

Family Support Council Meeting

June 6-7, 2025

Zoom Meeting-Oacoma, SD Cedar Shores

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: In-Person: Krista Johnson, Julie Flowers, Brittany Norin, Val Husby

Virtual: Peggy Waltner, Janet Whiting, Melissa Rickett, Lindsey Hansen, Jennifer Walker, Hayley Coss, Toni Feist

Members absent: Ruth Conway, Joshua Jones, Tina Two Crow-Slow Bear, Carolee Little

DHS Staff: Carrie Geppert and Brett Spencer

A & M Staff: Erin Leveton

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Janet called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm CT.

2. Approval of Agenda

Toni made a motion to approve the agenda and Julie seconded. Motion passed with a voice vote.

3. Approval of Minutes

Toni made a motion to approve the agenda and Peggy seconded the motion. Motion passed with a voice vote.

4. Opening Round

State staff and the Council Members each shared where they live and what they were looking forward to this summer

5. DDD Leadership Introductions

Carrie Geppert introduced herself as the new Family Support Manager, and then **reviewed Robert's Rules of Order**; she explained the key principles, meeting structure and how motions were introduced.

6. DDD Updates:

- a. The "Administrative Hearings FAQ" Updates was presented to us; it is on the DDD website now.
- b. Brett Spencer provided an update on the "Family Support Waiver Amendment" and how DDD is going to wait/pause until things "shake out" at the federal level. At this point they will keep services the same for people on the FS360 Program.

c. The “DSS Waiver Amendment/Potential Medicaid Work” requirement was discussed. This does not effect individuals with I/DD or their caregivers.

7. Person Centered Planning : Members were encouraged to share their own experiences of using PCP.

8. Public Comment: Several FS Coordinators shared their comments with the council.

9. Recess

Went into recess at 7:59 PM CT. Toni made a motion to recess; Krista seconded it.

10. Recall to Order

Krista called the meeting back to order at 8:31 AM CT.

Janet was absent during the 2nd day due to a family emergency

11. DDD Updates:

a. Discussed “Should there be remote Support Coordination for the Choices Waiver?” We each shared our opinion; most liked the in-person meetings, however, in rural areas there needs to be a hybrid mix. It is specific to each person; need to respect a person’s privacy. Concern for families falling through cracks and dealing with people in crisis were expressed. “We need to keep people at home.”

b. Waitlist for FS 360 waiver services currently has about 200 individuals. South Dakota wait time is approximately nine months; the national average is 50 months.

Carrie asked how we could change/do things differently for people on FS 360? Various ideas shared were: “Strengthening Families” program, Owen’s Outfitters, Dakota Link, Facebook page

c. Town Hall Updates held May 29, 2025: Concern about how Medicaid will be funded was expressed.

Meet and Greet Tour in September 15-18, 2025 is when the DD directors, Carrie, Spencer, and Kevin will be traveling and meeting people across the state.

d. New resources were highlighted: FAQ about Administrative Hearings, Companion and Respite Care

e. National Core Indicators has a “Child Family Survey” which they would like parents to fill out; their goal is to have 341 in person surveys so it can be published and compared with other states.

f. Family Workgroup is working on “FS360” guides that will tell more about the services and supports that are provided.

g. Community Collaboration is planning summer socials this summer where constituents can meet and greet staff this summer; this is for both the FS360 and Choices Waiver participants.

12. Reviewed Council Trajectory and Develop Integrated Community Engagement Strategies

- a. Our council trajectory was reviewed and discussed if anything needed to be changed or added. We also reviewed the attendance policy in the by-laws.
- b. Other suggestions were to keep information relevant and current; our goal should be to keep FSC “individualized”. Some schools give awards for inclusiveness; invite legislators to our meetings; have a legislative and policy update at our meetings, as a standing agenda item
- c. Members shared visions they had of the Council be more active than an advisory role. VH shared that she would like to reach out to the nine reservations to share information about disabilities, especially for younger children. We had a robust discussion of how to be more visible in the community, like at conferences and other events.
- d. Social Media platforms like Facebook and Instagram were discussed; we should make and share testimonials about FS360.
- e. Could coordinators share about how to start the process and where to find the resources in different ways?

13. DD Council Update given by Carrie for Jessica Lamb who was unable to attend today.

The Council will be working on a new five-year state plan, so she welcomes input from others. The Council has a meeting on June 23. There is a new state office in Sioux Falls where various offices are located.

14. Advisement of Council for DD Staff

Nothing was shared.

15. Public Comment

Ariel Naber (Consumer Direct) works with Companion Care and will follow up with Carrie if there are any videos available.

16. Sharing Something you enjoyed about the Meeting

Various things were shared; it was a positive meeting.

17. Future Action Items

- a. Invite Guest speakers and legislators to our meetings and have legislative updates regularly.
- b. Learn more about cost-sharing ideas.
- c. Technology safety
- d. What to do with letters from DSS and other correspondence; what do they mean?
- e. Mentorship ideas
- f. How to use testimonials on Instagram and other social media

18. Adjournment

Krista adjourned the meeting at 11:26 am; a motion was made by Haley and seconded by Julie; all voiced a yes vote.

Next meeting is in Rapid City on September 5-6, 2025

Recorded by Peggy Waltner

DRAFT