

Family Support Council Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 27 8:30AM-2PM

Location: Quality Inn 800 35th Circle, SE Watertown, SD 57201

Present In-Person: Michelle Baartman, Julie Flowers, Carolee Little, Jennifer Walker

Present On Zoom: Ruth Conway, Haley Coss, Toni Feist, Lindsey Hansen, Joshua Jones, Peggy Waltner, Janet Whiting

Absent: Valerie Husby, Brittany Norin, Krista Johnson, Tina Two Crow-Slow Bear

DHS Staff & Guests:

Carrie Geppert (Family Support Waiver Manager),

Megan Snyder (Quality Manager for DD)

Erin Leventon (A&M)

Amy Riesedel (Qlarent)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Ruth called the meeting to order at 8:35 CT

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to amend the Agenda by Carolee, to include Isaac Little (self advocate) visiting when he arrives. Haley seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote.

3. Approval of Minutes

Julie made a motion to approve the minutes and Peggy seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote.

4. Opening Round - Introductions

Introductions were made by State staff and the Council members.

5. DD Council Update – Jessica Lamb unavailable today.

Carrie gave a summary of DD's recent meeting and strategic plan work. 2027-2031 Strategic Planning is underway.

Priorities include:

- Increased family support and education
- Improved information sharing through their website
- Expanded advocacy and leadership opportunities for self advocates
- Continued implementation of the Supporting Families Community of Practice

Hiring is underway for a Supporting Families Coordinator.

DD Council continues to monitor the Olmstead decision, Erin Leventon explained it, and provided this link: <https://www.olmsteadrights.org/> Members encouraged to follow the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities Facebook page for updates

Jessica Lamb can be emailed for further info: jessica.lamb@state.sd.us

Link to their Boards and Commissions website:

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

6. DDD – Updates

- NCI Survey - Amy from Qlarant gave a presentation (with slides) about data and survey collection and purpose.
 - Qlarant will administer South Dakota's NCI surveys through 2030.
 - Surveys begin this fall using mail, phone, and online options.
 - Goal is approximately 400 completed surveys to meet national reporting requirements.
 - Survey results help guide policy, quality improvement, and service planning.
 - Families are encouraged to participate if selected.
- Quality Assurance/Critical Incidents Report - Megan Snyder gave data reports. Critical Incident Reports (Written form has been updated!) Guide to this is new and contains helpful links. DD would like feedback on this work. Soon to share dates by which feedback is requested
 - SMART Data. Improved compliance likely due to the restructuring, Level of Care (LOC) still needs to be reported.
- Eligibility Team Updates –
 - Call Time and Wait List updates as requested at last council meetings.
 - Placement now follows statewide priority regardless of region. This changed was implemented by DD on June 1.
- Respite Care – “Group Respite” is under discussion
 - In 2023 Group Companion Care was implemented in the waiver, as well as Respite care including those in the same home.
 - Agencies cannot provide Respite in a group setting.
 - Link to the actual SD Waiver: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/demonstration-and-waiver-list/83176>
 - Town Halls were offered to discuss this
 - We'll hope to make this change in waiver June 1 of 2027 so what to do in the meantime is in discussion. How do we not disrupt services?
 - Can the agency provide 1-1 within its walls at the same time?
 - What are other states doing?
 - Council is welcome to attend the Town Hall discussion and Carrie will send link.

- Consumer Direct DOES have a repository of providers now!
- Waiver Renewal – Current waiver expires June 30, 2027.
 - Renewal process is underway.
 - Families and self-advocates will have opportunities to provide recommendations and public comment before submission to CMS.
 - progress and timeline update explained (see slide)

7. Break – 10 minutes

7b. Agenda item inserted here Isaac Little joined the meeting so that we could meet him to understand Carolee's presentation next month.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

- Boards and Commissions Website:
 - Discussion of Bylaws – Terms and Roles of the FS Council
 - Annual report WILL be produced providing an annual report to the Governor and Legislature – Consolidate minutes from our minutes from the year.
 - New officers will be established in September.
 - Secret Ballots, possible using Menti
 - Possibility of AI helping with Secretary duties.
 - Simplified Roberts Rules of Order Document <https://gmsavt.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Adapted-Roberts-Rules-of-Order.pdf>
 - Discussion of Open Meeting Law and whether we can gather together with council members – OK, just cannot discuss councils work.

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

- September – produce “Annual Report to the Governors Office”
- Link to Facebook Family Support 360 to share Council opening information and applications

10. Public Comment - none

11. Action Items

- Need to fix the Bylaw document – Delete (5 members) since some quorums are bigger
- Boards and Commissions website will need to be updated with new members and terms.
- This board will need to determine Agenda Items each month in the future. Some items are standard. (DDD Updates, Councilmember presentations, Federal Changes that may affect SD)

- Health & Mental Health Services Available, Guardianship to be added to future agenda. Questions about Tribal decisions about guardianship holding up elsewhere.
- Maybe a yearly schedule, look at a revolving calendar of topics to re-visit. Visit old agendas and come back to content we've covered in the past.
- DD will bring back Level of Care Data

12. Adjourn

Carolee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:04. Julie seconded the motion. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2026 – Rapid City, South Dakota.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Conway". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and date.

Ruth Conway (with Jen Walker and Peggy Waltner)
6/27/26