



Oregon Council on  
Developmental Disabilities

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## Council Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2020

Zoom: <http://bit.ly/2Q8tYDk>

Dial in: 720-707-2699 / Meeting ID: 998511331#

Link to meeting materials: <http://bit.ly/OCDDMeetingMaterials>

**Present:** Daniel Alrick, Rosa Belem Ochoa, Mack Beatty, Emily Braman, Julie Chick, Jake Cornett, Julie Farrell, Ben Hoffman, Andee Joyce, Chris Knowles, Heather Lindsay, Alice Miller, Ruth Morris, Sarah Noack, Eddie Plourde, Caitlin Shockley, Sally Simich, Jasper Smith, Lindsay Stephens, Daniel Tucker, Stephanie Utzman, Che Walker, Emilie Wylde Turner

**Guests:** Katherine Ball, Missy Elliott, Lisa Ledson, Kendra Lodewick, Myles Maxey, Catherine Roller White, Carrie Salehiamin, Kirsten Smith

**Interpreters:** Becky, Joy

**Staff:** Melinda Benson, Susie Goodell, Sieu Inac, Beth Kessler, Ryley Newport, Dominic Paz, Trish Roussel, Lynn Russell, Leslie Sutton

**Absent:** Monica Cox, Anna Lansky, Noelle Siske, Nicola Spears

### *Welcome and Introductions*

Daniel Alrick called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Attendees introduced themselves. Quorum is met. Beth introduced new staff member, Lynn Russell, who is joining part time as Advocacy Support Specialist.

## **Review agenda and announcements**

Daniel reviewed the agenda and opened the business meeting. He informed the family that Nicola Spears' sister, Aja Raquel Spears, was tragically killed two weeks ago. The Council observed a moment of silence in memory of Aja and in honor of the family.

## **Thank you to Carrie Salehiamin**

Beth spoke on behalf of the staff and Daniel and Rosa spoke on behalf of the Council to express gratitude to Carrie for her work with the Council.

## **Business meeting**

Executive Director Hiring Update – DHS is in the middle of a hiring freeze, but this position is exempt from the freeze. However, it took time to process the paperwork to prove the exemption. Also, John has taken a different position in DHS but has been approved to continue to work on this job search. The application process is closed and there is a good list of candidates, but the Search Committee hasn't seen it yet. There will be a Search Committee meeting to go over the interview questions and then coordinate to begin interviews. The full Council will still participate in final interviews. The hiring timeline is still on track for an October or November start date but due to the current challenges, the final interviews will need to occur outside of a scheduled Council meeting. The Search Committee will work to give as much notice as possible so that most if not all Council Members will be able to join the process virtually.

The Council was given time to go over the June meeting minutes. Eddie moved to approve the June 2020 Retreat Meeting minutes with the addition of Susie Goodell to the staff attending section and correction of Lindsay Stephens' spelling. Caitlin seconded the motion. 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstain. Motion to approve the June 2020 minutes

carried.

Budget Update: There are no new budget numbers to show the Council. The new contracts hire will be able to devote time to go through the budget process with DHS. The reserve amount is still estimated at \$200,000. In October, the Council will be voting on a new budget via a new format. It will show budget projections and updated spending due to COVID changes. Staff are also working to develop accessible visuals to support the budget discussion.

The Executive Committee approved paying stipends for Council members who are not paid to attend meetings as part of their salary/job requirements. The stipend would begin with the August Council Meeting. Staff are working on written policies for the stipend and more information will be coming. If a Council member is interested in receiving a stipend, please reach out to Beth directly.

#### 5-Year Plan Data Analysis

Kendra Lodewick has been reviewing Council data looking for themes; for stories to identify what the data is telling us. The Federal Government calls them “areas of emphasis”; the Council calls them “aspects of life”. In breakout groups, Kendra’s team took notes as the Council discussed three questions concerning the themes found and how the themes will be reflected in the next 5-year plan. The questions are:

- “What resonates with you?”
- “What’s missing?”
- “Where do you still have questions or want clarified before making a decision?”

The themes discussed were:

- Recreation
- Self-Advocacy
- Transportation
- Child Care

The rest of the themes will be discussed in October.

## Lunch Break

- What's your why? Each Council member and staff had the opportunity to share why they chose to support the work of the Council.
- Annual Workplan Review & Vote  
The vote request is to continue the current path of spending for the rest of the fiscal year and guide staff work.

Objective 1.1 *Increase awareness of OCDD's messaging, brand identity and impact of our work.* No change to this objective.

Objective 1.2 *Support a statewide network of family organizations to increase community integration through peer support.* Due to the Legislative funding cuts, staff will be looking to pursue alternate funding sources. That will be the work of the next 3-4 months and staff hope to propose additional opportunities at that time. There seems to be an evolution of how states fund Family Networks. Because of the importance of the work, the Council wants this work to continue.

Objective 1.3 *Provide opportunities for people to learn and contribute to their communities.* This objective covers conference sponsorships and Better Together grants. This area is on hold for the year and Council will need to reflect on its priority for the next 5-year plan. This area has been marked as complete in the current plan as it was implemented for 4 years.

Objective 1.4 *Become an equitable and culturally responsive organization to address issues experienced by Oregon's diverse communities.* Nothing was removed from this objective but added "Consider recruitment and hiring practices to diversity staff, Council Members, subgrantees and contractors." Leveraging the work of the

Equity Committee, Council will use an equity lens and the Equity Statement (per Steve Hanauma's work) to support decision making.

Objective 1.5 *Increase the number of children with disabilities that access inclusive childcare.* As a reminder, the Council administers the work of Inclusive Partners but doesn't determine its scope of work.

Objective 2.1 *Support OSAC to develop an infrastructure focused on systems change and policy advocacy.* There is excitement about this work. The Council wants frequent, regular updates from OSAC.

Objective 2.2 *Develop materials that promote competitive integrated employment outcomes.* No updates in the objective.

Objective 2.3 *Increase access to adequate levels of EI/ECSE services.* This is a continued objective to assure EI/ESCE funding is maintained and prioritized.

Objective 2.4 *Increase the capacity of community housing options for people with IDD.* This objective adds "Support OCF Fairview Advisory Committee to leverage fund in pursuit of affordable housing options for people with IDD". The group is working on elections of Co-Chairs and Treasurer.

Objective 2.5 *Educate policy makers, family members and self-advocates about state and federal policies, how they benefit from services, how they are impacted by changes and what they can do to promote positive change.* Added "Support OCASD (Oregon Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorder) to pursue cross-systems collaborations. This objective is what is happening within the DDS, courts, policy work, etc. It involves collaboration with partners. This is the objective that covers work that comes up that are unforeseen/predicted like the advocacy required around hospital support teams during COVID.

Objective 2.7 *Co-lead (Oregon's participation in the) national*

*LifeCourse Community of Practice with ODDS.* Continuing this work is important to the Council there are no proposed changes in these two objectives.

Objective 2.6 *Implement regional leadership training program for self-advocates and family members.* *Strong Start (SS)* Discussion began with a reminder of the outcomes the Council wants and what we want to avoid. The Council wants SS to be more financially sustainable and flexibility in curriculum.

Strengths- 2 videos have already been recorded. Reusing these powerful videos means consistency of message and financial feasibility. Historically, national speakers were very expensive and using local voices are great for the State. Using Council voices could make SS even more meaningful for participants.

Weaknesses- Interpreters and translation support is inadequate and expensive to support other language speakers. Technology requirements might limit participants. This training is all about personal connections and virtual changes the dynamics. Not having participants stay at the same hotel makes it harder for them to bond and build relationships.

Dangers- SS needs to be culturally responsive and inclusive. Virtual might only reach people currently connected to the Council, thus less new voices.

Benefits- People will be better prepared for upcoming Legislative sessions. SS improves the ability to find and develop future advocates. Virtual means upfront investment with limited future investments needed.

What makes the Council excited about SS? Thoughts?  
~Opportunity for us to do something targeted and specific  
~Meaningful mentorship, individual buy-in and commitment  
~How do we continue to grow the entire community?  
~Are we in the beginning of a new era of virtual interconnectedness?  
~Are we looking at a new generation of advocates who prefer virtual interactions?

## SS Next Steps

- \*Look at similar trainings being done virtually.
- \*Updated cohort models and supports
- \*Connecting with others doing the same work
- \*Generationally- online learning changes, what do we know? How do we predict?
- \*Pursue next steps research to determine whether we continue to update SS for virtual delivery.
- \*Research to assure that communities that haven't yet benefitted from this training are not left out.

**Work Plan next steps-** Sarah motioned to approve the work plan as presented to guide staff work in the next year. Jake seconded the motion 19 approve, 0 oppose, 1 abstain. Motion carries.

**Update on Easy Voting Guide** – DRO ran out of money to fund this important guide and reached out to partners to help. Jake worked with the Executive Committee to discuss the fund needs and got approval to proceed. The full need was for \$10,000 and Council staff was able to find other sponsors to cover \$5,000. There will be a vote in October to determine where the Council would like to allocate where the \$5000 will come from the current budget.

For accessible online versions, visit [easyvotingguide.org](https://easyvotingguide.org). People can also request a free, printed copy of the Easy Voting Guide from Disability Rights Oregon. **Orders must be made by Monday, September 21, 2020.** The printed guide will be mailed free of charge and can be ordered at [droregon.org/order-evg](https://droregon.org/order-evg).

**Legislative Update** – COVID has created a State recession and so budgets are being cut to be able to balance.

Policy changes were added through SB 1606 to assure patients with a disability must be allowed to designate at least 3 support persons. Also, healthcare access isn't dependent on signing forms for end of life

care. See DRO's COVID-19: Know your Rights for details and support.  
[droregon.org/covid-19-rights](http://droregon.org/covid-19-rights)

For support with this issue, remember that if a hospital needs signage, contact Leslie. If a hospital is refusing support staff, contact Jake and DRO.

Experts have stated that they believe the next legislative session (possibly January 2021) will have even more harsh cuts. Leslie reminded the Council that we all need to stay on point as there will be more time to correct misunderstandings.

**Public Comment-** none given

**One-word closing round-** love, fresh, distracted, onward, weekend, enjoy, ukulele, vote, puppies, gratitude, reflecting, united, satisfied, change, summer rain, commitment, dedication, appreciative, planning, community, filled-up, excited, rainbow.

**Daniel adjourned the meeting at 4:07 pm.**