

**DRAFT MINUTES – COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**  
Monday, August 25, 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  
Richard Segura

**Family Members**

Joel Davis, Chair  
Valentin Anaya, Treasurer  
Jennifer Sanchez, Secretary  
Joseph Melvyn Jaramillo  
Tarra Main  
Selma Ramos Nevarez  
Jo Ellen Ransom

**Agencies Present**

John Arango (CLSC)  
Scott Doan, proxy (HCA, DDSD)  
Isaiah Fuller (service provider)  
Tim Gardner, proxy (DRNM)  
Mario Lucero, proxy (DVR)  
Patricia Osbourn (UNM, CDD)  
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)  
Daniel Ekman (CSA Program Manager)  
Lindsay Sloan (CSA Outreach Coordinator)  
Vashad Frink (CSA Job Trainee)  
Lucero Estrada (Office Administrator)  
Zachary Shandler (NMDOJ Assistant Attorney General)

**Advocates Absent**

**Family Members Absent**

Katie Stone, Vice Chair  
Deanna Cole

**Agencies Absent**

Margaret Cage (PED)  
Allegra Carpenter (CYFD)  
Gina DeBlassie (DOH)  
Christie Guinn, proxy (HCA, MAD)  
Lanthia Miles (Non-Government Agency)  
Marylou Poli, proxy (ALTSD)

**Call to Order/ Housekeeping**

Chair Joel Davis called the meeting to order, completed the roll call, and housekeeping was conducted. The meeting convened at 11:12 AM.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Approval of August 25, 2025 Agenda – Action Item**

Valentin Anaya moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Elisheva Levin. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of May 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes – Action Item**

Jennifer Sanchez moved to approve the May 19, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Jo Ellen Ransom. Motion passed with an abstention from Tim Gardner.

**Customized Employment**

Amelia-Ann Dickey gave a presentation on customized employment. Amelia, Valentin Anaya, Tim Gardner, Pat Osbourn, JoEllen Ransom, and Alice Liu McCoy discussed the availability, challenges, and successes of customized employment opportunities in New Mexico.

**Council Committee Projects**

Michelle Tregembo and Alice Liu McCoy gave an update on the Youth Advisory Council for the Education Committee. Elisheva Levin discussed the need for tailoring curriculum and educational credits for rural and frontier students. Valentin Anaya discussed the need for financial literacy training. Jennifer Sanchez discussed a pilot program for students with autism focusing on one school and wrap-around services. John Arango discussed how the *Yazzie Martinez* lawsuit can be a platform to start customized employment and vocational education at the elementary school level. Michelle discussed the LANL foundation's involvement in addressing the *Yazzie Martinez* on behalf of PED. JoEllen Ransom suggested working with Amy Biehl High School to start the YAC pilot.

Daniel Ekman and Alice gave an update on the waiver participant focus groups for the Health Committee. John Arango emphasized the need to guard against budget cuts affecting services for people with disabilities.

Shasta Inman and Alice gave an update on the Supported Decision Making strategic planning and outreach, the joint project for the Employment and Independence committees. Valentin discussed the confusion about the guardian's role in the DD waiver system and the inconsistency between agencies. JoEllen raised the concern that individuals do not always know to ask for supporters, which can lead to misunderstanding. Emily suggested

developing a self-advocacy script to help individuals self-advocate in an informed way.

**Approval of DDC Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Request – Action Item**

Alice Liu McCoy presented the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget request for the agency. John Arango moved to approve the budget request, seconded by Valentin Anaya. Motion passed with two abstentions from Scott Doan and Amelia-Ann Dickey.

**Council Chair & Executive Director Report**

Alice Liu McCoy stated the Governor would call a special session to be called in the coming months and discussed DDC's budget and legislative priorities in the 2026 Legislative session.

**Member Announcements**

Valentin Anaya invited Council members to attend the Socorro County State Fair, where his son Gogo will participate in the Lego building contest. Emily Stern announced that the Early Childhood Education and Care Department would be distributing a fact sheet on ethics and disability in the workplace.

**Adjourn**

The next meeting will be held in November 2025. Motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Sanchez and seconded by John Arango. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:59 PM.

