



2021 Legislative Policy Prioritization Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 from 11:30 am – 3:30pm (MST)

Please register in advance for this meeting by clicking this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZErceCvpjosEtEw0AnbyJ0MfYBlk9AY1mlq>

An individualized link will come to you in your email for signing in the day of the meeting.

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| 11:30 am | Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review/Changes – Emily Petersen, Council Chair |
| 11:35 am | Review Ground Rules - Danielle “DR” Reff, Council Vice-Chair |
| 11:40 am | Review How the Council Sets Legislative Priorities - Christine Pisani, Executive Director |
| 12:00 pm | Matt Wimmer, Administrator, Division of Medicaid – Proposed Medicaid Cuts: Question & Answer |
| 12:30 pm | Break |
| 12:35 pm | Hillarie Hagen, Close the Gap - Proposed Medicaid Cuts: Question & Answer |
| 1:05 pm | Break |
| 1:20 pm | Cathy Libby, Deputy Administrator, Division of Medicaid & Karen Westbrook, Policy Analyst, Division of Medicaid – Staffing Shortages Due to COVID-19: Question & Answer |
| 1:50 pm | Break |
| 1:55 pm | TeRonda Robinson, Member of the Idaho Association of Community Providers – Staffing Shortages Due to COVID-19: Question & Answer |
| 2:25 pm | Break |
| 2:30 pm | ACTION ITEM: Council Determines Policy Priorities for 2021 Legislative Session – Christine Pisani, Executive Director |
| 3:00 pm | Legislative Session Homework – Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst |
| 3:30 pm | Adjourn |

***Items in teal are considered “ACTION ITEMS” that may require a decision or a vote by membership.**

This agenda is subject to change in accordance with the provisions of the Idaho Open Meeting Law. Items may be addressed in a different order than appears on this agenda. Individual items may be moved from one place on the agenda to another by the Council. Time frames designated on this agenda are approximate only. The Council will continue its business if an agenda item is resolved in less than the allotted time.

Meeting Ground Rules

- Find a quiet a space without background noise.
- Use the “speaker view” if it is too overwhelming to see all of the people in the video boxes
- Mute your microphone not speaking.
- When you speak, state your name each time. This helps others know who is speaking.
- Do not interrupt others when they are speaking.
- Use the raise hand function when possible to speak.
- Use Zoom’s chat feature to ask questions or make comments. We will have someone monitoring the chat during the entire meeting.



Meeting Ground Rules

- Everyone participates
- Listen - seek to understand
- Be open to new ideas
- Be issues / solutions oriented
- Be honest and respectful
- Be prepared; do your homework
- No interruptions, side conversations, personal attacks
- Turn off cell phones; no texting (unless needed for meeting supports or understanding)
- Honor time limits
- Do not speak too long or too often



Legislative Action Recommendations: Setting Priorities for the 2021 Legislative Session

Background Information:

Council members will receive further information about possible issues for the Council to work on during the 2021 legislative session. The full Council will discuss all issues and prioritize them to create legislative action recommendations. Video presentations have been emailed to you about the following topics by individuals well informed on the policy issues. Links to these videos are also included below.

Issues:

- 1. Proposed Medicaid Budget Cuts** – Matt Wimmer, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZTJ9ntVeU> and Hillarie Hagen, Idaho Voices for Children <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqpsvMWuol0>
- 2. Direct Care Workforce Shortages** – Lydia Dawson, Idaho Association of Community Providers <https://youtu.be/bEobR3kuGhU> and Cathy Libby, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare <https://youtu.be/ZJOBKHixx8>

How the Council Sets Priorities for Legislative Issues

The Council has three levels of involvement in legislative issues.

Priority One -- Leading the Way:

ICDD will actively promote, oppose, influence, and advocate for programs and policies that impact people with developmental disabilities and their families.

ICDD will take a leadership role on these activities, and will use these ways to do so:

- Educating Policymakers
- Grassroots advocacy
- Working with others
- Media
- Other activities, as needed
 - Past example: Criminal History Background Checks for Guardians and Conservators Legislation – Council drafted legislation to require prospective guardians and conservators to undergo a criminal history background check. We worked with legislative services to create the bill and a sponsor Legislator to carry the legislation. Staff created



plain language fact sheets and promoted the issue with stakeholders, associations, and partners. Staff and Council members met with legislators about the issue and then staff testified in support of the bill during hearings (the bill passed and became law in 2013).

Priority Two -- Lending Support:

ICDD will work closely with people with developmental disabilities, parents, disability partners, coalitions, and others to promote legislation that is helpful -- and will work against harmful legislation to -- individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. ICDD may choose to lead on some issues, or may follow the lead of others, but in general will use these ways to do so:

- Active Coalition Participation (i.e., serving on committees, signing on to coalition efforts, forwarding coalition information)
- Watch Legislation
- Communicating with Council Members
- Communicating with Policymakers
- Communicating through social media and website
- Action Alerts
 - Past Example: Sign Language Interpreter Licensing – Council members heard a presentation from the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (the sponsor) about their legislation. Staff drafted plain language versions of fact sheets and informed Council members who met with legislators about the issue. Staff presented testimony in support of the bill for both germane committee hearings. (bill passed and became law in 2017).

Priority Three -- Keeping Track:

ICDD will closely watch legislation and have a voice on issues of interest to the disability community. ICDD will watch legislation, answer questions to the Council, and provide clear information and recommendations.

- Past Example: Futile Care Legislation – in 2013 the Idaho Medical Association introduced legislation to change the definition of “futile care” in Idaho code. The ICDD Public Policy Committee was informed about the issue and recommended monitoring the legislation. Staff tracked the bill’s status during the session and informed members and stakeholders through ICDD legislative updates.



AIDD Guidance on Informing Policymakers

Under the Developmental Disabilities Act (DD Act) Councils have a responsibility to inform, educate or advise policymakers, however, there are **restrictions on the use of grant funds** to influence the enactment of legislation and related activities. This is noted in Section 503 of Public Law 106-554, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 - <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-106publ554/pdf/PLAW-106publ554.pdf> which says:

SEC. 503. (a) No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used, other than for normal and recognized executive legislative relationships, for publicity or propaganda purposes, for the preparation, distribution, or use of any kit, pamphlet, booklet, publication, radio, television, or video presentation designed to support or defeat legislation pending before the Congress or any State legislature, except in presentation to the Congress or any State legislature itself.

(b) No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used to pay the salary or expenses of any grant or contract recipient, or agent acting for such recipient, related to any activity designed to influence legislation or appropriations pending before the Congress or any State legislature.

The Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) believes that grantees (Councils: members, staff, and their project grantees/contractors) will be able to meet their responsibility to inform, educate or advise policymakers under the DD Act and avoid violating the applicable limitations on lobbying by emphasizing a **nonpartisan analysis, study and research**.

Turn page over for action items.



Present Facts in a Full and Fair Way

Grantees are free to advocate a position or viewpoint as long as there is a full and fair sharing of the facts that help the policymaker to come to their own decision. This means that the grantee would **only present an opinion that is supported by facts**. Councils should not provide distorted facts (*partial facts or only those that support your opinion*), inflammatory and disparaging terms (*saying negative things about other options or opinions that do not align with yours*), or conclusions based more on strong emotional feelings than on facts.

Share Information from All Sides of an Issue

Grantees advising legislators and others about legislation should do this in a balanced way, discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the legislation and comparing it to other proposals that may also be under consideration. *The Council should be informed of different possible ways to address an issue and share the good and bad of different solutions compared to the one we support and/or give the policymaker contact information for someone who has that information.*

Share Desired Outcome but Be Willing to Consider Different Solutions for Meeting Needs

A nonpartisan approach does not mean that a grantee must be neutral about outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities. But grantees must present an **unbiased attitude when considering alternatives** for meeting the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

We should not be only willing to support our own solution, but be willing to think about other possibilities to solving a problem.

Be a Source of Information

Grantees should emphasize their role as a **source of information and advice** in helping legislators and other policymakers to identify and evaluate the available alternatives for meeting the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. *Share that the Council is available to help policymakers identify and evaluate different solutions for meeting the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.*



Legislative Homework

Background Information:

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities works on systems change activities which includes educating elected officials about current and future legislation.

Purpose

Every year each Council members are expected to make appointments with the elected officials in their legislative district and have meetings with their legislators. The exception to this expectation is with our agency representatives, who are typically unable to represent the Council with legislators. To prepare Council members for these visits, materials are presented in a Council meeting to help everyone feel at ease during these visits.

What do we do with the information?

It is important to

- be prepared,
- understand the material being presented and
- be professional when meeting with elected officials as a Council representative.

To be prepared, complete the homework and practice your elevator speech.

Recommended Action:

Follow along as assignments are presented and ask questions.

Notes:



Preparing for Legislative Visits

This year our legislative visits will be done differently than in years past. Due to our Council meeting virtually, the uncertainty of the 2021 legislative session, and COVID-19 protocols we will not be visiting with legislatures at the Capitol or attending committee hearings as a Council meeting activity.

We are asking you to prepare for meeting with your legislators virtually. Please review the assignments in the packet to help you prepare.

ASSIGNMENT #1 – Set up a free Zoom Account:

Please complete this homework by **Monday, January 4, 2021.**

1. Please visit <https://zoom.us/signup> and follow the prompts to set up your free Zoom account.
2. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Trisha.

ASSIGNMENT #2 – Prepare Your Quick, 3-Min About-the-Council Speech:

Please complete this homework by **Monday, January 11, 2021.**

1. Go through the steps on the “Quick, 3-Min About the Council Speech” handout.
2. Answer the questions listed on the form.
3. Write out a script for your short speech.
4. Practice saying your script aloud.

INCLUDED INFORMATION TO HELP YOU COMPLETE THE ASSIGNMENT:

- Quick, 3-Min Council Speech handout

****WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS INFORMATION WHEN I HAVE COMPLETED IT?*****

Keep your script handy and practice it with family, friends, and people in your community. Be ready to use your script when talking to legislators.

ASSIGNMENT #3 – Make Appointment with Legislators:

Please complete this homework before **Friday, January 15, 2021.**

- Contact your three (3) legislators (one Senator and two Representatives) to set appointments to meet with them via phone or zoom.
- Schedule your meeting for the week of January 18-22, 2021.
- Contact Trisha to let her know what day/time your appointments are scheduled.



INCLUDED INFORMATION TO HELP YOU COMPLETE ASSIGNMENT #3:

- Script handout of how to contact your legislator and what to say. This handout includes a link to the Idaho legislature website with legislator contact information. Information provided at the Council meeting will also help you.

Assignment #2 – Due Monday, January 11, 2021

Quick, 3-Minute “About the Council” Speech

Four Easy Steps to Promote Our Organization

One sign of a well-run organization is that board members, staff, and volunteers consistently and personally promote the organization throughout the community. In part, this is accomplished by dozens of informal conversations (quick, 3-min speeches) that are delivered by people involved with the organization and help build awareness of the organization's value.

The outline below describes each of the four steps in the process and provides some optional statements that can be used to construct an elevator speech. Of course, you can customize these statements or add others with which you are more comfortable. We encourage you to develop your own speech and build it into everyday conversations with family, friends, community leaders, and business colleagues.

Step 1: OPENER - Starts the conversation/states the need

1. Have I mentioned that I'm a member of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities?
2. Are you familiar with the DD Council?
3. Did you realize that there are approximately 26,000 people with developmental disabilities in our state? (Review “What are Developmental Disabilities?” on the last page in case you are asked.)

Step 2: MISSION - Explain what the organization does/how it serves the "need"

1. The mission of the Idaho DD Council is to “promote the capacity of people with developmental disabilities and their families to determine access to, and direct the services and supports they need to live the lives they choose, and to build the community’s ability to support their choice.”



2. We focus on addressing the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, systems change, and capacity building in multiple ways across a variety of projects.
3. We embarked on a 5-Year Plan that started in October 2016 where we are focusing our efforts on helping to improve the home and community-based service system by improving quality assurance measures, using a process called “Person-Centered Planning” to help people with developmental disabilities achieve their dreams, work towards better quality service system to serve individuals with both a mental health diagnoses and a developmental disability diagnosis, work on helping youth with disabilities transition out of high school and into colleges and/or careers of their choosing and work to develop a statewide policy coalition who will be informed members of the public that will be working on systems change in their home communities and statewide.

Step 3: YOUR PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT - Links you to the organization

1. I've been involved with the DD Council since _____ (year)
2. I enjoy being a part of the Council because.....
3. I am proud of our work because.....
4. I am especially excited about our recent project/accomplishments.....
5. I first got involved with the Council when/because.....

Step 4: LEARN MORE - How can the listener learn more about the organization?

1. We have a web site www.icdd.idaho.gov where you can learn more about our projects and programs.
2. If you'd be interested in learning more about the DD Council I'd be happy to tell you more about our achievements/accomplishments.
3. This is my business card; please contact me if you ever have any questions.
4. Could I drop off a written brochure to you - or send you one in the mail?
5. We are always looking for volunteers to help us with.....
6. Would you be interested in learning more about the DD Council?
7. If you are interested in becoming a Council member, please visit our website for an application and more information.



Facts about the Council:

- The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities was established in federal law in 1971 and in state law in 1978 and is a leader in developing new ways to empower individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to lead independent lives.
- The Council is a leader in our multiple initiatives to develop and support leadership from individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and families statewide since 1997.
- The Council has successfully demonstrated new ideas, policies and practices that encourage communities to include and support all citizens.
- The Council uses its unique position to bring together people with different perspectives, experiences, and knowledge in meaningful partnerships to solve complex issues across systems and programs.
- The Council is made up of 23 volunteer members from across the state and 60% of those members are adults with developmental disabilities or family members.

From NACDD booklet:

- We promote progress among people with developmental disabilities and their families and the community partners who serve them.
- Councils on developmental disabilities have been helping people lead fuller lives by becoming independent, productive and integrated members of the community.
- Our decades of knowledge and experience solving complex issues have made us an invaluable resource to people with developmental disabilities and their families.
- We understand their challenges and their hopes, and how to navigate the complicated network of agencies, community organizations and institutions to effectively address their needs.
- From funding innovative grassroots groups to building powerful statewide coalitions needed to tackle large issues, we play a central role in improving the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities across Idaho.



What are Developmental Disabilities?

The Federal Definition of a developmental disability is as follows:

Developmental disabilities (DD) are severe, chronic disabilities because of mental and/or physical impairment that are present before the age of 22 and are likely to continue throughout life. They result in substantial limitations in three or more areas: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living and economic self-sufficiency, as well as the continuous need for individually planned and coordinated services. Nearly 4.5 million Americans live with developmental disabilities.

☛ *All Council members and staff are encouraged to develop a brief speech they are comfortable delivering throughout the community.*

Assignment #3 – Due by Friday, January 15, 2021

Making an Appointment with Your Legislator

Contact your legislator to make an appointment to meet with them the week of January 18-22, 2021.

When making your appointment include who you are and what you would like to talk to them about. You can choose either one or both issues.

- Proposed Medicaid Budget Cuts
- Direct Care Workforce Shortages

What you might say on the phone or write in an email:

Dear Senator (or Representative) _____,

My name is _____. I am a parent/self-advocate/other, and I live in _____ (city/town). I am very concerned about/would like to talk to you about _____ (topic/topics you choose).

I would like to set up a zoom meeting or phone call with you during the week of January 18-22. Would you have some time to talk with me?

Thank you and I look forward to meeting with you on _____.

**You should call or email your legislator the day before your meeting to remind them of the appointment and make sure of the time and if they have the zoom meeting link.*