

## **DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

### **Winter Quarterly Council Meeting**

**Thursday, January 22, 2026**

**8:30 am – 4:30 pm Mountain Time**

**Joe R. Williams, 700 W State St., Aspen Room**

## **Attendees**

### **Council Members Present**

Sara Bennett

Eric Brown

Janice Carson

Amy Cunningham

Jenna Garrett

Deedra Hunt

Jennifer Johnson

Maria Juarez

Rochelle Larsen

Angela Lindig

Mike MacGuffie

Ann Martindale

Julie McConnel

Danielle Reff – DR

Melissa Roa

Michael Sandvig

Carly Saxe - CHAIR

Edgar Zuniga

Two vacancies

### **Council Members Absent**

Randi Cole

Marilu Moreno

Kevin Swearingen

### **Staff Present**

Marieke Edwards

Mona Engelbrecht

Miguel Juarez

Christine Pisani

Richelle Tierney

Jill Smith

### **Presenters**

None

## Guests

Madeline Escobedo, Spanish Language Interpreter

Maricela Rios, Spanish Language Interpreter

Becky Bailey

Moe Hawl

Simale Ambo

Gabe Johnson

## Minutes

### Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. Carly reviewed the agenda and the guest protocol.

Guests were welcomed and introduced themselves.

Danielle “DR” Reff reviewed the ground rules for Council members.

### Consent Agenda

- a. **Draft Meeting Minutes: October 14-17, 2025**
- b. **Report from the Executive Director**
- c. **Report from the Chair**
- d. **Vice Chair Report**

Danielle “DR” Reff noted a typing error on the Fall meeting minutes (the letter x after Michael Sandvig’s name on page 17.)

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, provided a written report on her activities for the last quarter and an update on the report for seeking less expensive office space. No questions were presented by members.

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, provided a brief update about current membership terms and seats up for reappointment in 2026. The Vice-Chair report was provided to Council members in their packet.

### **ACTION: Consent Agenda**

- Jen Johnson moved to accept the consent agenda with the typo correction noted by Danielle “DR” Reff.
- Jenna Garrett seconded.

- Motion passed.

### **Presentation: Financial Report, Mona Engelbrecht, Financial Analyst**

Mona Engelbrecht presented the financial report.

### **ACTION: Financial Report**

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

### **Discussion: Proposed Cuts to Medicaid Budget, Christine Pisani, Executive Director**

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, reviewed the role of the Council to ensure Council members comply with their responsibilities outlined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act.) The role of the Council is to educate and inform the public and policy makers at all levels about how policies may impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Council members discussed potential impacts of the proposed reductions or cuts to the Governor’s list of proposed services. Council members shared how they could help legislators understand the role of the Council and respond to questions while maintaining compliance with our Federal law.

### **ACTION: Policy Position on Proposed Cuts to Medicaid Budget**

- I, Michael Sandvig, move that we take the position that we are against the Medicaid cuts outlined in the Governor’s proposal as written in the Legislative Budget Book.
- Danielle “DR” Reff seconded.
- Motion passed.

Abstentions: Eric Brown, Bureau of Developmental Disability Services, Division of Medicaid, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare; Melissa Roa, Newborn Screening and Children’s Special Health Program Manager, Division of Public Health, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare; Deedra Hunt, Program Supervisor, State Adult Protective Services Manager; Mike MacGuffie, Center Manager, Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

**Discussion: Preparation for Legislative Visits, Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst**

Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst, provided legislative packets for all members and provided information about the layout of the Capitol building. She shared when the scheduled hearings are taking place and when the Senate and House would be on the Floor.

**Networking Lunch: All Council Members****Discussion: Report Out from Legislative Visits: All Council Members**

Many Council members shared the highlights of discussions they had with legislators. Many legislators asked for detailed information about Medicaid services.

Meeting will resume at 8:30 am MDT, Friday, January 23.

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Boise 83702

### Attendees

#### Council Members Present

Sara Bennett

Eric Brown

Janice Carson

Amy Cunningham

Jenna Garrett

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Mike MacGuffie

Ann Martindale

Julie McConnel

Danielle “DR” Reff

Melissa Roa

Michael Sandvig

Carly Saxe - CHAIR

Edgar Zuniga

Two vacancies

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Randi Cole

Maria Juarez

Deedra Hunt

Marilu Moreno

Kevin Swearingen

#### Staff Present

Marieke Edwards

Mona Engelbrecht

Miguel Juarez

Christine Pisani

Richelle Tierney

Jill Smith

#### Presenters

Amanda DeYoung, Idaho START Program Director

Maggie Imlay, Idaho START Team Lead

## Guests

Becky Bailey

Moe Hawl

Simale Ambo

Yomirra Tussa

Mo Talaso

Maricela Rios, Spanish Language Interpreter

Madeline Escobedo, Spanish Language Interpreter

## Minutes

### Welcome, Introductions and Ground Rules

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:37 AM.

Guests were welcomed, the guest protocol was shared with each guest and ground rules were read.

Christine Pisani announced that Jill Smith, Project Specialist, has resigned her position and her last day will be February 27, 2026. The Council will wait until the end of the legislative session to determine if we have the funds to rehire for this position.

Carly Saxe, Council Chair announced that Chair elections will take place at the April Council meeting. She explained that nominations for the Chair are due to Christine Pisani, Executive Director on or before Monday, April 6, 2026. She reminded members that the Chair position must be held by a person with an intellectual or developmental disability or a family member and to please ask the person if they are interested before nominating them.

### Discussion: Virtual Council Meeting, Christine Pisani, Executive Director

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, requested that the Executive Director performance evaluation be held virtually on February 20, 2026, from 9:00 to

11:00 am. (Mountain Time). This will be presented by Human Resource staff, Kayla Henley.

### **ACTION: Virtual Council Meeting**

- I, Jen Johnson, move to schedule a virtual Council meeting on February 20 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am (mountain time) for the purpose of a personnel discussion.
- Mike MacGuffie seconded.
- Motion passed.

### **Presentation: Progress Report of 2026 Workplan (October 1, 2025-December 31, 2025) – Council Staff**

Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst, led a discussion on the progress made in the 2026 Workplan activities for Quarter 1 (October 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026). Christine Pisani, Executive Director, shared information from Goal 1 about Community NOW! activities, the status of the Meeting Leaders work, and the service system change efforts around choosing a new budget determination tool for adults with developmental disabilities. Goal 2 was reviewed by Jill Smith, Project Specialist and Council members who have participated in person-centered thinking and/or Charting the LifeCourse trainings. Council members shared their perspectives on the value of this work to achieve system change to the service system. Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst, reported on activities completed under Goal 2. This included the Our Care Can't Wait coalition and work on the direct support workforce development apprenticeship program. Miguel Juarez, Project Specialist, presented information about the United We Make the Change conference in Burley held this past November. This was a significant undertaking with great outcomes for leadership development and education. Miguel reported that many people asked that the Council host conferences like United We Make the Change in other parts of the state. Marieke summarized activities completed under Goal 4, which included recommendations made for the Department of Health and Welfare Request for Information on managed care, and the Council's comments submitted for the Rural Health Transformation program. Both sets of recommendations were submitted to help Idaho consider the needs of the

intellectual and developmental disability community for these two significant policy areas.

### **Presentation: 5-Year Planning Process and Data Review, Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst**

Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst, led a discussion of the five-year planning activities to help Council members understand next steps and their role. Marieke shared data the Council has collected to help the Council understand the needs that have been identified statewide and the themes that have become clear. Council members asked questions to better understand potential priority issues based on key data presented.

### **Presentation: START Update, Amanda DeYoung, Idaho START Program Director, Maggie Imlay, Idaho START Team Lead**

Amanda DeYoung, Idaho START Program Director and Maggie Imlay, Idaho START Team Lead, provided a status report about certification for Idaho's START system. START (Systemic Therapeutic Assessment Resources Treatment). They have been able to seek early certification working with the national START Center and anticipate final certification by June 2026.

There are currently 25 active individuals enrolled with START services and are served by three (3) START Coordinators. Current enrollees are from Ada, Canyon, Jerome and Minidoka counties. Amanda DeYoung is available for individuals who want more information on monthly training with the clinical education team as well as trainings available to the community at large. This type of outreach is a primary service of the START model and community input helps direct the program.

### **Presentation: 5-Year Planning Process and Data Review, Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst**

Marieke Edwards continued sharing state data and information collected from the public forums and rural needs assessment work. Marieke shared in depth information about the communities involved in the rural needs assessment that included Kamiah/Kooskia, Ashton and Glens Ferry.

### **Discussion: 5-Year Planning Data – All Council Members**

Council members worked in small groups to brainstorm priorities for the five-year plan. Groups reported to the full Council on the following questions: What are the

biggest needs in our state? What should the Council work on? What does that work look like? What does success look like? Council members shared feedback about the planning process so far and reported on their confidence that the Council is identifying real needs. Council members commented on the amount of data that was collected and how it will support the work of the Council for the plan and for future work.

### **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.

### **ACTION Adjourn**

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

- Jen Johnson moved to adjourn.
- Danielle “DR” Reff seconded.
- Motion to adjourn passed at 4:00 pm mountain time.