



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

June 26, 2026

Pierre and Zoom

Members Present in Pierre

Bernie Grimme
Nichole Winckler
Rebecca Jensen

Amanda Roberson
Brett Spencer
Jess Spencer
Cole Uecker

Members Present on Zoom

Caryn Johnson
Anna
Svennuynsen
Liz Tiger

Wendy Trujilo
Kristy Jackson
Jackson Greseth
Megan Dornan
Toni Feist

Others Attending

Jessica Lamb

INTRODUCTIONS

Amanda Roberson, Member-at-Large, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. CST. Roll call was completed and a quorum established.

All members were asked to introduce themselves, their role on the Council and share something what they would bring to a potluck.

APPROVE AGENDA & MINUTES

Amanda brought forth the agenda and the meeting minutes of the June 24, 2026 meeting for approval. Jessica noted there was a slight amendment to the agenda – adding discussion to approve the Review of the Designated State Agency. Toni Feist motioned to approve the amended agenda. The minutes from the June meeting were approved, with Liz Tiger motioning to approve and Bernie Grimme seconding. Both motions approved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS/RATIFY ACTIONS

The Executive Committee met three times since the previous meeting. They met on May 4, 2026 to discuss a sponsorship of the Run, Walk, and Roll event put on by the Center for Disabilities. They approved a \$500 sponsorship. On May 14, 2026 to discuss and approve the mini-grant for the Lighting the Way Conference and on May 18 they met to discuss travel assistance funds and approved a family to attend the Miss Amazing pageant. Megan Dornan

motioned that we ratify the actions of the Executive Committee and Rebecca Jenson seconded. Motion approved.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Jessica shared information on the recent Department of Justice's Interpretation Memo of the Olmstead Act. While the interpretation has caused major concern among those with disabilities and their families, Cole Uecker discussed how Olmstead is still the law of the land and only Congress can change it. Brett Spencer noted that South Dakota has no intention of institutionalizing people – there simply isn't the budget for it and it's not what is best for most individuals. Jessica also brought up the topic of the dismantling of the Department of Education and discussed how the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation is moving to the Department of Health and Human Services, civil rights enforcement and student privacy protections are moving to the Department of Justice, and Career and Tech Ed is moving to the Department of Labor. Jessica noted that while Congressional approval is required to presently abolish the Department of Education and noted it seems that this is being by-passed by transferring program functions and detailing agency staff to other departments. Education advocates have raised concerns that the scattering of these services could result in funding delays, service disruptions, and weaker enforcement of civil rights.

Jessica noted that the new position has been open and there are 38 applicants. Hoping first round interviews take place in mid-July.

BUDGET UPDATE

Jessica reviewed the information budget update from Jessica. The Council received \$524,064 for FFY26. Total funds remaining from FFY25 and FFY26 is \$211,991.06. Looking ahead to FY27, our award should be \$524,064.00 again. As we look at potential projects and admin costs, our anticipated balance of funds is \$132,962.06. In the budget, Jessica noted that there was a \$7500.00 charge to have the website work that Jessica originally was to do, but with current health issues, cannot. In that portion of the budget, after some discussion, Bernie Grimme made a motion to approve the \$7500 to Epicosity for the website pages to be completed, with Cole Uecker seconding. Motion passed. Liz Tiger motioned to accept the current budget, with Rebecca Jensen seconding. Motion passed.

RFP for FFY 27

Jessica began the discussion by talking about the draft RFP's to the Council. Jessica noted that each RFP could be modified – in terms of amount available, requirements, etc. The first RFP discussed was the Education and Training Mini-Grants, which Jessica noted our current state plan goals are still on because we don't have ours currently approved yet, but she will update once we get federal approval of our new state plan. Each mini-grant is \$5000 or less, and they are not eligible for a second year of funding, typically.

The next RFP is the Public Information Grant – invite only to the Center for Disabilities. Discussion about revision for mental health being a goal due to us not keeping our goal. Jessica informed the Council what the Public Information grant does for the Council and how it fits into the state plan.

Disability Rights is the invite only recipient of this RFP to run the Leadership and Development (Year 35 and recruitment for Year 36). This includes Partners in Policymaking and South Dakota Advocates for Change.

Lastly, the grant for Advocacy & Leadership for Native Americans and their family was discussed. The Council has always had a goal to serve underrepresented South Dakota citizens, and this has helped the Council achieve this goal.

Jessica asked if anyone wanted to modify the RFPs. There was discussion about the concern for room for growth in the Oyate Circle, and a member felt there were only activities happening on a few reservations and she wanted to know if they could focus on all 9 reservations instead of just a few. Jessica will bring this concern to the grantee to see if it is possible to expand the reach of the program. Bernie noted maybe they are focusing on reservations that have VR services – not every reservation has one. Jessica volunteered to reach out to the staff of the grant to include a conversation about expansion before the RFP is issued. Cole Uecker noted a goal of reaching currently underserved populations in all 9 reservations could be added to the RFP. Jessica noted there is time for us to visit Oyate Circle staff and hold off on offering this until October meeting and give an update to the Council.

The Council then voted on the RFPs – Rebecca Jensen made a motion to accept the mini-grants RFP and Liz Tiger seconded. Motion passed. Rebecca Jensen also made a motion to accept the Public Information grant, and Anna Svenningsen seconded. Motion passed. Rebecca made a motion to approve the Leadership and Development RFP, and Caryn Johnson seconded. Motion passed, with Cole Uecker abstaining. Lastly, the Council voted to amend the RFP for the Oyate Circle grant and wait to issue until October, with Rebecca Jensen making the first motion and Liz Tiger seconding. Motion passed.

AGENCY UPDATES

Brett Spencer talked about the Division updates – currently in the process of updating the Family Support Waiver and how while many people want in items in the waiver, they need to be net neutral. They are not removing anything currently. Brett noted that the Division has not seen Medicaid cuts – still providing services as usual. The Division is committed to serving people with IDD – the Division has no desire or capacity to put people in institutions. The goal is to serve people in the least restrictive environments. Also discussed eligibility determinations, being mindful of fraud, waste, and abuse, and dual diagnosis issues. Working on some ARSD new rules, and next year at this time it will be time for the Choices waiver renewal. The waitlist for Family Support 360 is 293 individuals, which includes those who are referred to for services (about 14-20 people). 283 days is the typical waitlist time, but that is slightly skewed due to some individuals being incarcerated or having other issues where they can't access the services.

Cole Uecker spoke about Disability Rights and his agency updates, which included continued discussion about a bit of eligibility, and he noted it wasn't issues with DDD, but other entities. Noted that the AG said the Olmstead decision remains the goal of the state. He talked about DRSD case numbers, as summer has started and kids are out of school, which has allowed DRSD to do more events/training.

LINKING THE GAP PROPOSAL

Jen Walker, from Linking the Gap Counseling, came back to the Council to again present on her proposal for training for her staff. She shared a PowerPoint and hit on how Linking the Gap reaches across the state to do their work and teach others via presentations at conferences and

other self-initiated trainings. Bernie Grimme motion that the grant be accepted, and Rebecca Jensen seconded. Motion passed.

REVIEW OF DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY

At regular intervals, Council's are required to conduct a review of their Designated State Agency (DSA). A subcommittee of Council Members and a representative of the DSA went through and discussed the data and findings. The Council found it best to remain with DHS/DDD as our DSA as the Council has had a positive and long-standing relationship with them. Bernie Grimme made a motion to accept the Review of the DSA and to keep DHS/DDD as our designed state agency, seconded by Megan Dornan. Motion passed.

STATE PLAN FFY 2027-31 PLANNING

Jessica shared the public feedback on our two proposed goals and objectives for the upcoming state plan. The feedback was overall positive and supportive of the Council's upcoming plan. The Council felt that Goal 1, Objective 1 is being slightly modified, as feedback from the public felt we could train more people. As such, the goal will now read 200 South Dakotans versus 100.

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, 200 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.

In the previous April meeting, Arlene had 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. These topics were again discussed and Rebecca Jensen made a motion to approve Goal One and its objectives, Brett Spencer seconded. Motion Passed.

Cole Uecker made a motion to accept the second goal and objectives, with Rebecca Jensen seconding. Motion passed and goals and objectives are ready to be submitted into the 2027-2031 State Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one attended to provide public comment.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held in October sometime. Jessica will send out a doodle poll in August or September to pick a date and location for the 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,

ADJOURN

Cole Uecker made a motion to adjourn at 2:45, and Toni Feist seconded. Motion passed.