

DRAFT MINUTES – COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

Monday, March 2, 2026

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
Richard Segura

Family Members

Jo Ellen Ranson
Deanna Cole

Agencies' Present

Joel Davis (Non-Profit Group), Chair
John Arango (CLSC)
Patricia Osbourn (UNM CDD)
Laurie Ross-Brennan (Non-Government Agency)
Sec. Elizabeth Groginsky (ECECD)
Gary Housepian (DRNM)
Isaiah Fuller (Service Provider)
Sec. Emily Kaltenbach (ALTSD)
Mario Lucero (DVR)
Sec. Valerie Sandoval (CYFD)
Sec. Gina DeBlassie (DOH)
Sec. Kari Armijo (HCA)
Sec. Mariana Padilla (PED)
Lanthia Miles (Non-Government Agency)

Chris Harrington (NMAG)

Staff Present

Jennifer Sanchez (Interim 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)
Deana Reyes (Accountant & Auditor)

Advocates Absent

Lystra John

Family Members Absent

Tarra Main
Selma Ramos Nevarez
Valentin Anaya, Treasurer
Joseph Jaramillo

Agencies Absent

Call to Order/Housekeeping

Chair Joel Davis called the meeting to order, completed the roll call, and housekeeping was conducted. The meeting convened at 11:10 AM.

Public Comment

Rita Duran: concerns with growing waitlist for guardianship and funds applied to SDM.
11:15 AM

Approval of 03-02-26 Agenda – Action Item

Motion by John Arango, 2nd by Dr. Levin – motion carries

Approval of 11-03-25 Quarterly Council Meeting Minutes – Action Item

Motion by John Arango with edit to misprint on page 2. Second by Dr. Levin – motion carries

Member Announcements

Amelia Ann Dickey shared her volunteer work and new cat. Dr. Elisheva Levin concerned with hardships related to Medicare access for herself and the public. Sec. Kaltenbach shared that ALTSD has a resource center. Emily Stern shared there is a Brain Injury resource fair on March 18th. Secretary Padilla shared there is 155 tutoring sights and will share information on reading program and summer program. Sec. Kaltenbach announced 35th annual conference on aging with dev disabilities in May. Pat Osbourn shared Imagine conference 21-22 of May; conference w/Early Childhood at end of June on Autism Spectrum Disorder and downs syndrome. Chair Joel Davis shared that Elevate the Spectrum has board member openings.

Update on Open Executive Committee Positions

Chair Davis announced that Vice Chair Katie Stone had stepped down from the board and Secretary Jennifer Sanchez has joined DDC staff. New Vice-Chair and Secretary open for nomination after lunch

Update on DDC Executive Director (ED) Position and Affirming Jennifer Sanchez as Acting Director – Action Item 11:58 AM

Discussion on the role of the director and timeline to appoint a new ED. Chair Davis announced the target date for hire would be next council meeting in May. Questions from the council on the role of the Governor in the process. Clarification that the position was a Gov-Ex position and not state. Deputy Director Sanchez confirmed she is able to the lead until the council makes a decision on the new director. Chair Davis announced motion on

the table to confirm Interim Director Sanchez and 2nd motion to confirm ED resolution process. Request by Sec. Kaltenbach to change resolved to hired.

Motion by John Arango to approve Deputy Director Sanchez as acting director until new executive is hired. Second by JoEllen Ransom, Sec. Armijo and Sec. Groginsky abstained. Motion carries

Hiring of New Executive Director Process – Action Item

Review of the hiring process. John Arango recapped on hiring process for previous ED. Sec. Kaltenbach motions for job to be posted within 2 weeks = 03/16/2026. Clarification on the role of Governor's office in the process; the council creates the description and will send it to the executive office for review. The executive may send candidate recommendations for the council to consider. Examples of similar job descriptions would be provided from other agencies. Motion by John Arango to post the job description created by the executive committee within 2 weeks = 03/16/26 and the position will remain open for 2 weeks = 03/30/26. Chair Davis will convene an interview committee to include the executive committee, agency rep, self-advocate, and 1 staff member. Second by Pat Osbourn – Gary Housepian abstained – motion carries.

HR Update

HR Staff member Donna Vigil reviewed current vacancies and re-classifications which included positions being lowered 1-2 pay bands to increase savings. Announced current postings and next round.

Budget Update

CFO Michelle Varela reviewed 200, 300, and 400 categories. Saving \$33,000 with Executive Position being empty for rest of fiscal year. Language put in HB 2 has put a cap on money that can be moved over; line veto request was submitted. Council member suggested that positions could be combined and modified or that some positions may not be needed. Staff is currently carrying multiple roles and programs are growing. Council members suggested contracting for HR, IT, mobile CPO. Several cabinet secretaries stated that offices would help to support. Jennifer Sanchez advised that other options were be reviewed and implemented, including the use of grant funding up to 30% as allowed.

Federal Grants Update

Donna Vigil: DDC is moving to EUNA (formally Amplifund) grant system working in conjunction with DFA and EUNA. Jennifer Sanchez has been attending regular meetings with Donna to get program up to date. Will make grants competitive and streamline scoring and vetting process with clear and specific performance measures. Currently have 15

subgrantees. Trainings and notices to go out soon. Per Jennifer Sanchez, will be creating a committee to review grant requests, and asked for 2 council members to join when ready for following year.

Post Legislative Update

Jim Jackson gave a 2026 legislative update and referenced the Disability Coalition Report. Mentioned reduction in the amount of money coming from Medicaid, it will cause a squeeze in the healthcare system. Spending will be less in the coming year, which will have implications for healthcare system including people with disabilities. Office of Special Education within PED codified. Interim committees start meeting in May. Election year, not for senate.

Council Deliberation of open Executive Committee positions – Action Item

Bylaws do not address the specific situation on how to fill an executive committee system. John mentioned executive committee will need to update by laws. Secretary Groginsky nominated self for Vice-Chair. Elisheva Levin nominated self for secretary. Motion by John Arango to accept nominations, second by Pat Osbourn – motion carries.

Office of Guardianship Update

Joe Turk: About \$250,000 deficit. 1074 cases; 120 case more than 3 years ago. Waitlist currently at 405 applications. Part of Behavioral Health Collaborative. 6.6% admin fee. Had paid \$165,000 and HCA paid the rest. Now have to pay the whole \$400,000. 552 mental health treatment guardians per month (over 100 increase) and a rate increase. Increase from \$700,000 to \$1.15 million. Might go up again with changes in mental health law. Staff shortage and budget primary focus. 25 companies under contract now. Update on Supportive Decision Making (SDM) program; process paused in courts until statute approved by the supreme court. Contracting with DRNM to review the applications/waitlist and see if those individuals who would benefit more from SDM and help reduce the list.

5 Year Plan Update

Currently receiving surveys to pull into plan. Goal of 300, currently at 249 received. Will guide in the building of the goals and direction of the council. Plan to be introduced at next meeting.

Office of Special Education Ombud Update

Down 2 regional coordinators and 1 intake coord. 70 families on a 1-hour consultation and 164 active cases and turnaround time of 48 hours. Looking for applicants that understand schools, IEP process and family advocacy. 35 people applied to the intake position.

Center for Self-Advocacy Update

Jennifer Sanchez: Advocate Leadership Academy has 12 applicants; an increase due to more robust promotion for the academy. CSA podcast hosted Vashad and Lindsay is in development. To start social events during the summer and find ways to inspire individuals to start meet up groups outside of metro area.

Upcoming Agency Events

ARC Self-Advocacy Summit in July. Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) in Oct.

Adjourn at 3:56 PM.

Per legal guidance, no motion required.