

Approved Meeting Minutes

Fall Quarterly Council Meeting

Thursday, October 24, 2024

9:00 am – 4:00 pm Mountain Time

Joe R. Williams, 700 W State St., Aspen (East) Conference Room
Boise 83702

Attendees

Council Members Present

Sara Bennett

Janice Carson

Randi Cole

Jenna Garrett

Deedra Hunt

Jennifer Johnson

Rochelle Larsen

Mike MacGuffie

Andrew Mills

Marilu Moreno

Emily Petersen

Danielle Reff - DR

Michael Sandvig

Carly Saxe

Adrienne Seamans

Kevin Swearingen

Edgar Zuniga

Council Members Absent

Amy Cunningham

Maria Juarez

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards

Mona Engelbrecht

Miguel Juarez

Christine Pisani

Jill Smith

Richelle Tierney

Presenters

Jami Davis – Idaho State Independent Living Council

Elaine Zabriskie – Workforce Development Council

Kevin Swearingen – Our Care Can't Wait Coalition Member, ICDD Council Member

Guests

Sasha O'Connell, Deputy Administrator, Division of Medicaid | Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Emily Lunt, Student Intern

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda

Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Guests were welcomed and guidelines reviewed. Call for any agenda questions or changes. No changes were noted.

Carly Saxe, Vice Chair, reviewed the ground rules for meeting protocol.

Presentation: Review of Legislative Issues, Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst

Richelle Tierney reviewed the process of identifying legislative policy issues of interest to the Council. She shared our three priority levels (one, two, three) and what those levels represent. The two areas of discussion today included the proposed ABLE legislation and activities targeting the direct workforce crisis. Council members will receive more information on proposed guardianship legislation changes following this meeting. Christine Pisani, Executive Director provided a brief update about a newly formed legislative workgroup based on legislation stating that each state college and university shall verify that no state appropriated funds are used to support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) or social justice ideology as part of any student activities, clubs, events, or organizations on campus. There is no current definition of who this applies to or how data will be collected to inform this workgroup. Presentations were requested by workgroup members to include university accreditation organizations as well as organizations who may be able to speak to the potential impact on different constituents and groups. Christine will continue to monitor this process and report back to Council members.

Presentation: Proposed ABLE Legislation, Jami Davis, Idaho State Independent Living Council

Idaho is one of three states that do not have an ABLE program. Idaho proposes to join a multi-state consortium, or group, of ABLE programs. The Idaho State

Independent Living Council participated in three ABLÉ focused community conversations in Twin Falls, Caldwell, and Meridian and received good input. Currently, Representative Skaug is the sponsor on the House side, but a Senate side sponsor has not been identified. Speaker Moyle is very supportive. It is unclear which committee will hear this legislation. It is hoped it will be presented early in the session. Individual annual fees for an ABLÉ account can be \$37.00 to \$54.00 per year depending on the program. Ms. Davis explained that the interest generated from an account more than covers that fee. For more information, Council members can visit <https://silc.idaho.gov> with a page dedicated to ABLÉ information including what it can and can't be used for.

Presentation: Direct Care Workforce Shortage, Our Care Can't Wait Coalition member, Kevin Swearingen and Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst; Apprenticeship Model, Elaine Zabriskie, Workforce Development Council

Kevin Swearingen shared his experience as an Our Care Can't Wait (OCCW) member and outlined his work on the media workgroup. Richelle Tierney shared additional information from other coalition members on ways to inform policy makers about the impact of the workforce crisis. Questions about rates and the status of adult case management under the long-term service and supports were raised. Sasha O'Connell, Deputy Administrator of the Division of Medicaid, shared the update that the policy and leadership team at the Department has done a great deal of work on how personal case management services for people who are not dually eligible (estimated to be about 4000 people) can be reinstated for those using the Aged and Disabled waiver. More information will become available in the next few months including a time line for case management roll out. OCCW has sent a request to leadership at the Department of Health & Welfare that requested their prioritization of efforts to improve the direct care workforce in Home and Community Based Services, Case management services for people on the Agenda & Disabled Waiver who are not dually eligible, and to correct the inequity created with S1456 when school based Medicaid services were not included at the time community based providers received a rate increase. The letter also included emphasis to the Department of Health and Welfare's focus on foster care and how the direct workforce crisis has a direct impact on those affected by foster care, but additional attention is needed to address the workforce crisis.

Elaine Zabriskie shared an update on the direct support workforce apprenticeship model. This type of model is developed in Idaho to respond to employer needs but is also built within a national accreditation structure. The bfair2directcare recommendations and data from the 2023 Office of Performance Evaluation report on the direct care workforce have significantly influenced this development. The Council is involved in this development and the current work is focused on identifying training needs based on competencies and Idaho specific services and structures available to support this effort. Lewis Clark State College is building technical training structures and supporting the kick off of the apprenticeship model.

Working Lunch: Council Member Networking, All Council Members

Danielle “DR” Reff and Marilu Moreno were recognized for their work as former Council Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

ACTION: Determine Policy Priorities – Proposed ABLE Legislation

- I Edgar Zuniga move to make ABLE legislation a Priority 2.
- Rochelle Larsen seconded.
- Motion passed.

ACTION: Determine Policy Priorities – Direct Care Workforce Shortage

- I DR Reff motion to make the Direct Care Workforce Shortage a Priority 1.
- Andrew Mills seconded.
- Motion passed.

Discussion: Next Steps for 2025 Legislative Session and Review

Legislative Prep Homework, Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst

Richelle Tierney shared that Council members will receive follow up information on the proposed Guardianship Legislation prior to the next Council meeting. In addition, Council members will receive updated legislative contacts, information sheets on policies and homework assignments following the upcoming elections.

A virtual meeting will take place January 16, 2025 10:30 am – 12:30 pm mountain time, 9:30 -11:30 am pacific time to help Council members prepare for their legislative visits. Members are encouraged to review and prepare their personal story, the history and work of the Council, and questions for that meeting. This is

an informational meeting, not a formal Council meeting. The meeting will be recorded and made available to members who are not able to attend.

Fred Riggers Day will occur at the Capital on February 5, 2025 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm mountain time which is an annual Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities event.

Discussion: Membership Update, Jill Smith, Program Specialist

Jill Smith presented the current roster including terms of members. Council members whose terms expire in 2025 are encouraged to let Adrienne Seamans, Chair or Council staff know by early January 2025. Early notification will help with recruitment activities. The deadline for all applications is March 1, 2025.

Discussion: Member Roles, Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair

Adrienne Seamans shared the outcome of her review of Council member input. She encouraged members to share what works well or what may need improvement with Council meeting processes and procedures. She will be assisting in the evaluation process at the end of this meeting and would like members to consider Council process improvements to bring to the discussion.

Meeting will resume at 9:00 AM, Friday, October 25.

Friday, October 25, 2024

9:00 am-3:30 pm Mountain Time

Joe R Williams Building, Aspen (East) Conference Room

700 W. State St., Boise, ID

Attendees

Council Members Present

Sara Bennett

Janice Carson

Randi Cole

Jenna Garrett

Deedra Hunt

Jennifer Johnson

Maria Juarez

Rochelle Larsen

Mike MacGuffie

Andrew Mills

Marilu Moreno

Emily Petersen

Danielle Reff - DR

Michael Sandvig

Carly Saxe

Adrienne Seamans

Kevin Swearingen

Edgar Zuniga

Members Absent

Amy Cunningham

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards

Mona Engelbrecht

Christine Pisani

Miguel Juarez

Richelle Tierney

Jill Smith

Presenters

Judy Taylor, Interim Administrator, Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Darrell Quist, Chief of Field Services, Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Dwayne Davis, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Human Resources

Megan Anderson, Attorney for the Department of Health & Welfare, KW v Armstrong Lawsuit

Ritchie Eppink, Attorney for the Class Members, KW v Armstrong Lawsuit

Guests

Laura Morales-Leavitt, Spanish Language Interpreter

Madeline Escobedo, Spanish Language Interpreter

Sasha O'Connell, Deputy Administrator, Division of Medicaid | Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

MINUTES

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda

Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Guests were welcomed and guidelines were reviewed.

Carly Saxe, Vice Chair, reviewed the ground rules for meeting protocol.

Consent Agenda

- a. Draft Meeting Minutes: July 18-19, 2024
- b. Executive Director Report
- c. Chair Report
- d. Vice Chair Report

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, provided a report on her activities for the last quarter.

Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair, provided a report on her activities.

Carly Saxe, Vice Chair, reported on her quarterly activities.

ACTION: Summer Draft Meeting Minutes Correction – Rochelle Larsen was not listed as attending.

- Mike Sandvig moved to accept the amended Summer Meeting minutes.
- Edgar Zuniga seconded.
- Motion passed.

ACTION: Consent Agenda

- Andrew Mills moved to accept the Consent Agenda.
- Danielle "DR" Reff seconded.
- Motion passed.

Presentation: Financial Report, Mona Engelbrecht, Financial Analyst

Mona Engelbrecht presented the financial report from Quarter 4.

ACTION: Financial Report

- I, DR Reff move to approve the financial report as presented.
- Andrew Mills seconded.
- Motion passed.

Presentation: Changes at the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Judy Taylor, Interim Administrator, Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Darrell Quist, Chief of Field Services

Judy Taylor reported on the reason the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) requested an Order of Selection for their services. Order of Selection means VR is allowed to prioritize certain people with disabilities instead of serving all people who qualify for services. Federal law allows VR to make this change which results in creating a wait list for services. If a person had an active plan in place at the time Order of Selection went into effect, their services will continue. 3,625 people had active plans and continued to be served. 636 people are currently on the wait list. The waitlist is broken into three priority categories: Disabled (D); Significantly Disabled (SD); and Most Significantly Disabled (MSD). Disability categories are determined based on three criteria: disability, how a disability or disabilities impact employability, and how long VR services are expected to be needed. Administrator Taylor reported they do not expect to be able to pull anyone off of the waitlist before the start of state fiscal year 2025.

Working Lunch: Member Reports, Janice Carson, Edgar Zuniga, and Maria Juarez

Janice Carson and Randi Cole shared information on the Idaho Competitive Integrated Employment Center (ICIE) and upcoming activities. Edgar Zuniga updated members on his activities over the last few months. Maria Juarez also shared her activities, including serving as a Meeting Leader for the Community NOW! organization and being selected to serve on a national committee with the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

Presentation: Five-Year Plan Survey, Marieke Edwards, Research Analyst

Marieke Edwards reviewed the survey participation by Council members, the purpose of the survey, and proposed timeline.

Presentation: Executive Director Evaluation Process, Dwayne Davis, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Human Resources

Dwayne Davis reported on the Executive Director evaluation process. He will be sending an email to all Council members with a link to the evaluation and the deadline for responses. He is available to assist members with any questions or to help complete the evaluation.

Presentation: KW Lawsuit Update and Special Master, Megan Anderson, Attorney for the Department of Health & Welfare and Ritchie Eppink, Attorney for the Class Members

Ritchie Eppink and Megan Anderson presented information on the KW Lawsuit. Recent updates include the order for a Special Master to be hired to help both parties move forward towards a resolution of the lawsuit. Ritchie shared information about Ruby Moore, who has been selected to be Idaho's Special Master for the lawsuit. A priority for her is to host a virtual meeting to introduce herself, share her plan and answer questions. She is also interested in scheduling a series of community-based conversations to learn from class members in their home communities.

Discussion: Reviewing the Year-End Report, Adrienne Seamans, Chair

Adrienne Seamans offered time for Council members to ask questions about project activities.

Council Meeting Evaluation

Adrienne Seamans, Chair and Carly Saxe, Vice-Chair led this process.

ACTION: Adjourn

Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair, entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

- Andrew Mills moved to adjourn.
- Mike MacGuffie seconded.
- Motion to adjourn passed at 3:02 PM.