The Council meeting experienced an unexpected interruption at this point in the meeting. A corrected Zoom link was provided to all members, staff and the one guest at the time, McKayla Matlack.

Presentation: Next steps in the Five-Year Planning process – Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst

Marieke provided an outline of planning activities over the next several months. Formal reports will be generated regarding Public Forum data collection and the Rural Needs Assessment. Council members will start setting priorities during the January 2026 Council meeting. Additional work will occur in April 2026 regarding Idaho's self-advocacy needs and required activities of the DD Act. The April 2026 Council meeting will include review of a Draft Five-Year Plan. Public comment on the draft will take place between May and June 2026.

ACTION: Set Additional Council Meeting Date

- Kevin moved to add a virtual Council meeting on April 7th, 2026, from 10:00 am - 12:45 pm mountain time, 9:00 am – 11:45 am pacific time.
- Mike MacGuffie seconded.
- Motion passed.

Review Parking Lot Items: Jill Smith, Program Specialist

None

Meeting Evaluation: Discussion – All Council Members

Members shared one important or helpful thing about this meeting, any areas of improvement, and any additional requests for information. Council members were again asked for input on whether they had enough information and time to make recommendations using a Zoom format.

ACTION Adjourn

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

- DR Reff moved to adjourn.
- Marilu Moreno seconded.
- Motion to adjourn passed at 12:45 PM MST.