

DRAFT MINUTES – COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL
Monday, August 19, 2024
625 SILVER AVENUE SW, SUITE 100A THE ARC CONFERENCE ROOM)
TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Members Present

Advocates

Laurel Deans
Amelia-Ann Dickey
Crystal Garcia
Lystra John
Elisheva Levin
Richard Segura

Family Members

Joel Davis
Katie Stone
Jennifer Sanchez
Tarra Main
Selma Ramos Nevarez
Joseph Melvyn Jaramillo
Deanna Cole

Agencies Present

John Arango (CLSC)
Scott Doan, proxy (HCA, DDSD)
Christie Guinn, proxy (HCA, MAD)
Gary Housepian (DRNM)
Marylou Poli, proxy (ALTSD)
Elizabeth Groginsky (ECECD)
Pat Osbourn (UNM, CDD)
Mario Lucero, proxy (DVR)

Staff Present

Alice Liu McCoy (Executive Director)
Joe Turk (OOG Legal Director)
Donna Vigil (Chief Operating Officer)
Michelle Varela (Chief Financial Officer)
Michelle Tregembo (Special Education State
Ombud)
Vashad Frink (Job Trainee)
Lucero Estrada (Office Administrator)
Lindsay Sloan (CSA Outreach Coordinator)
Sandra Gardner (NMDOJ Assistant Attorney
General)

Advocates Absent

None

Family Members Absent

Valentin Anaya

Agencies Absent

Lanthia Miles (Non-Government Agency)
Margaret Cage (PED Director)

Public Guests

Robert Kegel
Sergio Resendiz

Call to Order/ Housekeeping

Chair Joel Davis called the meeting to order, completed the roll call, and housekeeping was conducted. The meeting convened at 11:19 AM.

Public Comment (Morning)

Robert Kegel spoke about the need for additional funding for DD waiver services, including intermediate care facilities and supported living.

Approval of August 19, 2024, Agenda – Action Item

John Arango moved to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Jennifer Sanchez. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of May 13, 2024, Quarterly Meeting Minutes – Action Item

Katie Stone moved to approve the minutes with the following two amendments. The motion was seconded by Elisheva Levin and passed unanimously.

FY26 Budget Request – Alice Liu McCoy

Alice Liu McCoy presented on DDC's proposed FY26 budget request. Gary Housepian asked whether the Council was reverting any funding in FY24. DDC did not revert funding in FY24. Alice discussed previous budget requests and budget shortfalls for Office of Guardianship. Marylou Poli asked what would happen if DDC does not get the budget request. Alice and Michelle Varela discussed the consequences of inadequate funding and how DDC prioritizes awarding subgrants with its federal funding. Katie Stone asked how confident DDC is that they will get the budget increase for FY26. John Arango moved to approve the budget request, and Terra Main second the motion. Elizabeth Groginsky, Scott Doan, Christie Guinn, and Mario Lucero abstained. Motion passed.

My Life, My Decisions Project Update – Joe Turk

Joe Turk presented an update on the My Life, My Decisions project. Joe reviewed the project's goals: (1) Educate the community on less restrictive alternatives to guardianship, planning for the future, and end of life; (2) Highlight the importance of allowing people to express their wishes, and identify those who can support their decisions; and (3) Focus on communities where we receive the greatest amount of applications. Elisheva Levin asked about serving people who are not on waivers or do not qualify for waivers and have disabilities, and people in rural areas. Joe reviewed the project work done in Las Cruces, Silver City, and Albuquerque. Joe presented an update on project activities, including legal clinics, presentations, events, outreach to DD Waiver participants, creating social media videos, working with Jonathan Martinis, and forming the Supported Decision Making Ambassadors. Alice played a draft video. Alice discussed DDC's funding requests to continue this work.

Supported Decision Making Ambassadors – Vashad Frink, Crystal Gracia, Sergio Resendiz, Lindsay Sloan, and Alice Liu McCoy

Alice introduced the Ambassadors. Lindsay Sloan moderated the presentation with the Ambassadors. Alice introduced Vashad, who began working with DDC in the Marilyn Martinez State Jobs Program. Vashad and Lindsay discussed the Ambassadors’ presentation at Self-Advocacy Summit, hosted by the Arc and funded by DDC. Lindsay and Alice discussed the SDM process the Ambassadors have undergone. Lindsay discussed the questions with the Ambassadors. Alice discussed next steps to propose the SDM Act in the 2025 Legislative Session.

Restraint & Seclusion Task Force Update – Michelle Tregembo

Michelle Tregembo presented a brief update on the Senate Memorial 68 working group, which studied restraint and seclusion in New Mexico public schools. Alice discussed next steps to propose a restraint and seclusion bill in the 2025 Legislative Session.

Committee Restructuring – Alice Liu McCoy

Alice Liu McCoy discussed DDC’s activities to more fully engage its self-advocate Council members, including holding pre-meetings before each quarterly Council meeting and having self-advocate committee chairs to drive the work on the Council. Each committee will have a DDC staff supporting the chairs, two self-advocate chairs, and a mentor, if desired. The staff, chairs, and mentors will meet monthly to work through agendas, priorities, projects, and action steps. The entire committee meetings quarterly before each Council meeting. Alice invited Council members to contact her or Lucero to volunteer to mentor or chair a committee.

Executive Director review – Executive Committee

John Arango presented the Executive Director review to the Council.

Council Chair & Executive Report

The Chair and Executive Director addressed their Council business throughout the meeting. No further business was addressed.

Member Announcements

Elisheva Levin announced her son, who is on the spectrum and lives in Texas, received his welding license. Katie discussed insurance, learning how to drive, and testing issues related to adaptive equipment and acquiring a driver’s license. Pat Osbourn invited the Council to clinical issue meetings held the second of every month.

Adjourn

The next meeting will be held on November 18, 2024. Motion to adjourn was made by Joel Davis and seconded by Katie Stone. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:47 PM.

