

South Dakota Council
on Developmental Disabilities



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

Minutes of Meeting

April 24, 2026

Sioux Falls and Zoom

Members Present in Sioux Falls

Megan Dornan
Toni Feist
Kristy Jackson
Heather Krzmarzick
Eric Kurtz
Nicole Meyer

Keath Rick
Amanda Roberson
Makena Schultz
Brett Spencer
Jess Spencer
Cole Uecker

Members Present on Zoom

Melanie Boetel
Bernie Grimme
Rebecca Jensen
Caryn Johnson
Nicole Meyer
Keath Rick

Anna
Svennuynghsen
Liz Tiger
Wendy Trujilo
Nichole Winkler

Others Attending

Jessica Lamb

Arlene Poncelet

INTRODUCTIONS

Val Husby, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. CST. Roll call was completed and a quorum established. 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 something they are looking forward to about summer.

APPROVE AGENDA & MINUTES

Val brought forth the agenda and the meeting minutes of the January 7, 2026 meeting for approval. Arlene noted there was a slight amendment to the agenda – adding a third grant proposal after the two on the agenda. Heather Kzmarzick motioned to approved the amended agenda and the minutes of the January meeting, with Megan Dornan seconding. Motion approved.

BUDGET UPDATE

Arlene reviewed the information budget update from Jessica. The Council received \$524,064 for FFY26. Total funds remaining from FFY25 and FFY26 is \$157,911.10.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Arlene provided Jessica's update covering the Final Grant Award for FFY26 and President's Budget for FFY27. Other topics included the AARP Report on the hours and value of family caregivers. The website continues to move forward with a plan to launch in July. Arlene shared that the ITACC Technical Assistance Institute is next week and Council members are welcome to participate in any of the sessions.

Cole shared information on the Texas v. Kennedy case that South Dakota's Attorney General signed on to. Brett Spencer updated the Council on changes to the Division of Developmental Disabilities and Kevin Dunn moving to Chief of Developmental Services over both the Division of DD and SD Developmental Center.

The position had been listed prior to Jess's illness and there were 16 applicants before the position was rescinded. Jess would like to open the position back up later this summer.

MINI-GRANT APPLICATION – NADD Conference

Jennifer Walker from Linking the Gap submitted a mini-grant for 2 staff and 2 interns to attend the National Association of Dual Diagnosis (NADD) Conference in October. Keith Rick made a motion, seconded by Bernie Grimme, to approve \$4,000 for this project.

Discussion included:

- Whether a for-profit entity could receive Council funds
- Linking the Gap is doing parent support groups and does work with CSPs but the Council wondered how many CSPs and how many individuals are served
- There is a high need for knowledgeable professionals within schools
- How does the Council's support for this activity move the system forward
- How will they use the training – what outreach will they do
- need to have some data and show the impact (how will attending increase capacity)
- Ask them to return to the Council and share what they learned about national trends, best practice, and ideas for the future

Cole Uecker made a substitute motion, seconded by Rebecca Jensen, to ask them to come back to the summer meeting and present the proposal again after some technical assistance from Council staff. Motion passed.

A council member asked if there would there be a benefit to the Council to promote or offer capacity building training for entities on grant writing, proposals, presentations, etc.?

GRANT APPLICATION – MIND-NET (Mental health IDD Network and Development)

Michelle Powers and Dr. Celeste Uthe Burow presented a proposal to develop specialized training for mental health providers; awareness and outreach about the curriculum access; create a searchable provider network of those who have taken the courses; and create/share a Caregiver Wellness Mini-Series through social media.

Heather Kzmarzick made a motion, seconded by Cole Uecker, to approve \$30,000 of federal funds for this project. Motion passed.

Discussion included:

- Activities fill gaps in crisis continuum through training at no cost to providers

- Division of Behavioral Health would collaborate to share with public and private providers to ensure broad participation
- Meets the need for access in rural areas since the training will be virtual
- Are there other similar trainings available? Yes, addition cost to attend and not specific to South Dakota services and supports.
- Project was developed to benefit the system as a whole
- What happens if one part of the project struggles? Grantees need to share any change to the scope of activities with the Council Director who generally shares with the Executive Committee and full Council as needed.
- May want to consider having them give an update at the January meeting
- Encourage them to explore collaboration with the HelpLine and Kristy Jackson mentioned the Title V collaborates with the HelpLine Center and may be a resource for that conversation.

GRANT APPLICATION – Mental Health & Behavioral Support Staff Training

Tanya Fritz presented a proposal to offer Trauma-Informed Care training to Black Hills Works and Advance staff; motivational interviewing training to Black Hills Works staff; cover an annual pass to NextGen Synergy (online professional development platform for all Black Hills Works staff; and Ukeru Restraint-Free Trainer Certification for 10 Black Hills Works staff.

Cole Uecker made a motion, seconded by Megan Dornan, to approve \$34,016 of federal funds for this project. Motion passed.

Discussion included:

- This covers only Black Hills Works for all activities and Advance for just the trauma-informed care training – does not reach more of the system
- Are other CSPs or professionals such as EMS and other provider types invited to the training?
- There is a perceived necessity by providers to serve more people with behavioral needs but more resources/training is needed to meet the need.
- From a parent perspective, many agencies are not accepting new clients with behavioral challenges
- Does this type of training filter to schools and agencies working with children and youth?

STATE PLAN FFY 2027-31 PLANNING

Arlene shared two draft goals and objectives based on previous Council discussions. Arlene suggested that Goal 1 be made broader to include more than just people with IDD as families, community leaders and professionals are mentioned in the objectives. After additional discussion it was decided to add the “rural and underserved communities” to Goal 1.

DRAFT Goal 1 – Community Supports and Services – By 2031, the Council will use a wide range of communication tools/platforms to increase awareness of resources and improve access to information and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, community leaders and professionals including rural and underserved communities.

Objective 1 - By 2031, 100 South Dakotans with developmental disabilities, their families, community leaders and other professionals will be trained and educated on best practices.

Objective 2 - Each year of the state plan, the Council will share resources and information through multimedia formats weekly throughout the year.

Objective 3 – Annually, the Council will increase the number of training, education, and outreach opportunities for family members and caregivers that improve access to services, supports, and community resources.

Objective 4 - If needed, each year of the state plan, the Council will support activities related to emerging needs for people with IDD impacted by a public health emergency or natural disaster.

DRAFT Goal 2 – Advocacy & Leadership – Each year of the state plan, the Council will increase access to training on advocacy and leadership for South Dakotans with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their family members, and other key stakeholders including those in rural and underserved communities.

Objective 1 - Each year of the state plan, the Council will work to increase the capacity of self-advocates to organize at the state and local levels to share information and resources, train other self-advocates, and participate in cross-disability initiatives.

Objective 2 – Each year of the state plan, the Council will work to increase the number of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members to share information and resources, develop policy skills and support independence and engagement within communities on issues that are important to self-advocates and their families.

Arlene then asked the Council members to assist in the analysis of state issues and challenges and they contributed much to the discussion about eligibility criteria to receive services; barriers to full participation; availability of assistive technology; wait lists in South Dakota (info shared by Brett Spencer, DDD); adequacy of current and projected resources to fund services; and adequacy of services at SDDC and HCBS/CHOICES providers.

Brett Spencer, seconded by Liz Tiger, to accept draft goals and objectives as discussed. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one attended to provide public comment.

NEXT MEETING

Council members and Arlene recommended letting Jessica review her schedule and suggest some dates through a survey or doodle poll for a late June or early July meeting.

FINAL ROUND

Council members shared what they liked and appreciated or would change about today's meeting. There was great discussion on all topics and a suggestion for better audio so those on Zoom can hear all the conversations even if people are speaking softly.

ADJOURN

Heather Kzmarzick made a motion to adjourn at 2:30 p.m. Motion passed.