

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

OCTOBER 2023 - SEPTEMBER 2024



IDAHO COUNCIL ON
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES



WHO WE ARE

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities was established under the Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act, Public Law 106-402) in 1971 and in Idaho Code §67-6703 in 1978. Council members are Governor-appointed volunteers. Most members are people with intellectual or developmental disabilities or family members.

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



FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR

In reviewing this past year, the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities continues to make progress accomplishing the goals of the current five-year plan. We continue to be actively engaged in the KW vs. Armstrong lawsuit through our support of Community NOW! and educating members of the public, and Council members, about its' progress.

The Council is excited about the recent court appointment of a Special Master, Ruby Moore. Her work will oversee the implementation of a new assessment tool. The Council is heavily involved in advocating for a person-centered, equitable, respectful, and transparent adult developmental disability service system.



Adrienne Seamans,
Council Chair

A particular achievement this year was the graduation of our first class of Lideramos Juntos! (Together We Lead!), which is the culturally appropriate version of our Partners in Policymaking program for the Latino community. This program was done collaboratively with the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council, and the Utah Institute for Disability, Research, Policy, and Practice. Utah and Idaho brought members of the Disability Latino community for a seven-month leadership development training. Fourteen extraordinary leaders graduated and are already doing great work in their home communities.

I am proud to serve as the Council Chair with Carly Saxe, Council Vice Chair. The Council continues to take on the most urgent needs of the developmental disability community. As we begin work on our next five-year plan, the Council looks forward to meeting with you in your home communities throughout the upcoming summer. Please stay tuned for information about our statewide public forums.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am proud of the accomplishments of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities highlighted in this year's annual report. Our federal charge in the Developmental Disabilities Act is to identify the most pressing needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and work to find innovative ways to meet those needs that uphold person and family centered approaches. At a minimum, our Council membership includes 60% of people with IDD and family members.



***Christine Pisani,
Executive Director***

We are intentional in our work to provide information in accessible ways to improve understanding, access opportunities, and gain the valuable insight from people with disabilities and families on proposed policies. We provide extensive leadership development opportunities to create leaders statewide. These leaders work to uphold the human and civil rights of people with IDD and help shape services and policies that impact their lives. We advocate at the state and national level with the expertise and leadership of adults with IDD and family members. This past year we invested 70% of our total funding in statewide projects which moved us forward in achieving our five-year plan goals.

The Idaho Council spends the majority of our staff working hours developing and supporting leaders with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members. This last year the Council invested \$431,230 in the education and leadership development of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members through our projects, policy, and advocacy work.

From all of the staff at the Council, we thank you for the opportunity to learn from you, work with you, and create a more inclusive Idaho for all of Idaho's citizens.

OUR GOALS

In 2022-2026, the Council works on system change, capacity building, information, and education for individuals with disabilities and family members, and advocacy and leadership development.

Goals

System Change

During each year of the plan, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members inform and direct changes in service systems, resulting in higher quality services that better meet the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by 2026.

Capacity Building

By 2026, service systems have increased their capacity to provide quality services, so individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members have access to services that meet their needs and preferences.

Information & Education

By 2026, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members have increased their knowledge and skills needed to access the services and supports they need to live meaningful lives in their communities.

Advocacy & Leadership

During each year of the plan, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are empowered to share their lived experiences and provide education and information on issues important to them, as they advocate on local, state, and/or national levels.



SYSTEM CHANGE

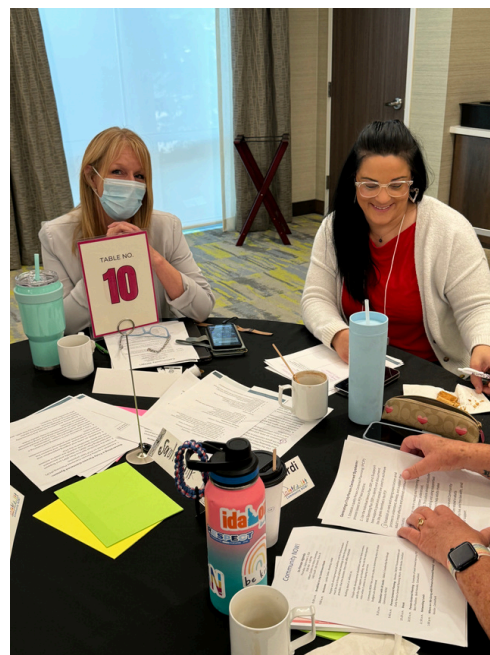
Community NOW!

The Council works closely with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and families, the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, The Center on Disabilities & Human Development, Disability Rights Idaho, the American Civil Liberties Union, Developmental Disability Service Providers, and others in the Community NOW! stakeholder collaborative. Community NOW! is focused on supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and families to lead in shaping the adult developmental disability service system.

The Council hired a skilled facilitator to train and coach one person with a developmental disability and two parents to facilitate the Community NOW! meetings. In Federal Fiscal Year 2024, these Meeting Leaders facilitated two two-day virtual meetings and one two-day in-person meeting.

During the virtual Community NOW! meetings in December 2023 and May 2024, members were updated on the KW vs. Armstrong lawsuit and legislative issues. The in-person Community NOW! meeting in September 2024 was the first in-person meeting since before the pandemic.





Community NOW! members learned about opportunities to speak about their recent experiences with their assessments. They also discussed what a special master is and what the role of the special master is in the KW vs. Armstrong lawsuit. Community NOW! members created a list of their expectations for the special master which were included in the candidate interviews for the position and the court order for the Special Master. Members also had a facilitated discussion with Jill Jacobs, Executive Director of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities about Idaho's leadership role through Community NOW!. Furthermore, Community NOW! members participated in a discussion on the early person-centered planning work of the Council and a review of person-centered planning recommendations.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Person-Centered Thinking Training

Through the Living Well grant, the Council was able to support six Person-Centered Thinking trainers in Idaho. Person-Centered Thinking training provides a foundational understanding of person-centered practices.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2024, four training series were completed.

Since the start of this project, the following outcomes were achieved:

- 438 people completed Person-Centered Thinking training;
- 6 Idaho trainers were certified;
- 13 training series were provided by Idaho trainers;
- 229 people completed training provided by Idaho trainers.

Person-Centered Community of Practice

The Council continues its work with the University of Missouri, Kansas City, with expert guidance from the Charting the LifeCourse Nexus Training and Technical Assistance Center, to develop a Community of Practice on Person-Centered Planning.

In November 2023, 30 planning professionals attended the Person-Centered Planning summit. During this summit, attendees discussed the progress of Person-Centered Planning in Idaho and strategies to move person-centered practices and planning forward in our state.





Throughout 2024, Idaho's Community of Practice partners continued to meet monthly at virtual Roundtables where planners shared innovative techniques, tools, and challenges.

Language Access

The Council identified a gap in the available service providers with the expertise to provide trilingual interpretation for Spanish speakers who are deaf. The Council collaborated with the Idaho Registered Interpreters for the Deaf (IdahoRID) to provide financial sponsorship for the IdahoRID 50th Anniversary conference: "Navigating the Future Together." The sponsorship to IdahoRID provided them the ability to identify and host education for bilinguals on trilingual interpreting for this language triad: Spanish/ASL/English. Attendees indicated that these powerful trainings were precisely what was needed.



INFORMATION & EDUCATION

After a very successful conference in 2023 in Burley, the Council focused on developing leadership in the Burley area in 2024. Through the Lideramos Juntos program (described on the next page), **six** local leaders were identified. This group of leaders will be in charge of planning for the next conference in November 2025.



ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP

Lideramos Juntos

The Council collaborated with the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council and Utah State University Institute for Disability, Research, Policy, and Practice to host Lideramos Juntos (Together We Lead), a leadership development program for Latino community members. This program was adapted from Partners in Policymaking.

Six family members of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities from Idaho participated in this program. During five in-person weekend sessions and virtual meetings between sessions, participants learned about the service system, language access, and advocacy.

Lideramos Juntos participants graduated in September 2024. The participants from Idaho will use their leadership skills to plan a conference for the Latino community in Burley in November 2025.



OUR CARE CAN'T WAIT



Our Care Can't Wait Coalition

The 2023 Office of Performance Evaluation (OPE) report released in March of 2023 found that Idaho's direct care workforce shortage is significantly greater than the national average, with a need for 3,000 additional workers to meet national staffing shortage levels. This gap is only expected to grow. As a result of the findings and recommendations the Council initiated the Our Care Can't Wait Coalition in May of 2023 to work on the implementation of the recommendations from the OPE report. The statewide Coalition includes people with disabilities, family members, Disability Rights Idaho, the Center on Disabilities and Human Development, the Parent Training Center, the Idaho Caregiver Alliance, AARP, the three Independent Living Centers, the Idaho State Independent Living Council (SILC), Idaho Association of Community Based Service providers, and the Idaho Association of Home Care Agencies. The Coalition meets twice a month and has four separate workgroups which include media outreach, advocacy events, data research, and Medicaid budget.



Fred Riggers Disability Advocacy Day

The Council worked with the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities and Our Care Can't Wait partners to organize Fred Riggers Disability Advocacy Day at the Capitol. Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, family members, and service providers attended the day and met with legislators to discuss the impact of the workforce shortage in their lives. An Our Care Can't Wait table was set up to provide factsheets, collect pictures and stories, and share a 16-year timeline of news articles related to Idaho's direct support workforce crisis. Over 140 pictures and stories were collected at the table.

2024 Legislative Session

During the 2024 Legislative Session, the Council:

- Monitored and tracked over **47** bills
- Testified in support of **two** bills
 - Certified Family Home Statute
 - Guardianship Statute
- Testified in opposition of **two** bills
 - Legislative Approval of Medicaid Waivers
 - Parental Choice Tax Credit
- Co-authored a letter with Public Funds Public Schools - "Students Using Private School Vouchers Lose Antidiscrimination Protections".

Council Members had **20** meetings with legislators and Council staff had **25** meetings with legislators.



2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS

New members joined the Council in July 2024 and are noted as (new).

Adrienne Seamans, Chair, Parent, Idaho Falls

Carly Saxe, Vice-Chair, Advocate, Eagle

Sara Bennett, Parent, Lewiston

Janice Carson, Center on Disabilities and Human Development, U of I

Randi Cole, Department of Education, Office of Special Education

Amy Cunningham, Disability Rights Idaho

Jenna Garrett, Parent, Moscow

Deedra Hunt, Commission on Aging

Jennifer Johnson, The Sensory Playce, Community Service Provider

Maria Juarez, Parent, Nampa

Rochelle Larsen, Parent, Rigby

Michael MacGuffie, Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Andrew Mills, Advocate, Caldwell

Maria de la Luz Moreno, Parent, Boise

Emily Petersen, LINC, Non-Profit

Danielle "DR" Reff, Advocate, Boise

Michael Sandvig, Family Member of Person Living in an Institution, Idaho Falls

Kevin Swearingen, Advocate, Ammon (new)

Edgar Zuniga, Advocate, Caldwell



COUNCIL STAFF

Christine Pisani – Executive Director

Marieke Edwards – Research Analyst

Mona Engelbrecht – Financial Specialist

Miguel Juarez – Program Specialist

Jill Smith – Program Specialist

Richelle Tierney – Policy Analyst

This work is supported by a grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201 with 100% federal funding award totaling \$527,570 (Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Grant No.: 2301IDSCDD-01). Council efforts are those of the grantee and do not necessarily represent the official views of nor are endorsed by ACL, HHS, or the U.S. government.



THANK YOU



700 W. State, Ste. 119
Boise, ID. 83702



(208) 334-2178



<https://icdd.idaho.gov>

