

# Family Support Council Meeting Minutes

Friday & Saturday December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 6:00PM-8:00PM CST, and 8:30AM-Noon

**Present Virtually:** Ruth Conway, Haley Coss, Julie Flowers, Krista Johnson, Brittany Norin, Peggy Waltner, Melissa Rickett, Toni Feist, Carolee Little, Valerie Husby

Absent: Lindsey Hansen (present Saturday), Joshua Jones, Jennifer Walker, Janet Whiting, Tina Two Crow-Slow Bear

**DHS Staff:** Carrie Geppert (Family Support Waiver Manager)

**Guests:** Friday: Betsy Drew (SD Parent Connection), Megan Snyder (Quality Manager for DD), Rikki Ulmer (A&M) Erin Leveton (A&M), Theresa Marzahn Saturday: Ben Keschner (A & M)

## 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Krista called the meeting to order at 6:02pm CT.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

Haley made a motion to approve the agenda and Peggy seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote.

## 3. Approval of Minutes

Ruth made a motion to approve the minutes and Haley seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote.

## 4. Opening Round

Introductions were made by State staff and the Council members.

## 5. DDD Leadership Introduction – Carrie Gebbert

## 6. Transition Planning – SD Parent Connection

Betsy Drew – Update on what Parent Connection offers and “Transition Services” trainings.

- Listening to parents to see what caregivers need.
- HS IEP Meeting transitions discussed but parents aren't always prepared.
- Parents don't know what services are offered. Teachers offered a training/support. Parents are not aware of Vocational Rehab (VR)
- Even if a student has a job, they should still explore VR.
- 18-21 Program vs. Diploma

- Parents need to know the difference between accommodation and modification. Diploma and Certificate of Completion.

Worked with SF School District – training for a parent/youth pair.

- 6 two-hour session (about 13 families participated)
- Parent becomes “guide on the side”
  - o Self advocate and self determination.
  - o Find your voice
  - o Tools to plan for future and navigate agencies/supports.
- Data collected via an Inventory (parent and student both)

Betsy can send resources to people if they contact her directly. Ask to visit with her.

- o Program Developed – maybe could be used via zoom

## 7. **DDD – Updates**

- \* New format for us to view these reports (thanks to A & M)
  - o Improved reporting via voicemail has helped with accuracy.
  - o Explanation of what is required to be reported by law
  - o New Rule/Definitions of Critical Incidents
    - Computer Based data tracking
    - Solid timeframes
    - Good Oversight
- Grievances and Appeals
  - o ICAP Adjusted yearly – 2 appeals related to loss of eligibility.
- SMART Data – Megan (Quality Manager)
  - o Critical Incident Reporting
  - o Waiting List (totals, how long waiting, do families know where they are on the wait list with maybe a portal)
  - o Front Door to Supports
- Members ask a question about what needs to be reported – families must report, as a matter of law. Example, seizures are new then CM needs to know.
- Carrie discussed the need to help these families manage the reasons for the critical incident. “Access Rule” being developed.
- Are parents/caregivers underreporting because they don’t want Child Protective Custody involved.
- Erin shared about national challenges, and future work on compliance as laws are update.

## 8. **Public Comment** SC Family Support Coordinator – asked if texting could be an option for reaching families.

9. **Recess** – Toni made a motion to recess, Julie seconded at 7:54pm

**10. Day Two – Recall to Order 8:34 (added Lindsey Hansen and Ben Keschner from A&M)**

11. **DD Council Update** - DD council met and reported approved grants, SOAR Conference summary. Review plans for next 5 years based on data. Choices waiver discussion. Training for families, providers. Succussion planning, etc. Find meetings Boards and Commissions at “Developmental Disabilities, SD Councils on.”

<https://boardsandcommissions.sd.gov/Meetings.aspx?BoardID=28>

12. **Billing Manual Workgroup Feedback** - Carrie summarized Suggestions from Billing Manual Workgroup which met in September. (PPT will be sent to members) Discussion on Counseling services provided for participants.

- **Family Friendly Versions of DDD Manual** September meeting, Special Meeting in November, and more to do now:

- Child Care Services Document
- Counseling/Support Group Service Overview
- Training/Information Services Overview
- Crisis/Housing (name?) Education/Training through what program?
- Recreation, Leisure, and Social Opportunities
- Transportation
- Other Expenses
- Environmental

**Revisiting previously discussed:**

- Nutritional Supplements
- Personal Care
- Vehicle Modifications
- Support Coordination

**Vote to approve all of the above. Haley made a motion to approve, Ruthie seconded.**

**13. Advisement from the Council to DDD \* Dates/Times/Locations**

- Valerie suggested full day as DDD does.
- Family Support is the only one that meets weekends – but majority prefers Weekend.
- March (Sioux Falls), June (Aberdeen), September (Rapid City), December (Pierre)
- Virtually, only when needed
- March 14, June 13, September 12, December 5 8:30am-2pm

Terms ending: Several Members terming out in June. Taking recommendations for new members, Carrie will reach out to find out who can re-apply and how to apply.

**14. Share something you enjoyed from the meeting**

Members shared best moments & learning. Many thanks!

**15. Public Comment**

No Public Comment.

**16. Action Items**

Future council meetings – perhaps having council members present since they are experts in these fields.

- Krista Johnson – Mental Health Considerations for Vulnerable Population (Professor/Mental Health) plan to present in March
- Total Number of Participants on Wait List
  - Technology: Texting as a possible option for contacting waiting list families
- Legislative Session Update in June
- Opportunities for Absent members to give feedback on Billing Manual documents.
- Technology: Are there any better ways (improve sound and video) to Zoom in a hybrid meeting?
- Standing Item – How is the FS Team doing? We thank them!

**17. Adjourn**

Toni made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 , Carolee seconded the motion. The motion passed with a voice vote.



Ruth Conway  
12/12/25