FINAL Meeting Minutes

Summer Quarterly Council Meeting

Thursday, July 16, 2026

9:00 am – 5:00 pm MT

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

Attendees

Council Members Present

Nathan Basulto-Homco
Eric Brown
Amy Cunningham
Jenna Garrett
Jacque Hyatt
Jennifer Johnson
Rochelle Larsen
Angela Lindig
Mike MacGuffie
Ann Martindale
Julie McConnel
Marilu Moreno
Danielle Reff – DR
Melissa Roa
Drelyn Roker
Michael Sandvig
Carly Saxe
Kevin Swearingen
Marcos Vega

Council Members Absent

Sara Bennett
Janice Carson
Deedra Hunt
Maria Juarez

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards
Mona Engelbrecht
Christine Pisani
Richelle Tierney

Presenters

Amanda De Young
Maggie Imlay

Guests

Madeline Escobedo, Spanish Language Interpreter
Sheena Lewis, Support Staff for Kevin Swearingen
Laura Morales-Leavitt, Spanish Language Interpreter
Rosalia Vega, Support Staff for Marcos Vega

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda

At the request of the Chair and in his absence, Rochelle Larsen, Council Member, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM MT. Danielle "DR" Reff reviewed the guest responsibilities.

Kevin Swearingen, Council Chair, shared his goals as Council Chair.

Marilu Moreno reviewed the ground rules for Council meetings.

Consent Agenda

a. Draft Meeting Minutes: February 20, 2026
b. Draft Meeting Minutes: April 7, 2026
c. Draft Meeting Minutes: April 23-24, 2026
d. Chair Report
e. Executive Director Report

Michael Sandvig noted the February 20, 2026, draft meeting minutes title was incorrect. The title should be "Winter Special Session Council Meeting."

There were no changes to the draft April 7, 2026, Spring Council Planning Meeting minutes.

There were no changes to the draft April 23-24, 2026, Spring Quarterly Council Meeting minutes.

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

Kevin Swearingen, current Council Chair and former Vice Chair, provided a written report in the Council packet on his activities for the last quarter.

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

ACTION: Consent Agenda

- DR Reff moved to accept the consent agenda with the February 20th name correction.
- Mike MacGuffie seconded.
- Motion passed.

Discussion: Department of Justice Discussion – Amy Cunningham

Council member Amy Cunningham presented details of a June 18, 2026, recent Department of Justice (DOJ) memo about the U.S. Supreme Court Olmstead Decision. The memo outlines that the federal government may no longer take action against states that fail to fund community-based services, which is increasing concerns about unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities.

Amy reviewed the history of the Olmstead Decision. In 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Americans with disabilities have the right to live in their communities. This means that unjustified institutional isolation of people with disabilities is illegal discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The DOJ argues that courts and prior administrations read the Olmstead Decision too broadly and that Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act do not legally force states to provide community-based care. The DOJ stated that its previous *Olmstead* guidance documents are "not enforceable" and that it plans to review them under a narrower legal lens.

What Has and Has Not Changed

The 1999 *Olmstead v. L.C.* Supreme Court ruling remains active law, meaning the memo does not overturn the court's decision or statutes like the ADA. Only the Supreme Court can overturn Olmstead. Olmstead is NOT overturned. The ADA and Section 504 are still in law.

Individuals with disabilities retain the legal right to file private *Olmstead* claims and lawsuits in federal courts to challenge unjustified institutionalization.

This opinion will impact how the federal government enforces the deinstitutionalization of people with disabilities and community integration rules.

The Council broke into small group discussions to provide the following suggestions for next steps:

- Meet with the Governor to share the importance of HCBS
- Request an Office of Performance Evaluation (OPE) study to provide evidence of the cost savings with HCBS versus expensive institutional placement, highlight the quality-of-life benefits of HCBS, and the impact on rural Idaho.
- Gather information to share with the State how reduced community integration impacts rural communities
- Provide formal comments during the DOJ rule-making comment period
- Public comment on proposed rules to change the ADA and 504
- Create a plain language template for people to use during public comment periods
- Determine Federal/State level of action
- Help policymakers understand the impact of the direct support workforce shortage and access to HCBS
- Educate legislators on the benefit of living and working in the community versus living in an institution for the person
- Host legislators for a day
    - Experience HCBS and Institution
    - Use assistive technology (AT) and problem solve the day's schedule
- Improve services
- Share Blessings of Liberty

Presentation: Quarterly Progress Report Highlights – all Staff

Staff presented highlights of the past quarter of work (April 1 -June 30, 2026).

Goal 1 work on Systems Change was highlighted with the work the Council is doing to support progress on the KW vs Armstrong lawsuit and the Council's support and coordination of Community NOW!

Goal 2 work on Capacity Building was highlighted with the team of Idaho leaders sent to the national Charting the LifeCourse Showcase this past May. This was a

valuable experience and was very effective with the Idaho Team meeting at the end of the Showcase to create an action plan for creating opportunities in Idaho.

Goal 4 work on Leadership and Advocacy has been focused on collecting geographic details to select two rural locations to host the next two classes of Idaho Partners in Policymaking in the upcoming five year plan.

Presentation: Financial Report, Mona Engelbrecht, Financial Specialist

Mona Engelbrecht presented the Council's state and federal budgets and spending activity over the last quarter. The federal 2024 award has been completely spent. The federal 2025 award will be fully spent by September 30, 2026.

ACTION: Financial Report

- Jennifer Johnson moved to accept the financial report as presented.
- Drelyn Roker seconded.
- Motion passed.

Presentation: START Update, Amanda De Young, Idaho START Program Director and Maggie Imlay, Idaho START Team Lead

Amanda De Young and Maggie Imlay shared an update to the Idaho START (Systemic Therapeutic Assessment Resources Treatment) Program. START was formed after 2017 concerns about incidents of abuse at Southwest Idaho Treatment Center (SWITC). The DD Council requested an Office of Performance Evaluation Report in 2018 with Senator Cherie Buckner Webb as the sponsor. In 2019, the Office of Performance Evaluation (OPE) released this report on SWITC, recommending that the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) 1.) Improve the crisis system, 2.) increase capacity building and 3.) improve teaming services.

Idaho implemented the START model in February 2025. Implementation usually takes over three years to complete. Idaho completed implementation and was fully certified on June 16, 2026, years ahead of schedule.

The Council members worked in small groups with facilitation by Charting the LifeCourse Ambassadors Jen Johnson, Julie McConnel, and Jenna Garrett. Each group used the Integrated Support Start tool and discuss three questions:

1. How can the Council help increase referrals to the START program?
2. How can the Council help increase agreements with other organizations statewide?

3. How can the Council help expand the START program beyond Health & Welfare Regions 3, 4, and 5?

Each group reported out their outcomes from the small group discussions.

Presentation: Review Public Comments on Draft Five-Year Plan, Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst

Marieke presented all submitted public comments for the draft five-year plan for review, discussion, and consideration of changes to the draft five-year plan.

Presentation: Quarterly Council Meeting Expectations, Christine Pisani, Executive Director

Christine provided Council Members with an outline of the four quarterly Council Meetings and what occurs at each meeting. Every meeting will include a financial report, project updates, and consent agenda.

- Fall Meeting – includes training on public policy issues; review of legislative process; set legislative priorities; year-end project report; information about the Executive Director evaluation.
- Winter Meeting – includes legislative visits; new member ad-hoc committee identified; Executive Director evaluation; and annual report.
- Spring Meeting – includes training on various topics; election of Chair (every 2 years); and a legislative report.
- Summer Meeting – includes new member orientation, training on various topics; election of Vice-Chair; annual workplan and budget; Five-Year Plan (every 5 years).

ACTION: Quarterly Council Meeting Option and Dates

- Julie McConnel moved to accept the Council dates as provided in the packet with April being virtual and all other meetings being in-person.
- Drelyn Roker seconded.
- Motion passed.
  Abstentions: Danielle "DR" Reff.

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.

Informal adjourn until Friday, July 17, 2026, at 4:23 PM MT.

Summer Quarterly Council Meeting

Friday, July 17, 2026

9:00 am – 4:00 pm MT

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Attendees

Council Members Present

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Eric Brown
Amy Cunningham
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Michael Sandvig
Carly Saxe
Kevin Swearingen
Marcos Vega

Council Members Absent

Sara Bennett
Janice Carson
Deedra Hunt
Maria Juarez
Julie McConnel

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards
Mona Engelbrecht
Christine Pisani
Richelle Tierney

Presenters

None

Guests

Madeline Escobedo, Spanish Language Interpreter
Sheena Lewis, Support Staff for Kevin Swearingen
Maricela Rios, Spanish Language Interpreter

Rosalia Vega, Support Staff for Marcos Vega

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda

Kevin Swearingen, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM MT. Marilu Moreno reviewed the ground rules for meeting protocol.

Appreciation of Carly Saxe, former Council Chair

Kevin Swearingen, Council Chair, recognized Carly Saxe for her leadership as Chair for the previous year.

Presentation: Nominee for Vice Chair, Rochelle Larsen

Rochelle Larsen shared some of her desires to serve as Council Vice Chair.

ACTION: Election for Vice Chair

Teller's Report: Office:	Council Vice Chair
Number of Votes Cast	16
Necessary for Election	16
Rochelle Larsen received	16

Rochelle Larsen was elected as Vice Chair.

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

Marieke shared the draft Five-Year Plan and reviewed each goal and objective with Council Members.

ACTION: Draft Five-Year Plan

- Jenna Garrett moved to approve the Five-Year Plan as presented.
- Nathan Basulto-Homco seconded.
- Motion passed.

Presentation: Review 2027 Annual Work Plan and Draft 2027 Budget, Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst and Mona Engelbrecht, Financial Specialist

Marieke shared the Annual Work Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2027, and Mona shared the supporting proposed budget for 2027.

ACTION: 2027 Annual Work Plan

- Michael Sandvig moved to approve the 27 Annual Work Plan as modified in Goal 1.
- Drelyn Roker seconded.
- Motion passed.

ACTION: Goal 1 2027 Budget

- Jennifer Johnson moved to approve budget as presented for Goal 1.
- Mike MacGuffie seconded.
- Motion passed.
  Abstentions: Danielle "DR" Reff, Marilu Moreno

ACTION: Goal 2 2027 Budget

- Drelyn Roker moved to approve Goal 2's budget as presented.
- Marilu Moreno seconded.
- Motion passed.
  Abstentions: Jenna Garrett

ACTION: Goal 3 2027 Budget

- Nathan Basulto-Homco moved to approve budget for Goal 3 as presented.
- Jennifer Johnson seconded.
- Motion passed.

ACTION: Goal 4 2027 Budget

- Drelyn Roker moved to approve the Goal 4 budget as presented.
- Danielle "DR" Reff seconded.
- Motion passed.

ACTION: 2027 Personnel and Administrative Budget

- Nathan Basulto-Homco moved to approve the admin & personnel budget as presented.
- Jenna Garrett seconded.
- Motion passed.

Lunch Presentation: Low-Cost Healthy Meals and Helpful Kitchen Tools, Bridget Morrisroe-Miller, Associate Extension Professor

Bridget Morrisroe-Miller and Extension Office staff presented information about services offered through extension offices in Idaho. They also taught members how to create a low-cost healthy meal and featured adaptive equipment to use for meal preparation. Members worked at stations to prepare parts of the meal.

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

Kevin Swearingen, Council Chair, entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- Jennifer Johnson moved to adjourn.
- Danielle "DR" Reff seconded.
- Motion passed at 2:28 PM MT.