

March 28, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members
FROM: Christine Pisani, Executive Director
RE: **Materials for April 26-27, 2018 Council Meeting**

Attached is the draft agenda and meeting packet for the spring quarterly Council meeting. The meeting will be held in the **East conference** room of the **Joe R. Williams Building, 700 W. State St., Boise. Please review the packet before** the meeting.

At each spring meeting we elect a new Council Chair. We will also have the opportunity to share our gratitude for nine years of service that Debra Parsons and Dave Dekker have provided.

On Thursday afternoon we will be sharing a rough cut of a film we have been working on for the last six months to help demonstrate the value of Home and Community Based Services. We will be seeking your feedback at the end of the film to make any needed edits. We will also share with you how we plan to use this film over the next year.

On Friday we will be diving deeper into discussion about culture and our cultural identity. As part of this work, I would ask for each of you to **bring a personal item you identify with culturally**. For example, maybe you identify strongly with the Scandinavian culture, is there something that you have that represents that culture you could bring with you? Maybe you identify strongly with being Mormon, Catholic, Buddhist? Is there something you could bring from your personal items that you would be willing to share with the group? Please call if you have questions regarding this request. It is important that everyone participates.

The Pre-Council phone call will be held on Monday April 23rd at 10:00 am (Mountain Time 9:00 am Pacific Time). To join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android

CLICK HERE: <https://zoom.us/j/633591604>

Or join by telephone - Dial: 1-669-900-6833 or 1-408-638-0968 or 1-646-876-9923

- Enter Meeting ID: 633 591 604
- If it asks for a passcode, just wait and you will be connected

If you have questions about any of the packet materials, please call the Council office at 208-334-2178 or 1-800-544-2433.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Travel safely.

Christine Pisani
Executive Director



**Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
SPRING QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
JRW Building, 700 W. State Street
West Conference Room
April 26-27, 2018**

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Thursday, April 26, 2018

- 9:00 **Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda -**
Debra Parsons, Council Chair
- 9:10 **Announcement of Election of Council Chair -** Debra Parsons,
Council Chair
- 9:15 **Consent Agenda**
- a. Draft minutes
 - b. Chair Report
 - c. Legislative Report in place of Director's Report
- 9:25 **Financial Report,** Jean Weber, Council staff
- 9:35 **Congressional Approval of Additional Council Funding –** Christine
Pisani, Executive Director
- 9:40 **Member Recruitment -** Toni Brinegar, Council staff
- 9:50 **Quarterly Progress Report,** All Council staff
- 10:50 **Break**
- 11:00 **Closed Executive Session: Personnel Discussion** (closed to public)
- 12:00 **Legislative Report & Discussion** (lunch to be served)
- 2:30 **Walk-and-Talk**
- 2:45 **Rough Cut Screening of Film**
- 4:45 **Feedback from Council Members**
- 5:00 **Adjourn**

Friday, April 27, 2018

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 9:00 | Welcome and Ground Rules - Debra Parsons, Council Chair |
| 9:10 | Council Member Responsibilities - Tracy Warren, Council staff |
| 9:45 | Break |
| 10:00 | Diving Deep into Cultural Identity - Dina Flores Brewer, Advocacy Director, Disability Rights Idaho |
| 12:30 | Cultural Identity Discussion (lunch to be served) |
| 1:45 | Recognition of Outstanding Members , Christine Pisani, Executive Director |
| 2:00 | Council Chair Election - Ian Bott, Vice-Chair |
| 2:30 | July 9-12, 2018 NACDD National Conference, Gaylord National Harbor in Oxon Hill, MD- Christine Pisani, Executive Director |
| 2:45 | Council Meeting Evaluation - Council Members |
| 3:15 | Adjourn – Next Council Meeting by Phone 9:00-12:00 July 26, 2018 |

***Items in green require a vote.**

The mission of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is to promote the capacity of people with developmental disabilities and their families to determine, access, and direct the services or supports they need to live the lives they choose, and to build the communities' ability to support their choices.

Announcement of Council Chair Election

Background Information:

Each spring, the Council elects a person to serve as Chair of the Council for the coming year. After the Council selects someone the name is forwarded to the Governor for appointment. This position is limited to members of the Council who are self-advocates, parents, or guardians. The responsibilities of this position and a nomination form are listed after this page.

Recommended Action:

If you are interested in serving as Council Chair, please review the attached pages regarding Chair responsibilities, talk to the current Chairperson and evaluate whether you have the time necessary to dedicate to this position. If you know of someone on the Council that you think would be a good Chair you may nominate them, but be sure to ask their permission first. If you are interested in running for Council Chair, please do the following:

- Complete the “Chair Nomination Form” and send back to Council staff 3 weeks before the Spring Council meeting. All nomination forms will be included in the packet so that Council members have time to review all Chair candidates
- Prepare a 2-3 minute speech about why you would be a good candidate for this position and why you are interested in serving as Council Chair and be prepared to deliver this speech at the Spring Council meeting.

The Council Chair election will be held on Friday, April 27th.

Notes:

Council Chair Responsibilities:

Being the Chair of the Council is a significant responsibility and time commitment. The activities and responsibilities, unless otherwise delegated, of the Council Chair shall include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Preside at all Council meetings;
2. Present policy for consideration by the Council membership;
3. Develop agendas for Council meetings;
4. May be a delegate at National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) activities and assist in the information sharing and policy implementation of NACDD;
5. Serve as liaison to other organizations and government entities unless otherwise delegated directly by the Chair, or by full Council vote, whichever the Chair may choose;
6. With the Executive Director, initiate and maintain ongoing communication with Council membership between quarterly meetings;
7. Report to the full Council at each regular meeting on activities performed on behalf of the Council; and
8. Perform Annual Executive Director Evaluation
9. All other duties as outlined by Council membership, by-laws and policy.

To meet the responsibilities listed above the Chair should be able to commit time and identify local support (as needed) to do many behind the scenes activities such as:

- Represent the Council at public meetings
- Address individual membership issues
- Review and write materials such as:
 - Council newsletter articles and Chair letter for annual report
 - Letters to other organizations from the Council
 - Help with the development and review of various reports
- Send out and compile all Council member input for annual Executive Director evaluation
- Meet regularly with the Council Executive Director (usually every-other-month and can be more often during Council meeting months) to discuss Council governance, preparation for Council meetings, and any current opportunities and responsibilities in representing the Council
- Work directly with current members when problems and issues arise (such as attendance issues, discipline issues, etc.)



COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM



| | |
|--|--------------|
| Seeking Office As: | CHAIR |
| Name: | |
| Number of Years on Council: | |
| I have volunteered for the following Council ad hoc committees: | |
| The reason why I volunteered for these committees is because: | |
| I have participated in the following Council sponsored Activities: | |
| I have previously held offices on the Council: | |
| I am involved in the following groups/ organizations: | |
| I have held the following leadership positions in other groups/ organizations: | |
| The reason why I am seeking this office is because: | |

Consent Agenda

Background Information:

The Consent Agenda contains items that require a vote by the Members. If there are items on the Consent Agenda a Member wishes to discuss before that vote a Member may make a motion to move the item to the Business Agenda.

Recommended Action:

Review and approve the Consent Agenda:

- February 8-9, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes
- Legislative Report
- Director Report

Notes:

**IDAHO COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
2018 WINTER QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Members Present:

Jim Baugh
Kevin Bittner
Rebekah Forster-Casey
Debra Parsons
Colleen Sisk
Jacob Head
Jim Baugh
Charlie Silva
Dave Dekker
Korynne Donehey
Natali Pellens
James Steed
Ian Bott
Joe Raiden
Claudia Suastegui
Holly Giglio
Emily Petersen
Jessica Rachels
Carly Saxe
Nanna Hanchett
Kristie Oakes
Jacquie Watson

Members Absent:

Julie Fodor
Art Evans

Guests:

Richelle Tierney
Robyn Greenfield
Michael Case
Patrick Rachels
Kevin Swearingen
Lana Gonzalez
Brian Whitlock
Angie Eandi
Beth Graybeal
Alec Pechata
Scott Hoover
Kenia Ortega
Holly Runyan
Charles Miller
Kindra Goodson
Laura Hannon
Olivia Lebens
Sara Fluer

Staff Present:

Christine Pisani, Toni Brinegar, Tracy Warren, Jean Weber, Laurie Lowe, Suzie Hanks, Paty Orozoco-Regalado, Marieke Edwards

Call to order 8:35am

Jim Baugh, Robyn Greenfield, Suzie Hanks presented information on the Disability Network.

Christine Pisani, Toni Brinegar and Jim Baugh presented information to prepare Council Members for the Healthcare Policy Luncheon

Council Chair Debra Parsons explained the process for the annual Executive Director Evaluation. Council members who had not completed the evaluations previously were encouraged to use the computers set up in the Council office to complete the evaluation before meeting with legislators during the lunch.

Brian Whitlock made a presentation on Healthcare Policy to Council Members and legislative guests.

Toni Brinegar presented a teambuilding exercise for Council Members and Staff

Reports were given by agency representatives from Division of Medicaid, Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Education, Commission on Aging, Center on Disabilities and Human Development, DisAbility Rights Idaho, and Maternal and Child Health, and the YMCA.

Debra Parsons made a presentation on "What it Takes to be a Council Chair."

Meeting was recessed at 4:00 until Friday morning.

Friday, February 9, 2018

Members Present:

Jim Baugh
Kevin Bittner
Rebekah Forster-Casey
Debra Parsons
Colleen Sisk
Jacob Head
Charlie Silva
Dave Dekker
Korynne Donehey
Natali Pellens
James Steed
Ian Bott
Joe Raiden
Claudia Suastegui

Holly Giglio

Emily Petersen
Jessica Rachels
Carly Saxe
Kristie Oakes
Art Evans

Members Absent:

Julie Fodor
Jacquie Watson
Nanna Hanchett

Guests:

Richelle Tierney
Paul Tierney
Charles Miller

Staff Present:

Christine Pisani, Toni Brinegar, Tracy Warren, Jean Weber, Laurie Lowe, Paty Orozoco-Regalado, Marieke Edwards

Call to order 9:00am

Consent Agenda – October 26-27 Minutes, Chair Report, Exec. Director Report.

- Motion by Rebekah Forster-Casey to approve, Joe Raiden 2nd. Approved.

Financial Report was presented.

- Motion by James Steed to approve the financial report, Emily Petersen 2nd. Approved.

Council members discussed the difference in having the legislators come for a presentation rather than going over to the legislators' offices. The turnout was lower than expected, and ideas were discussed on how to improve attendance. Overall, it seemed to be very effective, and more legislators were reached than have been previously by one-on-one visits.

Presentation by Paul and Richelle Tierney on Proposed Legislation – Insurance Coverage for Treatment Specific to Children on the Autism Spectrum.

The Council needs to decide what level of support this proposed legislation should have from the Council.

- Motion: James Steed moved we should make this a Priority 1, the Council should lead the way since autism is a developmental disability. Discussion, there already is a lead agency. James amended the motion to make it a Priority 2, support Autism Insurance Reform. Holly Giglio 2nd. Art Evans and Dave Dekker abstained. Motion carried.

Council Staff presented the Quarterly Progress Report, and discussed the progress made on tasks in the annual plan.

Council Members were asked to review the 2019 and 2020 Annual Workplans based on progress made on the 5 year plan so far. Council members are requested to review these plans, ask staff any questions on these plans, and be prepared to vote on approval.

Toni Brinegar discussed Member Recruitment. Two council members, Debra Parsons and Dave Dekker, have served their nine year term limits, and will need replacements for next year. Ian, Rebekah, Jacob, Holly, Emily volunteered to serve on the ad hoc Membership Committee.

Christine Pisani and Jim Baugh gave an update on the status of the Secure Treatment Facility Rules. Rules on license standards will be presented to the Board

of Health and Welfare on February 22. After that, applications will be accepted for licensure to run SWITC. The original rules as presented caused concern, and changes were recommended.

The possibility of legislation to prosecute doctors for a felony for performing abortions because a fetus was diagnosed with Down Syndrome was discussed. There is currently no legislation being presented. If such legislation is ever presented, then the Council would need to evaluate its position based on the legislation.

The October Council meeting is scheduled at a time which might be in conflict with the schedule of many Council members. The possibility of rescheduling the meeting was discussed.

- Rebekah Forster moved to change fall meeting dates to October 23 & 24, 2018, Emily Peterson 2nd. Motion carried.

2019 and 2020 plans presented to members.

- Art Evans moved and Rebekah Forster 2nd to approve the work plans as presented, motion carried.

Post Meeting Evaluation:

Improvement?

Reinstate the walk and talks. Reports from parents and self-advocates about what's happening in their community. Community Report.

Automated door on Council office.

Chair pads

What went well?

Springhill.

Luncheon.

Making sure everyone knows what's going on.

Videographer

Icebreaker

Webinar later in day

Zupas

- Motion to adjourn Rebekah Forster, James Steed 2nd.

Next meeting is April 26 & 27, 2018.

Financial Report Second Quarter – Federal Fiscal Year 2018

Background Information:

A financial statement reflecting our fund balance and the amount spent to date in this Fiscal Year will be presented at the Council meeting. The Council operates on a federal Fiscal Year (Oct. 1- Sept. 30). The Council is responsible for overseeing and approving the budget.

Information to be provided at meeting.

Recommended Action:

Review and approve the financial report that will be distributed at the meeting.

Notes:

Congressional Approval of DD Council Funding

Background Information:

DD Councils are funded through the federal appropriations process that includes Congressional approval of a budget. Specifically, they are allocated funding through the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) under the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Our National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) works to protect and enhance the funding of the DD Councils so that they can continue to promote the self-determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. NACDD has been meeting with members of Congress to discuss the important work that DD Councils are doing throughout the country.

The Council Director will provide an update on the most recent funding allocation from Congress.

Information to be provided at meeting.

Recommended Action:

Listen, ask questions if you have them.

Member Recruitment

Background Information:

The Council has the following vacancies:

- 2 vacancies for person with a developmental disability
- 2 vacancies for family member of a person with a developmental disability
- 1 vacancy for person living in/has lived in an institution or guardian of someone living in/has lived in an institution
- 3 agency representative positions: UCEDD (Center on Disability and Human Development); Rehabilitation Agency (Idaho Vocational Rehabilitation); Title XIX - Medicaid

We received applications from the following individuals and organizations:

Person with a Developmental Disability:

Olivia “Libby” Parsons, Driggs

Jeffrey Trunzer, Pocatello

Danielle “DR” Reff, Boise

Robert Diedrich, Pocatello

Carly Saxe, Eagle (current member, reapplying)

Family Member of a Person with a Developmental Disability:

Caitlin Heiner, Kimberly

Jamie Jonz, Hayden

Valerie Hurst, Boise

Maureen “Reena” Lyon, Twin Falls

Rebekah Hall, Nampa

Natali Pellens, Post Falls (current member, reapplying)

Person living in/has lived in an institution or guardian of someone living in/has lived in an institution:

James Steed, Blackfoot (current member, reapplying)

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Julie Fodor, Center on Disabilities and Human Development at the University of Idaho (current member, reapplying)

Rehabilitation Agency

Nanna Hanchett, Idaho Vocational Rehabilitation (current member, reapplying)

Medicaid

Arthur “Art” Evans, DD Bureau Chief, Idaho Medicaid (current member, reapplying)

An ad hoc Membership Committee was formed and interviews have been completed for each applicant. A face-to-face Membership Committee meeting is called for Thursday, April 26th at the end of the Council meeting to be held in the Council office. At the end of the committee meeting, recommendations will be sent to the Governor for appointments to the Council.

Recommended Action:

Listen to report and ask questions.

Notes:

Second Quarter Progress Report

Background Information:

The Council has a number of objectives and activities in the current annual plan. Some are part of large projects and some are ongoing smaller efforts. This is an opportunity to share the highlights of progress on our plan goals during quarter two of this year – January 1st through March 31st.

Recommended Action:

Listen to the updates and ask questions or provide comments if you have them. Council members who are involved with any of this work are encouraged to offer their insights.

Notes:

Second Quarter Progress Report

January 1 – March 31, 2018

1.1 HCBS DD Services Quality Assurance

Objective Goal Individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and family members have the information and support needed to meaningfully participate in Home and Community-Based developmental disability services stakeholder meetings and to develop quality indicators.

Progress:



Support people with I/DD and family members to participate in Community NOW!

On March 27, the Council partnered with the Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare (IDHW) and other Community NOW partners to host a meeting to discuss four ideas for changes to DD services related to 5 of the 17 recommendations included in the Community NOW Report. This meeting was hosted specifically for individuals with I/DD and family members to provide input on the service ideas proposed. IDHW Administrative staff heard directly from individuals and families about how the current service delivery system is functioning and provided direct communicating regarding what would most benefit adults in the DD program. Their collective feedback will have a direct impact on the policy work Medicaid intends to do to improve current HCBS services and provide additional services that would benefit adults with I/DD. To prepare self-advocate and family members for this meeting the Council hosted two separate webinars with 7 family members participating and 8 self-advocates. Six (6) individuals, 11 family members, and 15 others attended the March 27th meeting.

Educating Policymakers about Medicaid Services

On February 8 the DD Network combined their staff & resources to produce a Legislative Luncheon with support from Close the Gap. Guest Speaker, Brian Whitlock, CEO of the Idaho Hospital Association, provided a presentation describing the Idaho Health Care Plan. Nearly forty staff and board members of the three organizations participated. Legislators heard from Idahoans with disabilities seated at their lunch table regarding the importance of Medicaid in their lives and making the case for protecting Medicaid from caps, block grants and budget cuts.

On February 26, House Bill 615 was introduced by Representative Brian Zollinger in the House Health & Welfare committee. This proposed legislation would implement work requirements and place a five-year cap on accessing Medicaid and would have had a negative impact on those individuals considered dually eligible (Medicaid/ Medicare beneficiaries). The Council did outreach to the disability community and mobilized a number of people to prepare testimony and attend the hearing. H615 was held in committee in an 8-4 vote. Support was provided to 2 self-advocates to prepare testimony and/or observe the hearing.



DD Services Assessment Documents and Process – Linguistic Competence

ICDD Cultural Broker and Council staff met with Jennifer LaJeunesse, Executive Director of Liberty Healthcare Corp. and Liberty staff Santiago Robles. Liberty is the contractor with IDHW that does all eligibility assessments for children and adult DD services in Idaho. The purpose of the meeting was to inquire about how Spanish-speaking individuals and families can gain access to written materials from Liberty in Spanish. Santiago has been translating documents as well as providing oral interpretation services during appointments with assessors. Ms. LaJeunesse reported that Liberty is “building” a new data collection system for IDHW and this system will include what language is most often spoken within the home. Cultural Broker brought some of Liberty’s documents that she had translated into Spanish for their use and suggested printing documents in both languages.

Cultural Broker and ICDD staff proposed that Liberty provide a training to individuals who speak Spanish about what is required from clients when they receive information from Liberty. A date for this training has been scheduled in April. Cultural Broker is working with Liberty to recruit attendees for the training and Council staff is assisting in making logistical arrangements.

1.1 - Outcomes/Work Products:

- Ongoing commitment of people with I/DD and family members to participate in the systems change process
- Input from people with I/DD and family members affecting systems changes/policy
- Individuals and family members new to systems change and policy development work develop advocacy skills
- Changes to eligibility assessment documents and process to ensure access
- Policy advocacy with legislators by individuals and families

1.2 Best Practice in Services and Supports

Objective Goal Increase the use of best practice in providing direct services that are based on quality person-centered practices through organizational change and training for direct support staff.

Progress:

Training Strategies for Direct Support Staff

Training of direct support staff was discussed at the March 27th Community NOW meeting with individuals and families. Participants said they felt this recommendation should be included in current work on changes to DD services.

A meeting is planned for June with C-NOW partners, individuals with disabilities who receive supported living services, and direct support staff. The purpose of the meeting is to hear from participants and staff what is working and not working within supported living services.

1.2 - Outcomes/Work Products:

- Recommendation from Community NOW members to address staff training needs to improve quality of services

Community NOW!

1.3 Person-Centered Planning Services

Objective Goal People with intellectual/developmental disabilities have access to Medicaid person-centered planning (PCP) services provided by trained, qualified planning facilitators.

Progress:

Person-Centered Planning Model for Idaho

Working towards a final implementation plan to be presented to IDHW Administration in June 2018, three PCP Community NOW working groups continued meeting and developing strategies and products. The PCP Implementation Workgroup met two times this quarter – once in person and once via video conference. The group developed and identified the key elements of a PCP model/system that would need to be developed.

A newly formed PCP Model Subcommittee worked to flesh out the elements and identify system infrastructure and where current policy research was needed. The group completed a PCP Elements Spreadsheet as the backbone of the future implementation plan.

The PCP Advisory Committee met twice this quarter to discuss specific questions from the IWG and provide feedback/recommendations.

Community NOW!



The full Community NOW group was convened on March 1st to learn about how work has progressed on this C-NOW recommendation, review the proposed PCP Model, and provide input/feedback on the plan so far. A preparatory meeting with people with I/DD and family members was held the day before to give them an advanced look at the proposed model and help them formulate their questions and ideas to share at the full group meeting the following day. A visual wall graphic of the proposed PCP Model was developed and posted at each meeting and used to record input from participants.



ICDD staff provided training on person centered planning at the March Partners in Policymaking sessions. PATH plans were conducted with two PIP participants and Community NOW member, Richie Eppink (Idaho ACLU) observed the sessions to learn about the process and provided feedback.



1.3 - Outcomes/Work Products:

- Stakeholders educated about proposed Idaho PCP Model
- PCP Model Elements Spreadsheet
- PCP Model Outline
- PCP Model Visual Wall Graphic

1.4 Services for People with Dual Diagnosis

Objective Goal People who experience dual diagnosis of mental illness and developmental/intellectual disability have access to mental health services from skilled service providers.

Progress:

Education in best practice serving people with dual diagnosis.

The Council received updated information from the Independent Assessment Provider in March. There are 4,510 adults on the Developmental Disability Waiver and 2,773 of those adults experience a co-occurring mental health diagnosis. The Division of Family and Community Services and ICDD staff met three times this quarter and agreed to work collaboratively to host 2 three-day workshops for clinicians in 2018. Each workshop has capacity to train 65 people. Dates and venues have been selected for two workshops that will be presented by Julie Brown, Ph.D. June 12-14, 2018 Idaho State University, Pocatello, September 11-13, 2018 North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene. Optum Idaho, the state's behavioral health services contractor, agreed to support their clinicians to attend the trainings.

1.4 - Outcomes/Work Products:

- Plan developed for training of clinicians
- Funds leveraged from Optum, Inc.

2.1 Secondary Transition

Objective Goal Increase the number of children and youth who experience a gift-focused, strength-based, person-centered transition planning process.

Progress:

Strength-based Planning - Core Gift Assessment

Council staff met with Bruce Anderson, Community Activators, to outline work to be conducted during FY2018 related to enhancing and building Core Gifts work in Idaho. The Idaho Core Gift Booklet was completed and distributed to Core Gift Facilitators, teachers, transition stakeholders, and others. This booklet is a product produced with information gathered from work in training Core Gift Master Facilitators and following up with teachers who began to implement the process and strategies in their classrooms.



Council staff met with Core Gift Facilitators from around the Treasure Valley and Eastern Oregon along with Core Gift contractor, Bruce Anderson at an informal networking luncheon in March. Connections made will likely result in collaborative future work.

Educating Families about Planning for Transition

Council staff participated in the quarterly Idaho Interagency Council on Secondary Transition Meeting and networked with partner agencies and organizations to learn about planned projects and future collaborations. Staff also participated in planning group meetings for the second Idaho Secondary Transition Institute planned for November 29-30 at BSU. This conference is for school district teams, Vocational Rehabilitation staff, and other related agencies to spend two-days in facilitated sessions to create a transition plan for their local district/school. The planning group worked on confirming keynote speakers, breakout session topics/presenters, identifying sponsors, and recruiting team facilitators.

A group of Community NOW members provided a presentation on Community NOW work and recommendations at the March 2018 Tools for Life: Secondary Transition and Assistive Technology conference in Moscow.

2.1 - Outcomes/Work Products:

- Idaho Core Gift Booklet completed and distributed
- Idaho Core Gift Facilitators made connections to others in the regional area
- Identified steps for future planning
- Families and youth increased their knowledge of Community NOW work

2.2 Customized Employment

Objective Goal Increase the number of youth and young adults with I/DD who achieve integrated community employment.

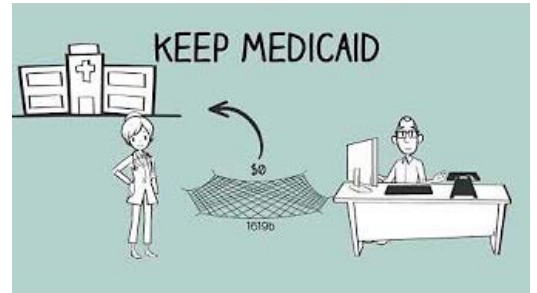
Progress:

Information about Employment for Youth and Families

Council staff convened a group of key stakeholders to respond to an opportunity for Idaho to be part of a research grant proposal that is being written by Judith Gross from the Center on Community Living and Careers at the Indiana Institute on Disability & Community. Ms. Gross contacted ICDD staff with the opportunity for Idaho to be one of four states that would benefit from the grant that, if awarded, would develop a **Family Employment Awareness Training** (FEAT) program in Idaho. An Idaho FEAT Team was formed and letters of support and commitment from each partner will be included in the grant proposal.

The Dept. of Labor Disability Employment Initiative grant is funding the creation of Spanish versions of all six **Social Security Income and Work animated videos**. The 2018 updates to

video scripts were approved in English and work began on Spanish translation, voiceover and subtitles. The videos should be complete by summer 2018. To view the current Idaho videos in English go to: <https://www.youtube.com/user/IdahoDeptofLabor>



Customized Employment Pilot

Council staff met with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) and other Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) partners to hear updates from local teams on progress in working with students through the Discovery process. The Customized Employment pilot planning team met three times this quarter to plan strategies to address identified challenges for the success of the pilot.

2.2 - Outcomes/Work Products:

- Customized Employment pilot teams provided reports
- Idaho FEAT Team was formed and the state included in research grant proposal

3.1 Partners in Policymaking

Objective Goal Build the capacity of individuals and parents to advocate, lead, and mentor others by increasing their leadership and advocacy skills.

Progress:

Partners in Policymaking 2017-2018 Session

The Idaho Partners in Policymaking program continued this quarter with three sessions:

January focused on **Telling Your Personal Story**

February focused on **Meeting Legislators**

March focused on **Assistive Technology and Person-Centered Planning**



Additionally, Cultural Broker recruited and prepared eight family members who told

their personal stories in front of the PIP participants in March. Some of these women had been very hesitant to tell their stories in public and Council staff noted that, because of their experience with the Cultural Broker and at educational and leadership development events, at least two of the parents were much more comfortable speaking openly about their children's' disabilities.

One family brought a delicious Mexican meal to share with everyone at PIP. There were tortilla's made by hand and the family wore traditional costumes of their culture.



Other Leadership Development

Cultural Broker had an idea to engage more people in Disability Advocacy Day on January 28th by asking people to write their dreams and then display these dreams. She engaged two developmental agencies in this and some individuals as they were walking by the Council table. Some of the dreams captured: "I wish to go to Disneyland anything rides and have fun experiences and memories"-HM, "I would like to stay with my providers and never move from their house, and keep all my benefits" -Suzanne "I value my right to have a pet, enjoy spending my money how I want, going outings with my friends"-EJ, "I value participating in the Special Olympics, and visiting new places with my friends"- BH, "safety is important to me. Going to places in Idaho, being healthy, and take care of my friends"-Natalie, "Become Famous"-SO, "I want to have more friends in life"-KT, "World Peace"-Norie

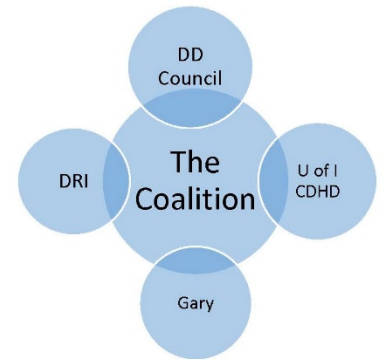
3.1 - Outcomes/Work Products:

- Individuals with I/DD and family members received training in leadership development
- Partners curriculum updates and presentation materials
- Feedback from participants

3.2 Idaho Advocacy Coalition

Objective Goal Establish a statewide coalition of people with disabilities and families who advocate at the state and local level on policy issues.

Progress:



Coalition Building and Awareness Events

In January of 2018, the Advocacy Coalition set up a text alert system and 43 self-advocates and parents of children with developmental disabilities have joined. In addition, a 39 person key contact email list was organized in order to communicate the public policy advocacy of the Advocacy Coalition. The email open rate of this list runs at roughly 50-60%.

Using this list, Advocacy Coalition key staffer, Gary Sandusky, conducted a survey to determine the priority issues for the 2018 legislative session. Priorities selected:

1. The Idaho Health Care Plan
2. Insurance regulation to add mandatory Autism coverage to private insurance
3. Watching the federal budget and threats to Medicaid

During January 19-20, 2018 - the Advocacy Coalition key staff, Gary Sandusky, provided 8 hours of curriculum instruction with roughly 28 self-advocates and parents of children with disabilities enrolled in the Partners in Policy Making program. The focus was on story-telling and that realizing the value of understanding your own story is a key to public policy advocacy.

During late January 2018, the Advocacy Coalition participated heavily in the organization and press coverage of a Feb 8, 2018 legislative luncheon produced by the DD Network.

Two fellowships were established this quarter: Carly Saxe at the Center on Disability and Human Development – Boise office and Kevin Swearingen, East Idaho self-advocate. The two 'fellows' work plans have aided the Advocacy Coalition to have more direct contact with supporters of the advocacy work. And their work has enhanced the number of actions of advocates and helped to build the list. This model requires time spent by lead Coalition staff to aid the leadership development for the self-advocate fellows (skills, capacities, understanding of advocacy theory and practice) and also push for key outcomes that benefit public policy work.

In early February roughly 20 self-advocates or parents of children with disabilities called the House Health and Welfare Committee office to express their support for the Idaho Health Care Plan and its positive policy impact on the community of people with disabilities in Idaho. During the period Feb 8-22, 2018 – roughly 31 phone calls were made to representatives in 12 Idaho districts expressing support for the Idaho Health Care Plan including its positive policy impact on Idahoans with

disabilities. This work involved intensive support for individuals located in all 12 legislative districts provided by the ICDD contractor serving the Advocacy Coalition.

On Feb 22, 2018 – there were three specific legislative meetings where the Idaho Health Care Plan was discussed in light of the positive impact it would have on people with disabilities in Idaho. Four self-advocates or parents were involved in these meetings.

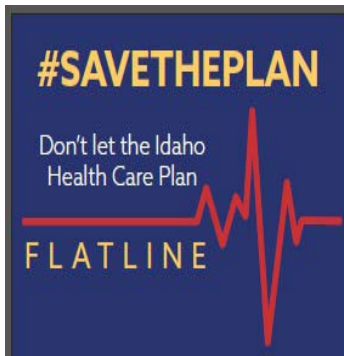
On Feb 26, 2018 – one self-advocate was prepped, testified and an additional self-advocate was asked to attend a hearing in the House Health and Welfare Committee. The testimony referenced the negative impact of a proposed policy on people who are dual eligible (receive both Medicaid and Medicare).

During the period March 1-20, 2018 – 18 self-advocates or parents of children with disabilities called the Governor's office to ask for his intervention to #savetheplan – i.e. the Idaho Health Care Plan and its positive policy impact on the community of people with disabilities in Idaho. This was a widely circulated request and there may have been other calls placed that we cannot document.

During the period Feb 22- March 20, 2018 at least 25 parents of children with developmental disabilities or self-advocates placed calls to the Speaker of the House of the Idaho State Legislature asking for his advocacy for the Idaho Health Care Plan in light of its positive impact on people with disabilities who do not currently qualify for Medicaid or cannot afford insurance.

During the Month of March self-advocates and parents of children with disabilities agreed to make calls to specific legislators in at least 12 different legislative districts. Individuals agreed to make those calls in each of the 12 districts, but documentation is much more difficult to produce on this activity, because it is so dispersed throughout the state. In some cases, individual parents or self-advocates not only agreed to make the call as individuals, but they also mobilized their personal and family networks to make calls.

On March 13, 2018 a delegation of parents, children with developmental disabilities and self-advocates met with the Governor's Health Policy staff to make the same request, i.e. that the Governor become public in his advocacy. Photos, livestreaming on Facebook, Facebook Posts and Channel 6 television coverage was garnered. The visit by three parents, three children, and two self-advocates and one support person helped to build the rally that occurred on March 15, 2018.



Richelle Tierney, parent and Advocacy Coalition member created the graphics for the hashtag - #savetheplan – and this visual was adopted by Close the Gap and all of the other organizational participants in the March 15th rally.

On March 15, 2018 The DD Network (Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, & the Center on Disabilities and Human Development) all engaged with Close the Gap to help drive turn out for a rally under the #savetheplan which filled the rotunda of the state capitol and produced fairly extensive press coverage. Roughly more than 100 people total attended this event.



Cultural Broker, Griselda Camacho encouraged and supported a group of Latino families to attend the Health Care Rally at the Statehouse.



The universe for Idaho Advocacy Coalition outreach consists of 75 self-advocates, parents and a few disability service providers. There are 27 legislative districts represented. Most are graduates of the ICDD Partners in Policy Making program.

But in addition to this universe of people we communicate with directly, the Advocacy Coalition has begun utilizing the Medicaid Matters in Idaho Facebook page which has grown from 597 in April of 2017 to 1000 as of March 2018. During March of 2018, using the #savetheplan – we pushed out 5 memes of people who would benefit from the Idaho Health Care Plan resulting in scores of shares and perhaps some calls to public officials. The latter is difficult to document, but the growth in participation on Medicaid Matters is pretty clear. As well, the performance of each post can be tracked through Facebook metrics.

AND FINALLY – after months of conversations, meetings, coaching and cajoling – KTVB is starting work on a story involving 3 self-advocates/families around the dangers inherent in Medicaid Block Grants from personal and family story perspective. HURRAY!

3.2 - Outcomes/Work Products:

- Contract with Community Organizer, contractor report
- News articles and media coverage = public awareness
- Testimony by individuals and families

Review of ED Evaluation Results

Background Information:

An evaluation of the Executive Director must be completed by members each year. All members and staff completed a Survey Monkey Survey during the Winter Council meeting. The results of this survey will be reviewed during this part of the meeting. This is a closed Executive Session, which means that all staff members and guests will exit the room after a motion is made by the Council members to enter into Executive Session. An individual from Human Resources from the Council's Designated State Agency (the Department of Health and Welfare) will be present to answer any questions you may have about this process, the results and decisions that will need to be made during this closed session.

*****This part of the meeting is a closed session and not open to the public*****

Procedure: *The Council must vote on a motion to go into Executive/Closed Session. Once in Executive Session, the Chair should take notes during the closed session. Once discussion has ended, the Council must vote on a motion to return to Open Session. Council staff and guests will then be invited back into meeting. Any other actions recommended by the Council must be voted on after returning to open session.*

Recommended Action:

Listen, ask questions, and make recommendations for future evaluations. Listen to Council Chair instructions and to the Human Resources expert.

2018 Legislative Report

Background Information:

Council staff will present information on legislative priorities of the Council as well additional issues the Council was involved in for this legislative session. Information will also be presented that the Council may not have been involved with, but has an impact on people with disabilities.

Information to be provided at meeting.

Recommended Action:

Listen and ask questions if you have them.

Notes:

Council Member Responsibilities – A Review

Background Information:

Because not all Council members attend New Member Training each year, it is good to take some time to review Council member responsibilities with all members. This is an opportunity for members to review the agreement that each member signed when they were first appointed to the Council and the responsibilities as listed in our policies. Council members will discuss what kinds of things Council members can be doing between meetings in their communities.

Recommended Action:

Read through the Council Member Responsibilities information on the following pages. Take part in a discussion of member responsibilities and ask questions if you have them.

Notes:

COUNCIL MEMBER AGREEMENT



As a member of the Council, I will:

- Respect all people the Council serves.
- Listen carefully to my fellow Council members.
- Respect the opinion of my fellow Council members.
- Have respectful discussion on issues without making personal attacks.
- Understand that all legal actions must be voted on by the full Council.
- Stay informed about issues that may come before the Council.
- Be an active participant in Council meetings.
- Make the Council aware of any issues that may have a negative effect on people with developmental disabilities or the Council.
- Work through conflicts directly.
- Understand that Council decisions are made by a majority vote and the outcome should be ultimately supported by all Council meeting
- Understand that my role on the Council is not to manage the Council, but to make sure it is well managed, financially stable, staffed appropriately, and operate under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (Public Law 106-402, as amended).
- Understand that the Council is a learning organization, empowered by the Developmental Disabilities Act to try new approaches to eliminate barriers presented to people with developmental disabilities.
- Understand it is my responsibility to openly share a conflict of interest between my personal/professional life and my position as a Council Member and abstain from discussions and voting as directed by the Council's "Conflict of Interest" policy.
- Understand the duties of the Executive Director and support his/her role with staff members.
- Understand the duties, support and respect the role of the Council Chair.

I agree with these values and expectations:

Signature

Date



What is my responsibility as a Council member between quarterly Council meetings?

REVIEW: *Council Member Responsibilities*

Council By-Laws, Article IV, Section 4. Member Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of each member to represent their appointed segment of the population and the geographic area of the State, and present the issues and concerns of that representation and geographic area in the formation of all Council policy and programs. Each member shall also perform specific duties set out by written policy, and/or assigned by the full Council or Council Chair.

Policy No. 101: COUNCIL MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Planning**
- **Policymaking**
- **Financial Management**
- **Public Relations:** Influencing the perception of the Council by the state-at-large. Each Council member should continually work to impact the image of the Council and people with developmental disabilities by building positive relationships with persons/groups/agencies in the state and within the Council itself. All Council members shall be given adequate information regarding the Council to ensure knowledgeable representation to the state-at-large.
- **Advocacy:** Where allowed for individual members, advocating, advancing, interceding, assisting, and generally supporting appropriate public policy, services and delivery systems for persons with developmental disabilities. Before speaking or testifying to public officials on the Council's behalf, individual Council members must have approval from the Executive Director. This policy in no way is intended to interfere with each Council member's right to speak to public officials on their own behalf.



Council Member Responsibilities

~ from the New Member Orientation Manual

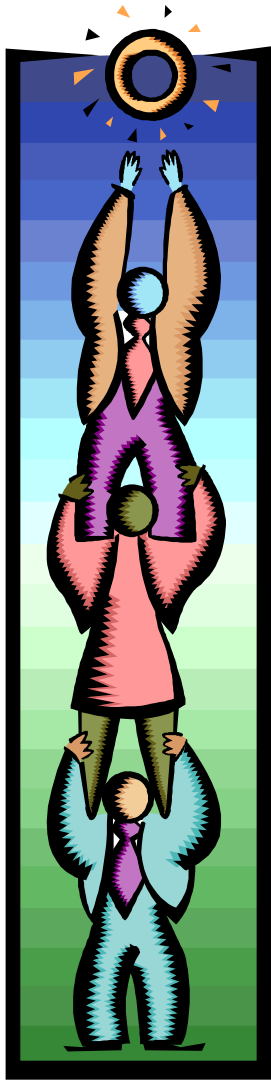
- Help develop and approve a Council plan
- Listen to individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and other stakeholders
- Regularly attend and actively participate in Council, committee, and project workgroup meetings
- Advocate for policies and services that advance the values and objectives of the Council
- Work to positively impact the image of the Council by building relationships with others in their communities and within the Council itself
- Monitor the activities and expenditures of the Council to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and compliance with the law
- Take part in other Council sponsored activities and encourage the participation of others
- Ask questions and inform and educate yourself about disability issues in general and Council initiatives in particular
- Avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest
- Sign a Member's Agreement acknowledging understanding of expectations
- Assist and support new Council members

Between meetings Council members should...

- Build relationships and listen to people in their community
- Share Council information with others and positions on issues when it is appropriate
- Prepare for Council meetings and committee meetings
- Ask questions and get information they need
- Take responsibility and follow-through on a given assignment



Between meetings **Council staff** are responsible to support Council members to fulfill their responsibilities under the law. They also do projects and activities that help the Council make progress towards the goals and objectives in its work plan.



Building Relationships in the Community

Serving on the Council is more than attending four meetings each year. Although attendance at those meetings is important and provides an opportunity for discussion and input into Council work, being a Council member means being an ambassador for the Council's efforts.

Members are in an excellent position to listen to people with developmental disabilities, their family members, and other partners in their communities and bring their issues and concerns to the Council. Listening to the public is an important part of finding out how the Council is doing and if we are paying attention to the right issues.



Members are also in a position to find out what the public thinks about the Council and measure how well our messages are reaching individuals and communities.

Members report back to the Council about these things through member reports at meetings, email to staff to share with others, and through evaluation activities.

Things I can do to connect with people in my community.

Ways to reach out in your community and connect with individuals and family members:

- Participate in community events and meetings
- Get to know community leaders
- Find out about organizations that connect to individuals with developmental disabilities and/or family members
- Share information about the Council and Council events/activities
- Others... (ask fellow members about things they have done)

Cultural Identity

Background Information:

We all have a cultural identity. Culture is what we learn about ourselves and others from the time when we are born. Culture includes how we think, talk, behave with others. Many times we think about and only see our culture. It may be hard for us to see things the way another person may see them.

We all have many cultural identities. For example you may be a daughter, a sister, a student, and a self-advocate. A person's cultural identity may be related to their age, disability, religion, ethnicity, social status, sexual orientation indigenous heritage, national origin or gender, among other things.

Dina Flores Brewer will lead us all through an activity so we can learn more about each other and our group as a whole. Council members will each share something about their own cultural identity. Each person will have 4-5 minutes to share.

Dina will provide a presentation on the multiple dimensions of culture.

Recommended Action:

Prepare a short report about your own cultural identity(ies) that you would like to share with the rest of the Council. You can bring items that reflect your culture if you want to show them while you describe your culture.

Notes:



**Cultural Diversity and Cultural and Linguistic Competence:
Definitions and Conceptual Frameworks within the Contexts
of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

**Tawara D. Goode
April 30, 2015**



This presentation was originally developed for Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) and delivered by Tawara D. Goode, Georgetown University National Center for Cultural Competence to the SABE Board on April 30, 2015.

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Multiple Dimensions of



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The word "CULTURE" is written in large, bold, blocky letters. Each letter is a different color: C (red), U (yellow), L (blue), T (green), U (red), R (yellow), and E (green). The letters are set against a solid black rectangular background.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT CULTURE

Culture is what we learn about ourselves and others from the time when we are born.

Culture includes how we think, talk, behave with others.

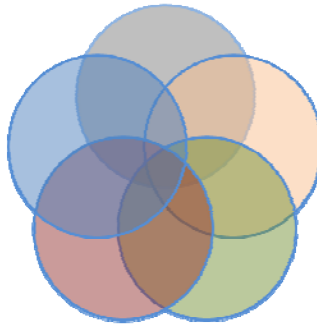
Many times we think about and only see our culture. It may be hard for us to see things the way another person may see them.

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Multiple Cultural Identities

We all have many cultural identities. For example you may be a daughter, a sister, a student, and a self-advocate.



Intersectionality

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The **ADDRESSING** MODEL
IS A GOOD WAY TO HELP US
THINK ABOUT
CULTURAL DIVERSITY.

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| | | |
|----------|---|---|
| A | Age | THE HAYS ADDRESSING Model Addressing cultural complexities in practice: A framework for clinicians and counselors & Addressing the complexities of culture and gender in counseling |
| D | Disability (congenital) | |
| D | Disability (acquired) | |
| R | Religion (spirituality or no affiliation) | |
| E | Ethnicity (or race) | |
| S | Social status | |
| S | Sexual orientation | |
| I | Indigenous heritage | |
| N | National origin | |
| G | Gender (gender identity & expression) | |

Data Source:
Hays, Pamela. (2001). Addressing cultural complexities in practice. A framework for clinicians and counselors. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
Hays, Pamela. Addressing the complexities of culture and gender in counseling. Journal of Counseling & Development. 74.4 (Mar./Apr. 1996). 332

What are
demographic
trends for
Idaho?



| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Total Idaho Residents: | 1,654,930 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|

| | |
|--|-----------|
| One Race | 1,607,506 |
| White | 1,514,404 |
| Two or More | 47,424 |
| Some Other Race | 37,682 |
| Black or African American | 8,828 |
| American Indian & Alaska Native | 20,504 |
| Asian | 1,416 |
| Native Hawaii & Other Pacific Islander | 1,931 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 175,901 |
| Mexican | 148,923 |
| Puerto Rican | 2,910 |
| Cuban | 825 |
| Dominican Republic | 185 |

DEFINITION OF LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT (LPR)

A lawful permanent resident (LPR) or “green card” recipient is defined by immigration law as a person who has been granted lawful permanent residence in the United States. Lawful permanent resident status confers certain rights and responsibilities.

Lawful permanent residents may live and work permanently anywhere in the United States, own property, and attend public schools, colleges, and universities. They may also join the Armed Forces and apply to become U.S. citizens if they meet certain eligibility requirements

Data source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Legal Permanent Residents: 2014, Annual Flow Report, Nadwa Mossaad. Page 1. Retrieved on 3/30/17 from https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/LPR%20Flow%20Report%202014_508.pdf

Top 10 Countries of Birth of Persons Obtaining Lawful Permanent Resident Status in Idaho in 2015

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Mexico | 52,281 |
| Canada | 5,440 |
| China | 3,560 |
| Germany | 2,588 |
| Phillipines | 2,347 |
| United Kingdom | 2,156 |
| Bosnia/Herzegovia | 1,665 |
| India | 1,650 |
| Korea | 1,489 |
| Vietnam | 1,171 |



Cultural Factors That Influence Diversity Among Individuals and Groups



While there are many things that make people the same, there are also many things that make people different.



Think about things that make members of the Advocacy Coalition the same or different.

Adapted with permission from James Mason, Ph.D., NCCC Senior Consultant

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VIEWS ON DISABILITY & RACIAL IDENTITY

Some people do not think that their disability defines who they are.



Some people identify with their race



Some people identify with their disability.



Everyone does not experience disability, race, and ethnicity the same.



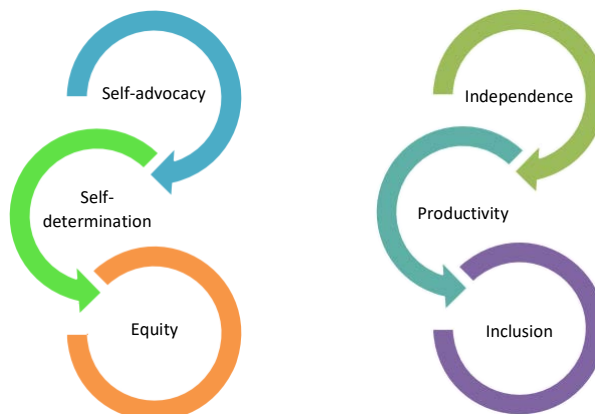
SOURCE: Gill, C. & Cross, W. (2010). Disability Identity and Racial-Cultural Identity Development: Points of Convergence, Dissonance and Interplay. In F. Balcazar, Y. Suarez-Balcazar, T. Taylor-Ritzler, & C. Keys (Eds.), *Race, Culture, and Disability: Rehabilitation Science and Practice*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers

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COMMON VALUES IN DISABILITY SERVICES & SUPPORTS

Do these values have the same meaning across all cultural groups?



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WHY CULTURAL COMPETENCE IS IMPORTANT

- All of the different people who live in the United States, territories, and on tribal lands.
- There is no one way to think about disability, health, or mental health for example.
- We know from research that cultural competence makes many services and supports work better for people.
- There are laws that require cultural competence.



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CONTACT US



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Election of Council Chair

Background Information:

Each spring, the Council elects a person to serve as Chair of the Council for the coming year, starting in July. Because the Governor must appoint the Chair, after the Council selects someone the name is forwarded to the Governor for appointment. This position is limited to members of the Council who are self-advocates, parents, or guardians. The responsibilities of this position and a nomination form are listed after this page.

Recommended Action:

If you are interested in serving as Council Chair you may nominate yourself or have someone nominate you. If you know of someone on the Council that you think would be a good Chair you may nominate them, but be sure to ask their permission first. If you are interested in running for Council Chair please prepare a 2-3 minute speech about why you would be a good candidate for this position and why you are interested in serving.

All nominations must be turned in to Toni Brinegar by Thursday at lunch, April 26, 2018. The election will be held on the afternoon of Friday, April 27, 2018.

Notes:

Council Chair Nomination Form

Name: James Steed

How many years have you been on the Council?

3 years serving in the position of a person living in an institution and then 7 serving in the position of s a person with a disability—two separate positions on the Council.

What offices have you held during your time on the Council?

I was Vice Chair for 6 years. I was voted to become Council Chair during the last year serving on the Council as a person with a disability, however, I got very ill and couldn't complete my term and only chaired 1 meeting.

What committees have you served on and did you have any leadership on these committees?

Back when there were formal committees, I was on Membership Committee and Governance Committee. I was also part of the Consumer Leadership Caucus (CLC) which consisted of individuals who were members of the Council and who served in the positions of individuals with developmental disabilities.

What other boards or committees have you been involved on?

I was the Vice president for Disability Rights Idaho Board for 6 years and 4 of those years, I held the office of Vice President of the Board. I stepped down from DRI Board in order to focus on growing the Self Advocate Leadership Network (SALN) in my area.

I was on the front-end of the creation of the Idaho Self Advocate Leadership Network (SALN). I helped to create the by-laws for the state board. I also started the Pocatello Chapter of the SALN, which was the very 1st SALN Chapter in the state of Idaho. When I was lived in Pocatello and was part of the chapter, it was a very busy chapter and we focused on supporting one another as well as helping out others in the community.

I'm currently serving on the Community Care Advisory Council. I hold an Advisory position. Although I am a non-voting member, I want to make sure that people like me and my friends have a voice on this Council. I'm the only person with a disability on the Community Care Advisory Council.

What legislation have you been involved in?

I thought that it was odd that guardians didn't have to get background checks when every individual who care for us have to clear a background check. A friend of mine died and I thought that perhaps if her guardian would have had a background check, she might not have been allowed to make decisions for my friend and then she would be alive today. I presented this to the Council and pressed to have this happen for people. Although I wasn't at the signing of the bill, it gave me great pride to see my idea become a law in Idaho.

What is the reason you are seeking the office of Council Chairperson?

I feel that my vast experience being on Councils and Boards can help the Council as we go into the next year and I understand that it's more of a job than people realize. Being on different councils, I've come to an understanding that a Chair has to do the hard things—like, talk with other members when there is a conflict and help resolve the conflict. It's not up to the staff, it's actually up to the Chair and I feel that can be that person. Being a chairperson is a job—if it's done right. It's a big responsibility. To take it on, you need a lot of time and I have a lot of time. And even if I don't become Chair, I will continue to be a strong voice for people with developmental disabilities. If I do become Chair, with my attitude about it being a "job" I hope to bring the Council to a whole different level. Lastly, if elected, I would be one of the few people who have a dual diagnosis to serve as a Chair of any board in Idaho and I feel that this would show the Council's commitment to the dual diagnosis population in Idaho.



Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
700 W. State Street – Suite 119
Boise, ID 83702-5868

3/14/2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing this letter in support of James Steed's candidacy for the Chair role of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities. He is a seasoned and able leader with deep knowledge of the work of the State Council, of the independent living movement and of many elements of policy impacting people with disabilities.

I first met James in 2016 as I conducted the first interviews with individuals living in Eastern Idaho, part of my contract with the ICDD to create an advocacy coalition in the state. I found him to be self-aware, warm, honest and engaging. We worked closely together during 2017 responding to the National Congressional threats to Medicaid. I found James to be a reliable public leader who displayed thoughtfulness regarding the best strategies we could employ to respond to these threats.


One of the serious challenges for people with disabilities and their ability to participate in advocacy work is access to transportation. The public transportation infrastructure is very limited in Eastern Idaho and oftentimes policy advocacy requires travel to other communities in the East. James has been able to consistently call on his strong relationships with organizations and institutions in the Eastern part of the state to find transportation that allows him to participate in advocacy coalition meetings, attend rallies and even travel independently to testify at hearings when I could not travel to the East. He is resourceful.

2816 North 26th Street Boise, ID 83702 connexusllc@gmail.com (208)484-6062

James is an engaging personality and my visits to the facility he lives in are like case studies in his ability to attract the warm support of people around him whether they are other residents, care providers, doctors or managers of the facility.

Finally, I find James' ability to articulate the needs and interests of people with disabilities in universal terms that everyone can understand to be very compelling. It is particularly powerful during advocacy campaigns. His personal warmth, compassion for others and ability to speak to larger human values has made him a very important part of the Advocacy Coalition work. I trust him to be able to go on his own into a public setting and to represent the community of people with developmental disabilities well.

As a self-advocate, I think James embodies the vision the State Council holds for the role self-advocates can and should play in the world. He is an excellent candidate to serve as Chair of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities.


Gary Sandusky
Connexus, LLC

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Annual Conference

Background Information:

The annual NACDD conference will take place July 9-12, 2018 NACDD National Conference, Gaylord National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland. The Idaho Council has limited ability to send many people to the National Conference when it is held in the Washington DC area due to the high cost to attend.

The priority for attendance will be the Chair, members who have not attended a national conference in the past, and new Council staff.

Recommended Action:

Listen and ask questions.

Notes: