

**APPROVED MINUTES – COUNCIL QUARTERLY  
MEETING DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**

Monday, May 19, 2025  
625 SILVER AVENUE SW, SUITE 100A  
TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM  
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Members Present**

**Advocates**

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

**Family Members**

Joel Davis, Chair  
Jennifer Sanchez, Secretary  
Deanna Cole  
Joseph Melvyn Jaramillo  
Tarra Main  
Selma Ramos Nevarez  
Jo Ellen Ransom

**Agencies Present**

John Arango (CLSC)  
Scott Doan, proxy (HCA, DDSD)  
Gary Housepian (DRNM)  
Mario Lucero, proxy (DVR)  
Patricia Osbourn (UNM, CDD)  
Marylou Poli, proxy (ALTSD)  
Laurie Ross-Brennan (Non-Government Agency)  
Emily Stern, proxy (ECECD)

**Staff Present**

Alice Liu McCoy (Executive Director)  
Joe Turk (OOG Legal Director)  
Michelle Varela (Chief Financial Officer)  
Michelle Tregembo (Special Education State Ombud)  
Lindsay Sloan (CSA Outreach Coordinator)  
Vashad Frink (CSA Job Trainee)  
Eduardo Ugarte II (NMDOJ Assistant Attorney General)

**Advocates Absent**

Richard Segura

**Family Members Absent**

Katie Stone, Vice Chair  
Valentin Anaya, Treasurer

**Agencies Absent**

Margaret Cage (PED)  
Allegra Carpenter (CYFD)  
Gina DeBlassie (DOH)  
Christie Guinn, proxy (HCA, MAD)  
Elizabeth Groginsky (ECECD)  
Lanthia Miles (Non-Government Agency)

**Call to Order/ Housekeeping**

Chair Joel Davis called the meeting to order, completed the roll call, and housekeeping was conducted. The meeting convened at 11:07 AM.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Approval of May 19, 2025 Agenda – Action Item**

Eduardo Ugarte II indicated the agenda should be amended to include an additional action item to approve the November 18, 2024 meeting minutes. Marylou Poli moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by John Arango. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of November 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes – Action Item**

Marylou Poli moved to approve the November 18, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Laurie Ross-Brennan. Motion passed with an abstention from Gary Housepian.

**Approval of February 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes – Action Item**

Laurie Ross-Brennan moved to approve the February 10, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by John Arango. Motion passed with abstentions from Mario Lucero and Deanna Cole.

**2025 Legislative Session Review**

Alice Liu McCoy discussed the passage of the Supported Decision Making Act. Alice discussed the Behavioral Health Package, including Senate Bills 1, 2, and 3 and referred Council members to the weekly legislative reports distributed by the Disability Coalition and published on the Disability Rights New Mexico website. Alice discussed NM DDC's FY26 budget appropriation, projected FY25 general fund reversion, and hiring a Deputy Director.

**Council Committee Projects**

Jennifer Sanchez, Crystal Garcia, and Laurel Deans presented an update on the Education Committee's Youth Advisory Council project.

Lindsay Sloan, Amelia-Ann Dickey, and Alice Liu McCoy presented an update on the Employment Committee and Independence Committee's joint supported decision making project.

Alice presented an update on the Health Committee's peer to peer focus groups project. Elisheva Levin recommended including frontier counties. Selma Ramos Nevarez discussed facilitating feedback from the Las Cruces area, including in Anthony, NM.

### **Current Landscape for the DD Community**

Alice Liu McCoy discussed the current challenges facing the DD community with current political and financial upheaval and led a full-Council discussion on what each Council member visualizes for the future of DD in New Mexico.

### **Council Chair & Executive Director Report**

Joe Turk and Alice Liu McCoy presented an update on the development of the federal five-year strategic plan.

### **Member Announcements**

Patricia Osbourn announced the Imagine Autism conference on June 12-13. Amelia-Ann Dickey announced that she would be going to DC for the AAIDD poster presentation on June 25 with New Mexico Allies for Advocacy. Selma Nevarez announced a NMPED training the next day on developing high quality IEPs.

### **Adjourn**

The next meeting will be held in August 2025. Motion to adjourn was made by Laurie Ross-Brennan and seconded by Elisheva Levin. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:26 PM.