Final Meeting Minutes

Spring Quarterly Council Meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2026

9:15 am – 3:00 pm MT

Joe R Williams, 700 W State St, Suite 119
Boise, ID 83702

Attendees

Council Members Present

Sara Bennett
Eric Brown
Randi Cole
Amy Cunningham
Jenna Garrett
Jennifer Johnson
Rochelle Larsen
Angela Lindig
Mike MacGuffie
Ann Martindale
Julie McConnel
Marilu Moreno
Danielle Reff – DR
Melissa Roa
Michael Sandvig
Carly Saxe
Kevin Swearingen
Edgar Zuniga

Council Members Absent

Janice Carson
Deedra Hunt
Maria Juarez

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards
Mona Engelbrecht
Christine Pisani
Miguel Juarez
Richelle Tierney

Presenters

Zach Anner

Guests

None

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15am MT.
Kevin Swearingen, Vice Chair, reviewed the ground rules for meeting protocol.

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, announced that Zach Anner will present to the Council at 11:00 am MT.

Presentation: Five-Year Planning, Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst

Marieke Edwards reviewed the requirements from the DD Act that each Council is required to include in the Five-Year Plan: The Five-Year Plan must be data driven, with a focus on advocacy, capacity building and systems change. The plan must address the unmet most pressing needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. There are three self-advocacy requirements that must be met within the Five-Year Plan and must be worked on each year of the plan.

The survey data highlighted the need for access to and improved quality Home and Community Based Services. Adults with developmental disabilities strongly emphasized the need for education about Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation and improved monitoring of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation.

Recommendations from staff for carryover work from current Five-Year Plan include:

- Supporting Community NOW!
- Involvement with the KW lawsuit
- Establishment of a caregiver misconduct registry
- Building capacity for person centered planning
- Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation work
- Partners in Policymaking
- Strengthen self-advocacy
- Involvement with the development of the Medicaid managed care system
- Working to address the direct support workforce shortage

The proposed Draft 2027-2031 Work Plan was presented for Council review and questions.

- Goal 1: Voice in Changing Service Systems through the KW vs Armstrong Lawsuit settlement, supporting Community NOW! and providing education and best practice to the Medicaid managed care system in Idaho.
- Goal 2: Access to Quality Services by addressing the direct support workforce shortage and lack of training, improving access to quality services in rural Idaho and building capacity for person-centered planning in Idaho.
- Goal 3: Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation through the establishment of a caregiver misconduct registry and training by individuals with I/DD to other individuals with I/DD on healthy relationships, sexuality and sexual self-advocacy.
- Goal 4: Leadership and Advocacy through the establishment of a self-advocacy program, host two classes of Partners in Policymaking in two separate rural Idaho locations, monitor and support people with lived experience to educate on policy issues and respond to any disaster that affects people with I/DD.

Council members joined breakout rooms to discuss how the identified goals and objectives meet the DD Act requirements. They discussed the needs of Idahoans with I/DD based on data collected and suggested additional objective language.

Presentation: If At Birth You Don't Succeed, Zach Anner

Zach Anner shared his story and encouraged others to have joyful grit.

Presentation: Five Year Planning Continued, Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst

Council members discussed potential outcomes they want to see for each objective in the goals.

Informal adjourn until Friday, April 24, 2026, at 9:15am MT.

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Carly Saxe
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Council Members Absent

Janice Carson
Angela Lindig
Edgar Zuniga

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards
Mona Engelbrecht
Christine Pisani
Miguel Juarez
Richelle Tierney

Presenters

None

Guests

Laura Morales-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 9:15am MT.
Kevin Swearingen, Vice Chair, reviewed the ground rules for meeting protocol.

Consent Agenda

a. Draft Meeting Minutes: January 22-23, 2026
b. Chair Report
c. Vice Chair Report
d. Report from the Executive Director

There were no changes to the January 22-23, 2026, Winter Council meeting draft minutes.

Carly Saxe, Council Chair, provided a written report in the Council packet on her activities for the past quarter.

Kevin Swearingen, Vice Chair, provided a written report in the Council packet on his activities for the past quarter.

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, provided a report on her activities during the past quarter.

ACTION: Consent Agenda

- DR Reff moved to accept the consent agenda as presented
- Marilu Moreno seconded.
- Motion passed.

ACTION: Proposed In-Person Council Meeting Date July 17, 2026, Christine Pisani, Executive Director

Christine Pisani presented the need to add a second day to the Summer Council meeting to accomplish the work that needs the Council's input. The dates of 7/15/2026 or 7/17/2026 were discussed.

- Jenna Garrett moved to add an additional date of 7/17/2026 to the July Council Meeting.
- Jen Johnson seconded.
- Motion passed.
- Julie McConnel opposed.

Membership Orientation, Christine Pisani, Executive Director

Christine Pisani discussed the importance of an in-person new member orientation. This will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, from 10am-5pm. All Council Members are welcome to attend. Council members were asked to let Christine know by Monday, June 1 if they would like to attend.

Presentation: Quarterly Progress Report – all Staff

Council staff presented the Council's 2026 legislative report. Updates were also provided on work completed by Council staff on the KW lawsuit, Community NOW!, Meeting Leaders for Community NOW!, Person-Centered Planning, the Direct Support Professionals apprenticeship and professional development work, the Idaho START program, and Comprehensive Medicaid Managed Care.

Presentation: Financial Report, Mona Engelbrecht, Financial Specialist

Mona Engelbrecht presented the quarterly financial report. The Council has spent the 2024 award. The 2026 final Notice of Award (NOA) was received on April 10, 2026, making the total award received this year $524,064. Mona reviewed the Council's state and federal budgets and spending activity over the last quarter. She reviewed the potential need for a no-cost extension for the 2025 award.

ACTION: Financial Report

- Amy Cunningham moved to accept the financial report as presented.
- Kevin Swearingen seconded.
- Motion passed.

ACTION: Proposed Five-Year Plan for Public Comment

- Jen Johnson moved to move the Five-Year Plan, as amended, to Public Comment.
- Mike McGuffie seconded.
- Motion passed.

Membership Update, Julie McConnel

Julie McConnel shared that the Ad Hoc Membership Committee work this past quarter. The committee completed interviews for four seats that included three self-advocates and one parent seat. There were four applicants for the person with a developmental disability seat that included Edgar Zuniga's reappointment application. There were two applicants for the parent seat, including Jenna Garrett's reappointment application. Recommendations were submitted to the Governor's office on Friday, April 3, 2026.

Vice-Chair Election Announcement, Kevin Swearingen, Vice Chair

Kevin Swearingen announced that the position of Vice Chair, a one-year term, will open as of July 1, 2026. Nominees may submit their applications by June 1, 2026. The Vice-Chair election will take place at the July Council meeting.

Chair Election

There was one candidate nominated for Council Chair, Kevin Swearingen. Kevin shared a speech about how his leadership experiences have prepared him to run for the Council Chair position.

ACTION: Chair Election

Teller's Report	
Office: Council Chair	
Number of Votes Cast	16
Necessary for Election	14
Kevin Swearingen received	16

- Kevin Swearingen was elected as Chair.

Member Reports:

a. Randi Cole

Randi Cole provided a report on the impact of the 2026 legislature on the Department of Education and Special Education services, as well as her activities during the past year.

b. Mike MacGuffie

Mike MacGuffie provided a report on the impact of the 2026 legislature on the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, as well as his activities during the past year.

c. Deedra Hunt

Deedra Hunt provided a report on her activities during the past year impacting Adult Protection services.

d. Melissa Roa

Melissa Roa provided a report on the impact of the 2026 legislature on the Division of Maternal and Child Health at the Department of Health & Welfare, as well as her activities during the past year.

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.

- Kevin Swearingen moved to adjourn.
- Jen Johnson seconded.
- Motion passed at 2:59pm MT.