

## Meeting Minutes

### New Member Orientation

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

10:00 am – 4:00 pm MT

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

### Attendees

#### Council Members Present

Nathan Basulto-Homco  
Jacque Hyatt  
Rochelle Larsen

Ann Martindale  
Marilu Moreno  
Danielle Reff – DR

Drelyn Roker  
Kevin Swearingen  
Marcos Vega

#### Council Members Absent

none

#### Staff Present

Marieke Edwards  
Mona Engelbrecht  
Christine Pisani  
Richelle Tierney

#### Guests

Sheena Lewis, Support Staff for Kevin Swearingen  
Rosalia Vega, Support Staff for Marcos Vega

### Minutes

#### Welcome and Introductions

Christine Pisani, Executive Director and Kevin Swearingen, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM MT.

## Introduction to Council Staff and the DD Council

Staff introduced themselves and briefly described their positions. Christine emphasized the Council's role in their evaluation of her and her management of staff.

Vision and Mission – All Idahoans participate as equal members of society, empowered to reach their full potential as responsible and contributing citizens of their communities.

Ann – I believe every person should feel like they belong, they are valued and they are respected. Everyone deserves the opportunity to belong, be heard and live with dignity.

Promote the capacity of people with developmental disabilities and their families to determine, access, and direct the services and/or support they need to live the lives they choose, and to build the community's ability to support their choices.

Rochelle – help her son chose where he wants to live, what services he needs, capability.

## What is a State DD Council, Our Authority and Independence -

DD Council Federal Roles – DD Council is funded through Administration on Community Living and approved through Congress. Some State Councils do not receive state funding, some do. There are differences at the State level. The DD Council award amount is determined by a formula, and Idaho is considered a minimum allotment funded state based on numbers of people with disabilities and population size. Idaho receives some state funding.

DD Council serves a very unique role – leadership development; brings leaders with lived experience together with policymakers at all levels.

As directed in the DD Act (PL 106-402), Councils:

- Identify the most important state needs
- Monitor and improve services
- Advocate with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and families

Example: Our Care Can't Wait (OCCW) is a coalition to promote educating policymakers about the critical role of the direct care workforce and the current workforce shortage, limited wages and training, and availability of services in rural Idaho. Encourage individuals and family members to share their stories with the decision makers in the legislature.

Reviewed the Authority for DD Council and the Non-Interference clause cited in the Federal law.

Cultural Competence – learned and shared knowledge that people use to shape their behavior and understand their experience of the world. It includes, but is not limited to: language, beliefs, customs, values, relationships, communication, how you shape your life.

### Review of the DD Council State Plan Process – Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst

A presentation of the Council's Strategic Planning process and requirements, the Council's role in measuring and reporting progress and a review of Council priority areas was provided.

Working Lunch: A discussion of Conflict of Interest took place with examples of what actual and perceived conflict could look like. Conflict of Interests forms were filled out and submitted. and Review Forms

### Presentation: Council Membership & Meetings, Council Staff

Explanations were provided about who is mandated by federal and state law to serve on the Council, and member responsibilities. There was also an explanation provided about policy governance, the model the Council uses to make decisions. Time was also spent reviewing parliamentary procedure, voting, and what quorum means and the number of members necessary to meet quorum.

### Presentation: Council's Role in Advocacy, Education and Policy – Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst

How public policy priorities are set was reviewed and the expectation of leaders with lived experience to educate policymakers.

### Presentation: Funding and Budgets – Christine Pisani, Executive Director & Mona Engelbrecht, Financial Specialist

A brief description of funding sources – Federal and State. The Members discussed the three federal award periods.

### 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.