

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Spring Quarterly Council Meeting

Thursday, April 24, 2025

8:30 am – 5:00 pm Mountain Time

Joe R. Williams Building, Aspen Conference Room

700 W State St., Boise

Attendees

Council Members Present

Sara Bennett

Eric Brown

Janice Carson

Randi Cole

Amy Cunningham

Jenna Garrett

Jennifer Johnson

Rochelle Larsen

Mike MacGuffie

Andrew Mills

Emily Petersen

Danielle Reff - DR

Melissa Roa

Michael Sandvig

Adrienne Seamans

Kevin Swearingen

Edgar Zuniga

Council Members Absent

Deedra Hunt

Maria Juarez

Marilu Moreno

Carly Saxe

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards

Mona Engelbrecht

Miguel Juarez

Christine Pisani

Richelle Tierney

Presenters

Amanda DeYoung, Idaho START Program Director, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and Maggie Imlay, Clinical Team Leader, Crisis Prevention and Court Services, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

Guests

Julie McConnel, Nampa

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda

Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

Guests were welcomed, guidelines and ground rules were reviewed. Reviewed agenda with request for any changes needed.

Adrienne requested members only offer one motion for the meeting.

Consent Agenda

- a. **Draft Meeting Minutes: January 23-24, 2025 and January 30, 2025**
- b. **Draft Meeting Minutes**
- c. **Executive Director Report**
- d. **Chair Report**

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

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

ACTION: Consent Agenda

- Jenna Garrett moved to accept the proposed consent agenda.
- Mike MacGuffie seconded.
- Motion passed.

Presentation: Financial Report, Mona Engelbrecht, Financial Analyst

Mona Engelbrecht presented the financial report from the second quarter.

ACTION: Financial Report

- Janice Carson moved to approve the Financial Report as presented.

- Kevin Swearingen seconded.
- Motion passed.

Presentation: Future Planning for DD Council – Mona Engelbrecht, Financial Specialist and Christine Pisani, Executive Director

Christine Pisani and Mona Engelbrecht updated the Council about possible federal funding changes of State DD Councils. Christine invited Amy Cunningham, Executive Director, Disability Rights Idaho, and Janice Carson, Center on Disabilities and Human Development to share their perspective on the funding proposals at the federal level and impacts to those organizations. A timeline for proposed funding was presented and plans for the Council should those funds not become available for a number of reasons. The Council has been informed that it should expect the second half of its' 2025 federal award by May 15, 2025.

Working Lunch: Council Member Networking, Council Members

Council Members met with the newly appointed Council Members and completed an activity to strengthen member relationships.

Announcement: Vice-Chair Nomination Process – Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair

Adrienne Seamans announced the Vice-Chair election at the July Council meeting. She reviewed the job description and expectations for the Vice Chair. She reminded members to either nominate a parent or a person with a disability or themselves after asking their permission by June 27, 2025. Nominations should be

sent to Jill Smith. Staff is available to support Council members if needed to get nominations ready for the July Council meeting.

Presentation: October 2025 Council Meeting Dates – Christine Pisani, Executive Director

Christine Pisani shared that the discussion to change the fall meeting date is no longer an issue. No further changes are needed at this time.

Presentation: Membership Update - Christine Pisani, Executive Director

Christine Pisani provided an update on the membership process, numbers of applicants and interviews completed so far.

Presentation: START Update – Amanda DeYoung, Idaho START Program Director and Maggie Imlay, Clinical Team Leader

Amanda DeYoung shared an update on the START program. Amanda shared the history of the START program and the progress made. The University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability developed and oversees state START programs.

The entire Idaho START will be certified by the end of June 2025. The START program is now working in the following counties: Ada, Adams, Blaine, Boise, Canyon, Camas, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Lincoln, Minidoka, Owyhee, Payette, Twin Falls, Valley, and Washington. START services are planned to start in Eastern Idaho in 2027 and North Idaho in 2028-2029.

Amanda shared that the most common reason START is called for support is due to aggressive behavior. There are currently 20 people enrolled ages 15-44. Idaho will provide phone-based coverage for referrals outside of the 8-5 business hours starting in June. The impact of proposed managed care changes on START services in Idaho is unknown.

Presentation: 2025 Legislative Report, Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst

Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst, gave an update on the 2025 legislative session and the Council's policy priority areas. The direct care workforce crisis priority area was addressed with activities around Fred Riggers Disability Awareness Day and several Medicaid related bills. ABLE account legislation passed. The State Independent Living Council will lead state-wide education meetings to help

people understand the changes to ABLE accounts for Idahoans. Meeting dates and times will be shared as they become available.

The proposed guardianship statute was introduced in committee this year, but did not move forward due to the banking association having questions and not providing support until they had time to review the legislation. It is expected that this legislation will be presented in the 2026 session. Amy Cunningham, Executive Director of Disability Rights Idaho expects this piece of legislation to pass during the 2026 session.

Two bills were presented on the School Choice issue that failed but a third bill passed. General funds were approved for a tax credit. This will likely impact public schools due to the general fund being decreased, and students with disabilities.

The Council directed staff to keep track of bills falling into these general areas: appropriations, education, Medicaid and general government. Council staff gave testimony in support of one bill, presented opposition to one bill and gave written testimony opposing one bill.

Staff identified federal issues the Council has been monitoring. Staff coordinated meetings with Congressional delegates on Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and collected over 220 signatures with statewide representation to deliver to Congressman Simpson's office asking for his protection of federal Medicaid funding. The House budget workgroup is expected to complete their work by May 9th with a vote by Memorial Day. The budget will then go to the Senate.

Richelle discussed the role of the Council and when and how Council members may advocate with their local, state and federal representatives. This does not preclude their ability to advocate as private citizens.

Presentation: Five-Year Plan Survey and Public Forum Update – Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst

Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst, updated the Council on current survey participation and the five-year plan. The Council is collecting information to be used to create the next five-year plan. Details were shared regarding the schedule for the public forums to be held in May and June. A brief review of the August forum schedule was provided. Council Members were asked to complete

the online survey if they have not done so. The Council requested data on the last five-year planning process to help them compare to this cycle.

Meeting will resume at 8:30 AM, Friday, April 25.

Friday, April 25, 2025

8:30 am - 2:30 pm Mountain Time

Joe R Williams Building, Aspen Conference Room

700 W. State St., Boise, ID

Attendees

Council Members Present

Sara Bennett

Eric Brown

Janice Carson

Randi Cole

Amy Cunningham

Jenna Garrett

Maria Juarez

Jennifer Johnson

Rochelle Larsen

Mike MacGuffie

Andrew Mills

Emily Petersen

Danielle Reff – DR

Melissa Roa

Michael Sandvig

Adrienne Seamans

Kevin Swearingen

Edgar Zuniga

Members Absent

Deedra Hunt

Marilu Moreno

Carly Saxe

Staff Present

Marieke Edwards

Mona Engelbrecht

Christine Pisani

Miguel Juarez

Richelle Tierney

Presenters

Erin Prangley, Policy Director, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Ruby Moore, Special Master, KW vs Armstrong Lawsuit

Guests

Julie McConnel, Nampa

Madeline Escobedo, Spanish Language Interpreter

Criselda Cuevas, Spanish Language Interpreter

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda

Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM.

Guests were welcomed. Guidelines and ground rules were reviewed.

Discussion and Questions: Follow-up from Thursday's Future Planning – Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair

Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair, provided asked if Council Members had any questions or comments from Thursday's discussion of the Council future financial planning. There were no questions or comments. Time allowed for additional updates and Member Reports.

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, provided information on the Sunflower Project, an effort to help people with hidden disabilities discreetly signal they may need additional assistance or understanding during their travels. They can do this by choosing to wearing a small sunflower pin or wearing a lanyard with a sunflower on it. The Council provided lanyards to members who wanted them. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is involved with this project to support hidden disability awareness.

Christine also provided a sign on letter from the Consortium of Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) about proposed cuts to Medicaid and read this letter to the Council. The Council discussed how this letter will be shared using social media and email. The Idaho Council has signed onto this letter.

Amy Cunningham, Executive Director of Disability Rights Idaho (DRI) provided her Member Report. DRI is working on polling place monitors for accessibility. They are using existing grant funding and transition fairs to provide information. DRI is also involved with monitoring two youth mental health facilities: Cottonwood Creek Behavioral Hospital in Meridian the Payette Assessment and Care Center (PAC.) Amy will also monitor the proposed guardianship statute changes.

Sara Bennett provided a Member Report. Sara updated the Council on her activities with the Ad Hoc Membership Committee as well as family and community updates.

Danielle 'DR' Reff provided her Member Report. DR is currently serving on the Ad Hoc By-Law Committee. She is also part of the Ada County Highway District Advisory Committee and provides input on accessibility issues. She attended the

Unite to Protect Medicaid event as well as a recent listening session at the Boise Public Library on expansion of library services.

Presentation: Update on KW vs. Armstrong Lawsuit – Ruby Moore, Special Master

Ruby Moore, Special Master, gave an update on the KW vs Armstrong Lawsuit. Idaho needs to choose a new assessment tool. Work is happening to choose which assessment is best to meet Idaho's needs and meets the expectations that Community NOW! identified.

Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) is the contractor working with the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) to help figure out the assessment process. HSRI has a lot of experience with assessment tools and how state programs use them. DHW, the Americans with Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other stakeholders are working on a way to measure how well available tools meet Idaho's needs.

The Council is working with DHW and other stakeholders to determine the best way to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members to help select an assessment tool. Ms. Moore has submitted her first report to the court. This report provides the judge overseeing the case with details of what is causing difficulties in the selection of an assessment.

Ms. Moore plans to bring updates to Community NOW! as much as possible.

Presentation: Federal Proposals to Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Erin Prangley, Policy Director, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)

Erin Prangley, NACDD Policy Director, shared the proposed funding cuts at the federal level with Medicaid and SNAP funding. At this time, both programs are targeted for severe budget cuts. A budget review process called "reconciliation" is being used to quickly move the budget forward using a simple majority vote rather than the regular budget approval of process of requiring a sixty percent (60%) approval to pass. This is not the usual way to approve budgets.

Because there is a proposal to cut Medicaid by up to \$880 billion over the next ten (10) years, there are concerns about how this could impact home and community-based services (HCBS), direct support, service providers, rural health clinics, and other Medicaid funded services. HCBS waivers are optional services

and may be the first to be cut. Also being considered are changes to eligibility and adding work requirements.

Congress and the President meet the first week in May to set budgets. On May 5th, SNAP will have a congressional hearing. On May 7th, there will be a congressional hearing on Medicaid. The National Association of Council on Developmental Disabilities is encouraging all concerned people to reach out to their congressional representatives to encourage keeping Medicaid at or above the current budget level. Joining coalitions working to protect Medicaid is also a way citizens can get involved.

Presentation: Proposed Elimination of the U.S. Department of Education / Moving I.D.E.A. to Health and Human Services – Erin Prangley, Policy Director, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Ms. Prangley shared updates on proposed changes to the Department of Education and Health and Human Services. Congress has not provided direction on the elimination of the Department of Education. Proposed changes are happening with the Office of the President. The Administration has recommended combining Special Education programs with other disability programs. I.D.E.A. will move out of the Department of Education and possibly move to Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families. The concern is that resulting segregation of programs could result in isolation and lack of services. This change cannot be implemented without Congressional consent.

Ms. Prangley recommended that concerned citizens advocate at their local school boards and the Governor, and state education liaison.

Announcement: Member Appreciation for Emily Petersen – Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair

Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair, presented Emily Petersen with a certificate of appreciation from the Governor's office for her nine years of service as a Council member. Emily served for six years serving in one of the parent positions and also

served as the Council Chair. Her final term was as a representative of LINC, serving in the non-profit position for the Council.

Working Lunch: Member Reports – Amy Cunningham, DR Reff, Jenna Garrett and Sara Bennett

Jenna Garrett provided an update on her activities. Jenna participated in Charting the LifeCourse Ambassador training last fall and shared that it was a wonderful experience. Starting in March, she participated with the first nationwide Spanish Ambassador course as a student and mentor to new participants. She feels fortunate to be going through a second time; learning more and building relationships. She attended the Tools 4 Life parent track training which was focused on Charting the LifeCourse and Supported Decision Making. She is also building local community connections by holding monthly, informal gatherings of parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As a volunteer with Enabling Explorers, the group hosted a Fall Festival to engage more families who have children with disabilities with this program. The program is funded through the Gritman Hospital Foundation. Jenna is part of the planning of the 2025 Council public forums in her region.

Presentation: Planning and Reporting Overview – Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst

Marieke Edwards, Senior Research Analyst, updated the Council on the planning and reporting process based upon what we know today. The goals and objectives will remain the same throughout the five-year period. The Council is finishing year 4 of our current five-year plan. We are preparing to enter year 5 in October 2025. Normal planning is two years in advance; planning the first year activities and drafting the second year activities. When a Council is in year 4, the planning is for Year 5 only as the next 5-year plan has not been created or approved.

The timeline of reporting was reviewed and included: Draft Annual Work Plan, Final Annual Work Plan, Program Performance Report. It is important for Council

Members to understand the work that has been completed in the prior year to create the next meaningful plan of action.

Update: Hands Around the Capitol Event – Christine Pisani, Executive Director

Christine Pisani, Executive Director, provided information available about the Hands Around the Capitol advocacy event coming up on July 25th. This is the celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the signing of the American with Disabilities Act.

Presentation: Review Questions on Quarterly Progress Reports – Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair

Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair, invited members to ask questions about project work included in the quarterly report.

There were no questions about the Quarterly Progress Report.

Council Meeting Evaluation

Adrienne Seamans, Council Chair asked Council members to share their experiences during this meeting as an evaluation of this meeting. Members shared their appreciation for efforts to streamline the meeting and follow the agenda. Although members felt the content of the first day of the meeting was worrisome and heavy, they appreciated the effort made to be transparent about funding and contingency planning. A paper survey was distributed to offer an additional way for members to share their feedback and suggestions for improvements.

ACTION Adjourn

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

- DR Reff moved to adjourn.
- Andrew Mills seconded.
- Motion to adjourn passed at 1:51 PM.