

DRAFT MINUTES – COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

Monday, November 3rd, 2025

625 SILVER AVENUE SW, SUITE 100A

TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Members Present:

Self-Advocates

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

Family Members

Tarra Main
Jennifer Sanchez, Secretary
Selma Ramos Nevarez
Jo Ellen Ranson
Katie Stone, Vice Chair

Agencies' Present

Joel Davis (Non-Profit Group), Chair
John Arango (CLSC)
Patricia Osbourn (UNM CDD)
Eduardo Ugarte II (NMAG)
Laurie Ross-Brennan (Non-Government Agency)
Emily Stern (ECECD)
Tim Gardner, proxy (DRNM)
Isaiah Fuller (Service Provider)
Marylou Poli (ALTSD)
Mario Lucero (DVR)

Staff Present

Alice Liu McCoy (Executive Director)
Joe Turk (OOG Legal Director)
Michelle Tregembo (State Special Education Ombud)
Michelle Varela (Chief Financial Officer)
Donna Vigil (Chief Operating Officer)
Daniel Ekman (CSA Program Manager)
Lindsay Sloan (CSA Outreach Coordinator)
Vashad Frink (CSA Job Trainee)
Lucero Estrada (Office Administrator)

Advocates Absent

Family Members Absent

Valentin Anaya, Treasurer
Joseph Jaramillo
Deanna Cole

Agencies Absent

Christie Guinn (HCA)
Allegra Carpenter (CYFD)
Scott Doan (DDSD)
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 11:03 AM.

Public Comment

None. 11:05AM

Approval of November 3rd, 2025 Agenda – Action Item

Tim Gardner moves to approve. Patricia Osbourn seconds. Motion carries. 11:36 AM

Approval of August 25, 2025 Quarterly Meeting Minutes – Action Item

Emily Stern adds correction to member announcements on page 3 “ECECD.will.distribute.a.fact.sheet.on.disability.etiquette”. Emily Stern motioned to approved as amended, Jennifer Sanchez seconded. Motion carries 11:40 AM.

Member Announcements

Amelia-Ann Dickey shared that she received a job offer and that Albuquerque People First will have a meet up. Elisheva Levin shared her work on projects happening at UNM CDD and her concerns on supporting the Jewish Community in America. Laurie Ross-Brennan expressed that she would like to start a job-training program at Church Thrift shop. Vashad Frink shared that he published a book and is working on a YouTube channel called “Voices of Wisdom”. Lindsay Sloan will be participating in the Legislative Council Service training “Panel on Disability Awareness for the Legislative Council Service”. Richard Segura is hosting a group “Friends Forever” based in Las Cruces through People First. Jennifer Sanchez shared the Autism Day at the Legislature is January 21st and Elevate is celebrating 5 years of Hero Bags. Alice Liu McCoy shared that DRAD Pre-legislative Forum is January 10th. Next Council meeting set for February, will see if best to hold during or after session.

Introduction of Deputy Director Candidate and Council Questions

Deputy Director candidate Jennifer Sanchez was introduced to the council. DDC Leadership Interview Panel gave feedback and insights on why Jennifer was chosen out of all applicants.

Council Deliberation of Deputy Director Candidate – Closed Session

7:12 PM - 7:36 PM; The only things that were discussed during the closed session were the items printed on the agenda;

Approval of Jennifer Sanchez as DDC Deputy Director

Marylou Poli motions to approve the hiring of the deputy director candidate Jennifer Sanchez and Elisheva Levin seconds. Unanimously approved to hire Jennifer Sanchez. 1:10 pm

Transition to New Federal Grants Management System

Donna gave a presentation on the new grants program Amplifund (EUNA) that will be utilized by other agencies as well. New process will streamline things and bring transparency, allowing for better reporting and tracking. Cost will begin to incur 2027. Pat and Alice commented on the helpfulness of Donna and this program. Donna to send out demo video of program to council members.

Committee Projects

Education: Youth Advisory Council – Jennifer Sanchez has created a plan; currently in review for possible implementation. Health: Communicating with DDSD to gather information on first person reality of services. Starting with outreach to areas of the state with key leadership. Employment & Independence: following buckets for SDM, led by Jonathan Martinis.

Council Chair & Executive Director Report - 2026 Legislation Priorities

30 day budget session with an ambitious agenda by the Governor. No announcement has been given on priorities as of yet. The council had a budget hearing in Oct with the legislature. No knows from LFC as of yet, budget recommendations come out in December. Approval received for \$450,000 supplemental appropriation. Pending Executive Approval for Special Appropriations. Highlights of this council include: \$5.6 million budget to \$11.2 million budget increase, OSEO, guardianship oversight, SDM, removal of “mental retardation” from every law in New Mexico. Still need money for OSEO contractors due to high demand for services; may need to start waitlist for OSEO assistance. Restraint and seclusion is the last priority to accomplish. We received the green light to work with LESC and advocates to create a clean, tight bill. To include clear definitions of restraint and seclusion, requirement for training in de-escalation, reporting, and limiting specific types of restraint.

Adjourn

Motion by Elisheva levin to adjourn, second by Tim Gardner. Motion carries 2:08pm