

DDC March 2025 Monthly Updates

March 5, 2025

Hello everyone,

I hope you're all doing well today. Happy DD Awareness Month! I am sending along several updates and information for your review and consideration. Please reach out if we can help you find/understand/act on any of these pieces.

- Please consider contributing to the [Medicaid Matters Campaign](#) if you haven't already. As you know, there are several big decisions being made about our Federal Medicaid system right now. DDC staff have been following these happenings and the potential impacts very closely. Congress has until the end of this month to agree on a budget or implement across the board cuts to all of the Federal government. Elected officials need to hear from their constituents now! We are standing by to help you and the people in your network understand potential impacts, create a story to share and meet with elected officials. Thanks to those of you who have already contributed- your videos are AWESOME!
- Our Federal partners asked each council across the country to create a one page document showing the recent impacts they have had on their local community. We are proud to share this information with you and think it could be the first try at some type of annual messaging about the work that happens as a result of your 5 Year State Plan goals. Check it out here: [WADDC Community Impact 2025](#)
- Thanks go to the Membership and Governance Committee for all of the policy update work they have been doing in between our quarterly council meetings. We are posting the final versions of those policies, once the full council votes on them, in the [Council Members website](#) under the "Internal Policies" button at the top of the home page. Please let us know if you'd like us to show you how to find those.
- Our Informing Families Language Access and Culturally Specific Resources project has launched. We would love to have your input on any organizations you are aware of that

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focus on language and/or cultural access. Learn about that effort here: [Language Access Resources | Informing Families](#)

- The [Community Advocacy Coalition \(CAC\)](#) has developed a legislative agenda for the first time in recent history! Check out what this group of organizations voted to be most important for our community here: [67bd0f6e5f351894ffed33c4_2025_CAC_priority_agenda.pdf](#)
- March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) has an awesome campaign going to educate the public. They also built a tool kit for state councils to use and you'll see us posting throughout the month on our social media and news sites! They are looking for stories to help boost their campaign, and I am attaching their ask to you all in this message (see attached email).
- Council Travel: You'll see revised forms have been posted on the Council Membership website and we will have time set aside to review and help folks fill those out in April. We also wanted to share more information about the Real ID requirements that take effect in May. This video was produced by the Department of the Blind and does a great job of explaining what's happening: [REAL ID: Prepare for New Travel ID Requirements](#). Please be sure to have your Real ID ready to use in the July meeting if you plan to travel.
- Finally, we want to make sure you have the Community Summit saved on your calendars- 6/4/25 (see attached announcement)! The Informing Families program is hosting a few sessions this year and we would love to have council member involvement! More to come on that as we plan our sessions!

Alright everyone, please watch out for our [monthly newsletter](#) to come early next week with these updates and more. Don't hesitate to reach out if we can assist with anything. Take good care of yourselves!

Brandi Monts

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Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

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