



## FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 9, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

3839 North Third Street, Suite 306

Phoenix, Arizona 85012

*Pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01 (G), the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and its standing and ad-hoc committees may obtain public comment if it so desires. A formal call to the public will take place at the end of the meeting. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Meeting was conducted by teleconference.*

### **Council Members Present**

Melissa Van Hook, Chair

J.J. Rico, Vice-Chair

Bianca Demara

Monica Cooper

James Rivera

Mary Slaughter

Traci Gruenberger

Wendy Parent-Johnson

Kelly Roberts

Scott Lindbloom

Kathy Levandowsky

Janna Murrell

Vanessa Felix

Meghan Cox

### **Council Members Absent**

Matthew Isiogu

Kristen Mackey

Ray Morris

Steve Freeman

Michael Coen

Angelina James

### **Council Staff**

Erica McFadden, Executive Director

Marcella Crane

Michael Leyva

Sarah Ruf

Lani St. Cyr

Jason Snead

### **Members of the Public**

Meghan Velasquez and Cassie Beecher with Improvement Assurance Group

#### **A. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions**

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook welcomed everyone to the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC or Council) Meeting started at 10:04 AM. Roll call and participant introductions were completed.

## **B. 5 Year Goals & Objectives Discussion**

Made revisions to the 5-year goals and objectives. They were drawn from the self advocate surveys, the listening sessions with underserved groups, and the ad hoc committee. The goals balanced aspirational with possible.

The following was discussed.

Goal 1: SELF-DETERMINATION: ESTABLISH, STRENGTHEN, AND EXPAND ADVOCACY AMONG AND FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (I/DD), THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEIR SUPPORT SYSTEMS SO THAT PERSONS WITH DD CAN LIVE MORE SELF-DETERMINED LIVES, FULLY INCLUDED IN ALL ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY LIFE.

ALTERNATIVE: ESTABLISH, STRENGTHEN, AND EXPAND ADVOCACY AMONG AND FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (I/DD) SO THAT THEY CAN LIVE MORE SELF-DETERMINED LIVES, FULLY ENGAGED AND INCLUDED IN ALL ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY LIFE.

The Council determined that the alternative was better because it put the full focus on self advocates. For so long, family members have supplanted self advocate voices, and the Council is working to address this through the wording of its goal. The separation of self advocates from family voices is important.

By FFY 2026, the Council will support or collaborate on at least three initiatives or policies that remove barriers and/or facilitate the ability of self-advocates to have their voices heard and acted upon, so they are able to express themselves, make decisions for themselves and live more self-determined lives.  
Change to annually.

Objective B: By FFY 2026, the Council will increase participation of persons with DD in cross disability, culturally diverse leadership coalitions and groups that address issues of importance to people with DD.

Objective C: By FFY 2026, the Council will expand Council-supported opportunities for families and other support persons to help self advocates lead more self determined lives.

The suggestion was made to switch Objectives B & C around to show more priority.

MEANINGFUL CAREERS: INCREASE THE CAREER POTENTIAL OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND LINK THEM TO RESOURCES NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THEIR CAREER GOALS.

Objective A: By FFY 2026, the Council will increase awareness of, access to, and participation of transition-aged youth (ages 14-22) with I/DD in education and training (e.g. credentialing, professional development, life, job, and technical skills trainings) required for integrated, competitive, inclusive employment.

Objective B: By FFY 2026, in collaboration with self-advocates, DD network partners, employment-related coalitions, professionals who provide support, employers, state agencies, and other key stakeholders, the Council will increase access to, engagement in, and promotion of integrated,

competitive, inclusive career opportunities for working age individuals (ages 22+) with I/DD.

The suggestion was made to add outcomes in Obj A & B. Awareness was thought by some to be implied, but there was discussion that caregivers or parents may still not think a child with a disability is employable. Meghan suggested adding an objective C around employment potential and awareness.

Added: By FFY 2026, in partnership with self advocates and community collaborators, the Council will champion activities that increase awareness of families and caregivers of the career potential of individuals with I/DD and address systems change to ensure that career potential is an ongoing dialogue beginning in early childhood.

Vanessa suggested that dialogue should happen in school with transition aged youth about how to transition out of school successfully. Should be added as an activity.

#### INCLUSION WITH ENGAGEMENT: SUPPORT COMMUNITIES AND AGENCIES ACROSS ARIZONA TO INCLUDE AND ENGAGE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS WHO HAVE INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

- Objective A: In coordination with state agencies, the DD network, and community collaborators, by FFY 2026, the Council develop and strengthen more inclusive, engaging, culturally, and linguistically competent processes, policies, and practices that support the inclusion and engagement of individuals with I/DD throughout Arizona.
- Objective B: In coordination with state and local agencies, community collaborators, tribal leaders, and local community members by FFY 2026, the Council will implement or support at least one strategy or initiative to address transportation-related challenges impacting individuals with I/DD's inclusion and engagement in rural or tribal community communities.
- Objective C: By FFY 2026, the Council will support and disseminate at least five promising or best practice projects and/or produce new information or data that supports or promotes expanded inclusion and engagement of people with I/DD in their communities.

Changed Obj C to annually. Under Obj A, changed to culturally attuned and linguistically competent, including plain language processes, policies, and practices, ... To ensure people understand what cultural and linguistic competence means and that people understand it includes plain language. The group said we also need to translate our goals and objectives into plain language.

#### SAFETY: EXPOSE AND REDUCE INSTANCES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES OF ALL AGES WHILE WORKING TOWARD A SYSTEMIC FOCUS ON PREVENTION.

Objective A: In collaboration with key stakeholders (e.g. state agencies, the legal system, law enforcement, domestic violence programs, schools, community-based organizations) and self-advocates, by FFY 2026 the Council will strengthen, modify, or assist in the creation of at least two policies or practices that improve abuse response and prevention efforts.

Objective B: By FFY 2026, the Council will champion and support at least two initiatives that increase access to or utilization of research-based best practices and trainings that promote safety of individuals with I/DD.

Objective C: In collaboration with key behavioral health stakeholders, by FFY2026, the Council will champion and support at least one initiative that strengthens trauma informed approaches and

improves behavioral health access and delivery to individuals with I/DD.

**Obj A & B changed to annually. Policy or practice added to obj C; Behavior health added to obj A**

**SYSTEM ACCESS & NAVIGATION: ENHANCE, STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND ACCESS TO ACCURATE AND USER-FRIENDLY INFORMATION AND THE SERVICES NEEDED FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TO LEAD MORE SELF-DETERMINED LIVES.**

Objective A: By FFY 2026, the Council will champion and support at least one initiative to ensure individuals with I/DD and their families have access to pertinent information that assists them in navigating transition points (including ages 3, 6, 18, 22, and 50+) throughout their lives.

Objective B: By FFY 2026, the Council will support at least one training or research-based initiative that improves access to needed services and information for people with I/DD and their families.

Objective B Alternative: By FFY 2026, the Council will champion and support initiatives that improve access to needed services and information for people with I/DD, their families, and their support systems, with a specific emphasis on addressing access to services and information in underrepresented communities (e.g. Spanish speaking, Native American, refugee, rural).

Objective C: By FFY 2026, the Council will champion and support at least two initiatives designed to increase American Indians with I/DD's and their families' access to the information and support needed to fully participate in the community.

**Obj A & B changed to annually. To add differentiation to the goals they were re-written to the following:**

**Obj A: Annually, the council will champion and support at least one initiative to ensure individuals with I/DD and their families have access to pertinent information that assists them in navigating transition points (including ages 3, 6, 18, 22, 50, 65, and end of life).**

**Obj B: Annually, the Council will champion and support at least one initiative, policy, or practice that improves access to needed services and engagement with information for people with I/DD, their families, and their support systems, within underrepresented communities (e.g., Spanish speaking, Native American, refugee, rural).**

**Obj C: By FFY 2026, the Council will champion and support at least two initiatives designed to increase American Indians with I/DD and their families' access to the information and support needed to fully participate in the community.**

Chairperson Melissa Van Hook asked for a motion to accept the revised version of the goals and objectives to submit for public comment. Scott Lindbloom made the motion. It was seconded by Monica Cooper. The motion unanimously carried.

### **C. Activities to Be Considered in the 5 Year Plan**

Meghan reviewed the process for how potential activities will be included. She has incorporated some activity ideas in this session and will be going back to the underserved communities to share the goals & objectives and incorporate any other ideas for activities they have. Staff will look at current projects and see where they fit. At the next council meeting, we will review potential activities. Scott brought up the potential of unaccompanied minors with disabilities bring sexually assaulted at the border. Erica said we can look into researching that. Scott also added the idea of teaching self-defense to people with I/DD.

Mary brought up we should assess what is available for older adults with I/DD so we understand what the gaps are. Melissa thought we could look at what Lynne had already done.

Meghan said to email her directly with any additional activities.

Melissa called for a motion to adjourn. Scott Lindbloom moved to adjourn, seconded by Monica Cooper. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021  
Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council