



1501 S. Highline Ave, Ste 3C
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
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Minutes of Meeting June 23, 2025

MackKay Building (800 Governors Drive, Pierre) and Zoom

Members Present

Kevin Dunn
Val Hubsy
Tania Kostel

Wendy Trujillo
Bernie Grimme
Cole Uecker

Members Attending Via Zoom

Barb Ablen
Caryn Johnson
Heather Krzmarzick
Kristy Jackson
Amanda Roberson
Melanie Westin

Eric Kurtz
Nicole Meyer
Toni Feist
Rebecca Jensen
Nicole Winckler

Others Attending in Pierre

Jessica Lamb

INTRODUCTIONS

Val Husby, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call was completed. The mission statement was read, and the meeting agreements were reviewed.

All members were asked to introduce themselves, their role on the Council and share what their favorite summer treat was. Many people commented ice cream or blizzards, but fresh garden fruits and veggies and cold beverages around a fire made the list. A quorum was established.

APPROVE AGENDA & MINUTES

There was an amendment to the agenda to hear a sponsorship request from the SD ACT Early project. Wendy Trujillo made a motion to approve

the amended agenda and the meeting minutes of the April 24, 2025, seconded by Kevin Dunn. Motion passed.

BUDGET UPDATE

Jessica reviewed the information budget update. Jessica shared that we have received the final Notice of Award for FFY25 for a total of \$526,312.00, \$192 increase over FFY24.

Jessica shared that initially DD Network Partners (DD Councils, Protection and Advocacy, and UCEDDs) had been removed from the proposed FFY26 budgets. Significant advocacy from grassroots and national partnerships have brought DD Councils and many portions of the P&A funding back, and DD Councils are being funded at \$80 million, a \$1 million dollar decrease across DD Councils nationwide. As South Dakota is a minimum allotment state (DD Councils are formula funded based on population of people with I/DD and other factors – but some states have such a small population, they don't fit into the formula and are given a minimum amount of dollar to work with), we expect we will see a 2-3% funding decrease for FFY26, but nothing is certain yet.

The Council had funds over-obligated from FFY24 in the amount of \$96,621.70. On the budget update, the award amount of \$526,312.00 minus \$84,423.23 in current expenses leaves the Council with \$441,888.77 in funds.

Below is a small breakdown of budgetary item totals to be subtracted from that amount:

Obligations not on database:	\$38,851.02
Proposals approved at previous meeting:	\$202,194.50
Mini-grant approval:	\$18,772.01
Set aside for MH/IDD projects	\$40,000.00
SD Act Early (*if approved)	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
	\$302,817.53

*Options were then shared of the budget impact depending on which website vendor they chose. Remaining funding for FFY24 and FFY25, depending on option chose, would range from having approximately \$10,000 left to obligate to being \$11,000 over-obligated.

A motion was made to approve by budget report by Tania Kostal and seconded by Heather Krzmarzick. Motion passed with all in favor.

RATIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

The Executive Committee met via email on since the previous meeting in April to approve two mini-grant proposals. The 18th Project SEARCH Conference seeks to help Project Search staff attend and learn current and best practices for the program and is an endeavor the Council has supported previously. The YMCA Give the Kids the Woods Grant is a new endeavor that aims to support inclusive camp experiences for children with I/DD and other disabilities.

Jessica explained there was a slight issue with the approval of the YMCA grant in that it contained a portion of expenses that were generally considered unallowable at the federal level and that it didn't fit neatly into our State Plan. She discussed how she worked with Technical Assistance at the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities and the YMCA to add a component of self-advocacy to the grant and worked with our Program Officer at Administration on Community Living to see special approval, which was granted.

Kevin Dunn made a motion to ratify the actions of the Executive Committee, seconded by Wendy Trujillo, motion passed with the full consensus of the Council.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jessica shared she Lighting the Way Conference in early June where she had a vendor booth. 63 different Council and partner materials / documents / handouts were disseminated, and spoke individually to 21 attendees about our Council and activities.

She also shared that they completed our final move and SDCDD now resides in Suite 3C of the Sioux Falls One Stop

She shared attended the June 8th Community Support Providers, State and Federal Efficiencies Interim Committee on June 18 in Sioux Falls. In this initial meeting, the scope of the study was shared: "SD operates two Medicaid Waiver programs – CHOICES and Family Support 360. Each provides home and community-based services for individuals with I/DD through community support providers. This study committee will explore and identify potential ways to streamlines services across the two waiver programs to improve efficiency and better match the ongoing reduced funding of the reimbursement methodologies." The Committee heard from Kevin Dunn and Tom Martinec from the Division of DD, Dan Cross of the Community Support Providers of South Dakota, Cole Uecker

from Disability Rights SD. Additionally, Teri Bukowski from Benchmark testified as a Family Support Director and parent and another parent testified. Additionally, she spoke to the committee with the desire that they seek out input from those directly involved in whatever decision are made – the individuals with IDD and their families. She does plan to attend the July 23rd meeting. There was some discussion about what this Summer Study is, what different people think they are trying to accomplish, etc. More conversation was held about trying to provide opportunity for families and individuals to be involved by helping to spread awareness of such events occurring and supporting them to be able to give testimony.

Vendor booths are planned for the ADA Festival 35 (July 26) and the SD Conference on DD (August 26/27).

Other important conference of note is the SOAR Conference: SOAR stands for Seeking Opportunities for an Advocacy Revolution. This event brings together self-advocates with disabilities from around the Midwest to exchange ideas and learn from each other about advocacy. At the SOAR Conference, self-advocates from Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming have opportunities to grow their advocacy skills by attending presentations and connecting with other advocates. The event is hosted by Nebraska's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at the Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation, and People First of Nebraska. **Conference Dates:** Oct. 3-5, 2025. Eric noted that South Dakota may be able to host this event soon.

Jessica also shared about an upcoming meeting she has with Dan Habib, a documentary film maker and disability advocate, about a National Disability Leadership Series called “Leading the Way: Virtual Training on Disability Advocacy and Action for Inclusive Education and Post-Secondary Transition” and to discuss potential sponsorship opportunities for advocates in our state to participate.

WEBSITE RFP AWARD DISCUSSION

Due to concerns over FFY26 funding, the Council voted to table the awarding of the RFP until this meeting, in the hopes that we would know more about our FFY26 budget. Jessica provided an overview of costs to remind the Council for each proposal.

Cole Uecker made a motion to approve the award to Epicosity and hold discussion, with Bernie Grimme seconding. Discussion centered on noting that both companies were likely to do well with helping the Council achieve

their goal for this project and it was noted that one entity would cost the Council more up front costs, but less in long term costs while the other entity would cost less up front but would cost more long term. There was also discussion that one entity being local to South Dakota. More discussion talked about how there has been experience with both entities in the state that appears to have gone well. Further discussion on the amount of service that could be provided versus the cost (i.e., just a website vs. a website and a list-serv – communication tool).

A vote to award the RFP to Epicosity was passed during a roll call vote, 15-0.

SD ACT EARLY PRINTING SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

Lisa Sanderson, the CDC's Act Early Ambassador for South Dakota for 2018-2026 approached the Council for a potential \$3,000 printing sponsorship of the SD Act Early Material, *Baby's Busy Day*, a board book that helps support the healthy development of children 0-5 and aid in the identification of developmental delays and disabilities in children so that receive early intervention services as possible. The Council has previously supported these endeavors and this falls under the Education and Early Intervention Emphasis Area. Caryn Johnson made a motion to approve the sponsorship with Cole Uecker seconding in. In a roll call vote, the motion was approved 15-0.

AGENCY UPDATES

Kevin Dunn from the Division of Developmental Disabilities gave a brief update to the changes in the organizational structure of the department, some open / recently closed positions the Division is hiring for, an update the corrective action for CMS, and some brief discussion about the Summer Study. Kevin also shared about a workgroup that is being assembled to address concerns relayed around crisis services within the DD network. Members will include DDD staff, Community Support Providers, Case Management, Division of Behavioral Health, South Dakota Developmental Center, Human Services Center, and family members.

Cole Uecker from Disability Rights South Dakota provided an update. He thanked Kevin about the position updates within DD, especially about the Behavior Analysis position. He noted they have been keeping pretty busy with Catch the Wave, the Kyle Cookout and an event in Lower Brule. Participated with Oyate Circle with some summer events around the state. Discussed federal funding potential impacts. The PADD program was pulled back into the budget for FFY26, but some other programs they need

to wait on a final decision about. DRSD may need to reassess the scope of their activities depending how that all pans out. Cole noted they've been doing a lot of monitoring of facilities. They will begin collecting data from the community and in July DRSD will start writing their priorities.

Eric Kurtz provided an update from the UCEDD. He provided the mission / vision of the UCEDD and the five core functions. He shared impact numbers for the scope of the work they do – serving over 8,000 participants, 2000 hours of TA, 4800 individuals and families received direct clinical services, and more. He talked about the pediatric mental healthcare initiative (BEAM-SD). Eric updated about the LEND and the RISEUP programs. Lastly, he shared updates about the SD Conference on DD, the Run/Walk/Roll event, and the SOAR Conference.

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

Jessica shared draft proposals for Mini-Grants for Education and Training; Public Information; Leadership Development, Advocacy and Leadership for Native Americans and the SD Conference on Developmental Disabilities. Bernie Grimme made a motion, seconded by Kevin Dunn, to issue the Requests for Proposals as provided. Motion passed.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN UPDATES AND FFY26 BUDGET

Jessica noted that she was recently made aware that Councils have to submit an Annual Work Plan and Budget for their upcoming FFY. Annual Work Plans are a concise overview of goals, objectives, activities, outputs and outcomes, evaluation, and projected performance measures of the Councils for a one-year. The Council doesn't anticipate any need to revise/change goals, nor to change the anticipated FFY26 budget. Jessica will have this information ready to submit by the due date in August.

STATE PLAN 2027-31 PLANNING

The planning process began with Jessica sharing about survey that was created in Survey Monkey that has been shared on a small basis, with the intent to cast a wider net in the coming weeks. Initially, the survey has been shared on the Council's Facebook page, at the Lighting the Way conference, with stakeholders such as the SILC, some Conflict-Free Case Managers, the Family Support Manager with the Division of DD, to a local disability advocacy coalition, and other small groups. Information that had gathered in the two weeks the survey was open had 32 respondents and Jessica shared that information in detail to the Council.

Kevin noted his appreciation of the feedback from data that came specifically families and individuals served. He stated he would like to more data but did see some emerging themes from his work in the concerns that were noted from the survey. Timeline of when we needed to decide on goals was discussed.

Some of the main themes that started to emerge were the social opportunities/isolation, employment. Kristy Jackson noted that on the Department of Health needs assessment, and something that stood out on theirs was the transition to adult medical health, also the lack of specialists West River. Wendy Trujillo noted that they are seeing many of the same concerns come out of the Special Education sector.

Cole Uecker noted we have an opportunity to see where overlap exists with other agency work and that the DD Council could continue advocacy in those on-going efforts. He noted that we should identify trends, what the DD Council can provide meaningful work into, and then see where we can put our resources.

There was discussion about collecting more data so that goals could be decided, talking about what would be the most impactful and how those activities we might choose will be deemed valuable to federal funding sources. Jessica stated she would send out the previous planning document as a reminder and the timeline and due dates for certain events, such as when public comment on input for the State Plan has to occur.

Val brought up our current need of some mental health training to help prevent individuals getting into crisis. The Council then discussed a potential opportunity to fund people who work with individuals with IDD and mental health issues. Rebecca Jensen also shared her experiences as a caregiver and the Safety Care program from the Division. The conversation then turned to supporting caregivers who have family members with IDD and mental health issues. She also mentioned how hard it is for families, who never get way from the stress and the concerns about the behaviors. Kevin Dunn mentioned a workgroup that is being created with many stakeholders to address that very issue.

There was consensus that the Councils efforts would be better placed directly to families, as DSPs and issues with getting their employees to training and the turnover issue. There was also a suggestion have the SD Advocates bring awareness to issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public was present.

Next Meeting

The Council discussed holding the Fall Quarterly meeting in Spearfish in late Sept / early October. Jessica will send out a Doodle Poll to select date/time.

Adjourn

Toni Fiest made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Dunn, to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 PM. Motion passed.