



1501 S. Highline Ave, Ste 3C
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
57110
605.773.6369

Minutes of Meeting

October 8, 2026

Zoom

Members Present on Zoom

Katie Armstrong
Matt Brazendale
Megan Dornan
Jackson Greseth
Bernie Grimme
Kate Hamilton
Wyatt Hopkins
Kristy Jackson
Erika Jacobson
Rebecca Jensen

Heather Krzmnarzick
Eric Kurtz
Nicole Meyer
Amanda Roberson
Brett Spencer
Jess Spencer
Anna Svennuynsen
Wendy Trujilo
Cole Uecker
Nichole Winckler

Others Attending

Arlene Poncelet

INTRODUCTIONS

Amanda Roberson, Member-at-Large, called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. CST. Roll call was completed and a quorum established. New members were welcomed. All members were asked to introduce themselves, their role on the Council and share something they were looking forward to in the next few months.

APPROVE AGENDA & MINUTES

Megan Dornan motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Anna Svennuynsen. Motion passed. Bernie Grimme motioned to approve the minutes from the June 26 meeting, seconded by Nicole Meyer. Motion passed.

BUDGET UPDATE

Arlene reviewed the information budget and provided some general background information on both the federal and state budget years and how that impacts the report. Arlene shared that although this budget shows that all federal funds have been expended for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 and FFY2027, this could change once a new Executive Director is hired and has time to meet with Department of Human Services (DHS) staff to truly understand how the personnel costs are obligated on the reports DHS provides.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Arlene shared that an email was received from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) stating that the FFY27-31 State Plan and FFY27 Annual Work Plan met expectations with minor areas for follow-up by November 2, 2026. Arlene will work on the updates needed and share the updated State Plan and Annual Work Plan with all Council members.

Council members asked about a website update. Arlene will follow-up via email after she has connected with Epicosity.

GRANT APPLICATION – LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR SELF ADVOCATES AND FAMILY MEMBERS – DISABILITY RIGHTS SOUTH DAKOTA

Cole Uecker, Director for Disability Rights South Dakota, provided an overview of the grant application including changes for the upcoming year. Council members discussed how outreach for applicants is done and offered to send Cole some additional contacts for non-profits and social work programs to share information about the programs. Another question was about if the self-advocates had chapters or how that works.

Megan Dornan made a motion to approve \$210,000 of federal funds for the Leadership Development for Self-Advocates and Family Members proposal, seconded by Heather Krzmarzick. Motion passed with Cole Uecker abstaining.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP FOR NATIVE AMERICANS, OYATE CIRCLE/CENTER FOR DISABILITIES

Arlene shared that at the last meeting, the Council had questions related to outreach to other reservations and Jessica had planned to talk with Jim Warne and Eric Kurtz. Arlene had contacted and shared an email from Jim Warne about some of the challenges they have had with scheduling, etc. The Council again discussed the need to reach out to all the reservations and even to Native Americans living outside the reservations or receiving services from community support providers.

Arlene shared that although most Council grants have a 25% match requirement, the Oyate Circle and the Council agreed to a 10% match requirement based on a majority of the project being held in federal poverty areas (as determined by the US Census Bureau). So there may be room to host meetings/trainings off reservations but that most of the events needed to be held in those poverty areas.

Another topic discussed was the indigenous materials that have been developed and is there a way to share those more broadly. Arlene suggested that this could definitely be something the second Council staff person could do as part of their Supporting Families & Charting the LifeCourse work.

Bernie Grimme made a motion to issue the RFP with corrected project dates, seconded by Rebecca Jensen. Motion passed with Eric Kurtz abstaining.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

Bernie Grimme provided an update on the Supporting Families position that had been opened earlier this year. Interviews were conducted but before the second interviews could be completed Jessica was hospitalized. After discussions with Arlene and the Executive

Committee, it was decided to close the position without hiring someone so that a new Executive Director could be part of the process.

The Executive Director position closed on September 29th with 24 applicants responding. Two years ago a committee was set up to complete the reviews and interviews. Department of Human Services Cabinet Secretary Shawnie Rechtenbaugh has suggested that Bernie participate as he is familiar with state processes and requirements and Arlene participate as well.

Members of the Council volunteering for the Interview Committee included Eric Kurtz, Anna Svennuynghsen, Amanda Roberson and Kate Hamilton.

ELECTIONS

Arlene shared that with Val Husby having served only 1 year of a 2-year term as Chairperson that per the Bylaws the Council would need to elect a new Chairperson to fill the remainder of her vacated term. In addition, the Member-at-Large position is a 1-year term and Amanda has served in that role for one year and is eligible for another term.

Cole Uecker nominated Erika Jacobson to fill the vacant Chairperson position, seconded by Amanda Roberson. Motion passed with Erika Jacobson abstaining.

Rebecca Jensen nominated Amanda Roberson to be the Member-at-Large for a second term, seconded by Erika Jacobson. Motion passed with Amanda Roberson abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one attended to provide public comment.

Erika Jacobson shared information regarding benefits for spouses and children when the veteran has a disability rating. Questions can be directed to County Veterans Service Offices.

Anna Svennuynghsen shared information about a social group called Fun & Friends that will be having an event in April 2027 with space available for vendors is anyone is interested and doesn't get an email invitation, let her know.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held in January. Arlene shared that this meeting is usually held via Zoom and held before the Legislative Session begins or on a Friday when the Legislature is not meeting to allow for more participation by state agency members of the Council. Once a new director is hired, expect an email to survey possible dates.

FINAL ROUND

Council members shared what they liked and appreciated or would change about today's meeting. There was great discussion on all topics,

ADJOURN

Cole Uecker made a motion to adjourn at 10:55 a.m., seconded by Heather Krzmarzick. Motion passed.