

## **APPROVED Meeting Minutes**

### **Fall Quarterly Council Meeting**

**Thursday, October 26, 2023**

**9:00 am – 4:00 pm Mountain Time**

**Joe R. Williams, 700 W State St., East Conference Room  
Boise 83702**

### **Attendees**

#### **Council Members Present**

Sara Bennett

Janice Carson

Amy Cunningham

Jennifer Johnson

Maria Juarez

Rochelle Larsen

Mike MacGuffie

Marilu Moreno

Natali Pellens

Danielle Reff – DR

Michael Sandvig

Adrienne Seamans

Stephanie Walters

Nicholas Wyatt

Edgar Zuniga

#### **Council Members Absent**

Michael Case

Jenna Garrett

Deedra Hunt

Andrew Mills

Emily Petersen

Carly Saxe

Randi Cole

#### **Staff Present**

Marieke Edwards

Miguel Juarez

Christine Pisani

Richelle Tierney

Jill Smith

## Presenters

Hillarie Hagen, Idaho Voices for Children

Chad Cardwell, Deputy Division Administration, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Family and Community Services

Stephanie Perry, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Family and Community Services

## Guests

Nina Spiro, Spanish Language Interpreter

Alma Lopez, Spanish Language Interpreter

Amanda Morales, Program Manager, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Bureau of Developmental Disability Services

Ayla Birch, Idaho Voices for Children

## Minutes

### **Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda**

Danielle “DR” Reff, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.

Guests were welcomed and guidelines were reviewed.

Marilu Moreno, Vice Chair, reviewed the ground rules for meeting protocol.

### **Presentation: Review of Legislative Priority Issues, Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst**

Richelle Tierney presented an overview about policy issues to be presented today. Richelle reviewed how the Council determines priority levels.

### **Presentation: Medical Policy Agenda, Hillarie Hagen from Idaho Voices for Children**

Hillarie presented priority areas for Idaho Voices for Children. These include:

- Implementation of maternal and infant health legislation to increase access to children and pregnant/post-partum people. The goal would be to expand coverage to 12 months of coverage vs. 60 days. This would also intend to increase the federal poverty level to up to 50k for a family of four.

- Request the Maternal Mortality Review Committee be reinstated through legislation in some form. Hillarie shared that if reinstated, the oversight may look different than the previous model. Idaho Voices for Children is advocating for the importance of data collection.
- Monitoring efforts to contain Medicaid costs, particularly about the Expansion population. There are several ways this is being approached and other states are seeing similar efforts.

Hillarie also shared information about a recent statewide poll they did of 700 registered voters. She shared that the responses were supportive of a strong Medicaid program. Overall, those polled did not support cutting Medicaid services or reducing services because it would have negative consequences. She shared that Idaho Kids Covered will be hosting webinars before the legislative session so people can learn about these issues.

### **Presentation: Review of Direct Care Workforce Shortage, Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst**

Richelle shared Our Care Can't Wait Taskforce activities with Council members. She explained who the membership is and helped Council members understand the different workgroups. The focus of Our Care Can't Wait is the implementation of the Office of Performance Evaluation recommendations to create a sustainable direct care workforce in Home and Community Based Services (HCBS.) An important goal is to help Legislators understand what HCBS includes and how they are used across the state. Priority areas of this work includes:

- Advocating for competitive wages to stabilize a sustainable workforce.
- Helping the development of training to support a career ladder.
- Supporting an increase in staffing within the Division of Medicaid to develop strategies to address the workforce crisis.

There are several advocacy events scheduled to raise awareness starting November 8-9 and over the next several months.

### **Working Lunch: Council Member Networking**

#### **Presentation: Review of START Model Update and Funding Request, Chad Cardwell, Deputy Division Administrator – Division of Family and Community Services and Stephanie Perry, Division of Family and Community Services**

Chad and Stephanie shared the progress towards the START Model implementation. Chad reviewed that the demand for crisis intervention services is growing. To help Council members better understand Idaho trends, Christine will be sharing the START Data Report after the meeting.

Stephanie reviewed the different Phases of the START Program Development. Idaho is nearing the hiring process for START team members and that will be followed by the apprenticeship training model. It is estimated that referrals into the program could start approximately 9-12 months from now. The referral process will be under development soon.

#### **Presentation: Review of 2023 Legislative Next Steps and Council Member Prep Homework, Richelle Tierney, Policy Analyst**

Richelle reviewed how Council members can start preparing for meetings with Legislators. She went over materials members received to help them develop their personal story. Before members voted on priority levels, it was decided that the Idaho Voices for Children priorities should be prioritized one at a time.

**ACTION: Setting Council policy priorities - Idaho Voices for Children priorities. First priority: Implementation of maternal and infant health legislation to increase access to children and pregnant/post-partum people. The goal would be to expand coverage to 12 months of coverage vs. 60 days. This would also intend to increase the federal poverty level to up to 50k for a family of four.**

- Jen Johnson moved that this issue should receive a Priority 2 level.
- Stephanie Walters seconded.
- Motion passed.

**ACTION: Setting Council policy priorities - Idaho Voices for Children priorities. Second priority: Maternal Mortality Review Committee be reinstated in some form.**

- Amy Cunningham moved that the Maternal Mortality Review Committee reinstatement should receive a Priority 3.
- Mike MacGuffie seconded.
- Motion passed.

**ACTION: Setting Council policy priorities - Idaho Voices for Children priorities. Third priority: Work to oppose legislation designed to reduce participation in the Medicaid Expansion program.**

- Jen Johnson moved that opposing legislation that makes it more difficult to access Medicaid Expansion be at a Priority 2 level.
- Adrienne Seamans seconded.
- Motion passed.

**ACTION: Setting Council policy priorities - Our Care Can't Wait Taskforce advocating for Medicaid's staffing request and education on strategies to address the Office of Performance Evaluation (OPE) Recommendations regarding the Direct Support Workforce Shortage**

- Nick Wyatt moved to table this issue until more information is available regarding how the staffing request will address the OPE recommendations.
- Mike MacGuffie seconded.
- Motion passed.

**ACTION: Setting Council policy priorities - START Model funding request**

- Michael Sandvig moved we make supporting the START Model funding a Priority 2.
- Nick Wyatt seconded.
- Motion passed. Two abstentions.

Meeting will resume at 9:00 AM, Friday, October 27.

**Friday, October 27, 2023**

**9:00 am-3:30 pm Mountain Time**

**Joe R Williams Building, East Conference Room**

**700 W. State St., Boise, ID**

**Attendees**

**Council Members Present**

Sara Bennett

Janice Carson

Amy Cunningham

Jennifer Johnson

Maria Juarez

Rochelle Larsen

Mike MacGuffie

Marilu Moreno

Natali Pellens

Emily Petersen

Danielle Reff - DR

Michael Sandvig

Adrienne Seamans

Stephanie Walters

Nicholas Wyatt

Edgar Zuniga

**Members Absent**

Michael Case

Andrew Mills

Jenna Garrett

Deedra Hunt

Carly Saxe

Randi Cole

**Staff Present**

Marieke Edwards

Christine Pisani

Miguel Juarez

Richelle Tierney

Jill Smith

**Presenters**

Dr. Lisa Bostaph and Dr. Laura King, Boise State University

Dwayne Davis, Human Resources, Department of Health & Welfare

Beth Kessler, Contractor, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Charting the LifeCourse Nexus Training and Technical Assistance Center (by video)

## Guests

Alma Lopez, Spanish Language Interpreter

Nina Spiro, Spanish Language Interpreter

Amanda Morales, Program Manager, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare,  
Bureau of Developmental Disability Services

Brooke Berry, Social work student interested in disability advocacy

## Minutes

### Welcome, Introductions, Ground Rules, and Perfection of Agenda

Danielle “DR” Reff, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

Guests were welcomed and guidelines were reviewed.

Marilu Moreno, Vice Chair, reviewed the ground rules for meeting protocol.

### Consent Agenda

- a. **Draft Meeting Minutes: July 20-21, 2023**
- b. **Executive Director Report**
- c. **Chair Report**
- d. **Vice Chair Report**

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

Danielle “DR” Reff, Council Chair, provided a report on her activities.

Marilu Moreno, Vice Chair, reported on her quarterly activities.

An error in the July Council Meeting Draft Minutes regarding one of the By-Law changes was identified and corrected.

### **ACTION: Consent Agenda**

- Mike Sandvig moved to accept the proposed amended consent agenda including the draft meeting minutes as corrected.
- Mike MacGuffie seconded.
- Motion passed.

**Presentation: Prevalence of Disabilities in Idaho, Dr. Lisa Bostaph and Dr. Laura King, Boise State University**

Dr. King shared results from the Victims with Disabilities: Idaho Service Provider Survey commissioned by the Council. A survey was sent out by email in April of 2023. They received 139 complete or partially complete surveys from disability community members. Most of these represented disability advocacy or domestic violence service providers.

Dr. Lisa Bostaph presented on the prevalence of people with disabilities. Dr. Bostaph helped Council members understand how the data helps define what is happening in Idaho. However, there are problems with the data as well. The different types of disabilities identified in the research tends to be limited so may not fully represent the level of detail we would like to have.

**Presentation: Financial Report, Marieke Edwards, Research Analyst**

Marieke Edwards presented the quarter four financial report.

**ACTION: Financial Report**

- Adrienne Seamans moved to approve the Financial Report as presented.
- Jen Johnson seconded.
- Motion passed.



**Working Lunch: Member Reports**

Maria Juarez, Marilu Moreno and Edgar Zuniga shared their experiences during the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities annual conference this summer.

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

Dwayne shared how Council members will receive the Executive Director evaluation and how their input can be submitted.

**Presentation: University of Missouri – Kansas City, Charting the LifeCourse Nexus Subgrantee – Beth Kessler, Contractor and Jill Smith, Program Specialist**

Jill coordinated the end of year contractor report provided by video from Beth Kessler, Contractor for our subgrantee.

**Presentation: Year-End Progress Report – Marieke Edwards, Research Analyst**

Marieke Edwards and all staff presented an overview of staff project activities for Fiscal Year quarter four.

**Council Meeting Evaluation**

Marieke Edwards, Research Analyst, provided the Council Meeting evaluation to members.

**ACTION Adjourn**

Danielle “DR” Reff, Council Chair, ended the meeting for lack of a quorum at 3:55 PM.