



# WA DD Council Meeting Packet

April 2026

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## Council Committee Membership

Membership and Governance		Public Policy	
<b>Melanie Baker</b>	<b>(Chair)</b>	<b>Julie Clark</b>	<b>(Chair)</b>
Sydney Krebsbach		Riley Daugherty	
Bridget Parkhill		Robert Wardell	
Dana Floyd		Alex Koval	
Melanie Baker		Julie Clark	
DVR - Katie Mirkovich		Melissa Dodge	
DDCS - Kris Pederson		Katie Nash	
BHHA – Megan DeSmet		Sandi Gruberg	
HCA - Angela Randal		DOH - Monica Burke	
OSPI - Cassie Martin		UCEDD - Mark Harniss	
		DRW - Noah Seidel	
Tayshia Farra	Ex-Officio	Tayshia Farra	Ex-Officio
Leigh Spruce	Ex-Officio	Leigh Spruce	Ex-Officio
Brian Dahl	Staff	Brandi Monts	Staff
Kevin Vargas	Staff	Christie Chiles	Staff
Linda West	Staff	Emily Rogers	Staff
		Phillip Rasmussen	Staff
Executive Committee		Undeclared Members	
Brandi Monts	Staff	De Anna Winterrose	
Tayshia Farra	Co-chair 1	Connor Casseday	
Julie Clark	PP Chair	Letha Fernandez	
Leigh Spruce	Co-chair 2		
Melanie Baker	M&G Chair		
Katie Nash	1st Vice Chair		
Melanie Baker	2nd Vice Chair		

## April 2026 Restaurant List

Google Maps Link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/KoQRn7gMfkSXsayV7>

### **Casa Mia of Lacey**

Website: <https://casamiarestaurants.com/>

Address: 600 Sleater Kinney Rd SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Phone: (360) 438-3663

Cuisine: Italian

Distance: About 0.2 miles (3 to 5 minute walk)

Wheelchair accessible: Yes

### **O'Blarney's Irish Pub**

Website: <https://www.oblarneyspub.com/>

Address: 4411 Martin Way E, Olympia, WA 98516

Phone: 360-459-8084

Cuisine: Pub style

Distance: About 0.2 miles (3 to 5 minute walk)

Wheelchair accessible: Yes

### **Puget Sound Taps**

Website: <http://puget-sound-taps.com/>

Address: 4250 Martin Way E, Olympia, WA 98516

Phone: 360-489-1399

Cuisine: Pizza and pub style

Distance: About 0.2 miles (3 to 5 minute walk)

Wheelchair accessible: Yes

### **Jimmy John's**

Website:

<https://locations.jimmyjohns.com/wa/lacey/sandwiches-3830.html>

Address: 4520 College St SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Phone: (360) 491-7400

Cuisine: Sandwiches

Distance: About 0.3 miles (5 to 7 minute walk)

Wheelchair accessible: Yes

### **Denny's**

Website:

<https://locations.dennys.com/WA/LACEY/247873>

Address: 4520 College St SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Phone: (360) 491-1050

Cuisine: American diner

Distance: About 0.3 miles (5 to 7 minute walk)

Wheelchair accessible: Yes

### **Red Lobster**

Website:

<https://www.redlobster.com/seafood-restaurants/locations/wa/olympia/4505-martin-way-east/>

Address: 4505 Martin Way E, Olympia, WA 98516

Phone: 360-493-0393

Cuisine: Seafood

Distance: About 0.4 miles (10 minute walk)

Wheelchair accessible: Yes

### **Pints Dog House**

Website: <https://pintsdoghouse.com/>

Address: 4444 6th Ave SE Suite 100, Lacey, WA 98503

Phone: (360) 742-3355

Cuisine: Hot dogs

Distance: About 0.4 miles (7 to 9 minute walk)

Wheelchair accessible: Yes

**Ricardo's Kitchen and Bar**

Website:

<https://ricardoskitchenandbarwa.com/>

Address: 676 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey, WA 98503

Phone: (360) 413-9995

Cuisine: Steakhouse and American

Distance: About 0.5 miles (8 to 10 minute walk)

Wheelchair accessible: Yes

**Starbucks (inside Safeway)**

Address: 4230 Martin Way E, Olympia, WA 98516

Cuisine: Coffee and beverages

Distance: About 0.4 miles (7 to 9 minute walk)

Wheelchair accessible: Yes

**Starbucks (full café with seating)**

Address: 4131 Martin Way E, Olympia, WA 98516

Cuisine: Coffee and beverages

Distance: About 0.5 miles (7 to 9 minute walk)

Wheelchair accessible: Yes

**Safeway Grocery Store**

Website:

<https://local.safeway.com/safeway/wa/olympia/4280-martin-way-e.html>

Address: 4280 Martin Way E, Olympia, WA 98516

Phone: (360) 438-9390

Type: Grocery store

Distance: About 0.4 miles (7 to 9 minute walk)

Wheelchair accessible: Yes

## Things You Need to Know April 2026– Olympia/Lacey, WA

### *Packet Talk - A Video Guide to the Council Packet*

Before each quarterly meeting, Council staff record a short video called Packet Talk. This video walks you through the Council packet in a fun and conversational format, so you know what to expect and feel ready for the meeting.

- Watch the video here: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/11597052>
- Or scan this QR code with your phone:



### *Meeting Location*

The April 2026 meeting will be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites at 4301 Martin Way E, Olympia, WA 98516 on April 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 4 pm and April 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to noon. You can find information about the meeting on the DDC website at: <https://www.ddc.wa.gov/council-meeting/april-2026-quarterly-council-meeting>. There you can find meeting information, Zoom links, and meeting materials, which we will post there as they become available.

### *History and Visioning Event*

The day before the Council meeting, on April 15<sup>th</sup>, the DDC will be hosting a History and Visioning event at the South Puget Sound Community College's Lacey Campus in the Lacey Campus Event Center at 4220 6th Ave SE, Lacey WA 98503. You can find it on Google Maps at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/CYoKu6WB1TtYne5D8>

This is a two part event, with the first session from 10 am to 2 pm and the second session from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Council staff reached out to Members and have registered everyone who said they are able to attend. Lunch and afternoon light refreshments will be served at the event. Please see the map below for the specific location of the event center on the SPSCC Lacey Campus.

The Lacey Intercity Transit station is directly across the street from the SPSCC Lacey Campus. Visit the Intercity Transit website for bus routes, schedules, and other

transportation options. Intercity Transit website <https://www.intercitytransit.com/> Staff will have vans available to shuttle people from the hotel to the event and back. Parking is limited, you can park anywhere on the SPSCC campus. Please carpool if possible or ride over from the hotel with Council staff.



### *Meal Reimbursement (Per Diem)*

Most meals will be reimbursed at the [current per diem rate](#). See the “[Eligible Meals](#)” chart below and/or reach out to Council staff to determine the meals that may be reimbursed for you. No receipts are needed for meals. You can view an interactive list of the restaurants that are within walking/rolling distance of the hotel at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/KoQRn7gMfkSXsayV7>

Meals catered by the Council will be served buffet style at the hotel by Bayview Catering. **No separately plated meals will be served at the meeting. Folks will need to find what options suit them best on the buffet line. All allergens will be clearly**

**labeled.** Please note that meal offerings are subject to change based on availability. If you have questions about the food for this event, please contact Christie Chiles at [christie.chiles@ddc.wa.gov](mailto:christie.chiles@ddc.wa.gov) or 360-586-3540.

- **April 14th (Travel day)**– You will be responsible for obtaining your own meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) on this day and will be reimbursed for eligible meals at the per diem rate.
- **April 15<sup>th</sup> (History and Visioning Event)** - You will be responsible for your own breakfast and dinner. Lunch and light refreshments will be provided at the event.
- **April 16<sup>th</sup> (Meeting Day 1)** - The Council will provide breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack.
  - **Breakfast (8:00 a.m.)** - Truck Stop Breakfast: scrambled eggs, sausage, cottage fried potatoes, croissants, and juice.
  - **Lunch (12:00 p.m.)** - Sandwich and Salad Buffet: sliced meats and cheeses, breads, salad greens, condiments, and dressings.
  - **2:00 PM Snack:** Brownies & Assorted Cookies
  - **Dinner** will be on your own and will be reimbursed at the current per diem rate
  
- **April 25<sup>th</sup> (Meeting Day 2)** - The Council will provide breakfast.
  - **8:00 AM Breakfast:** Truck Stop Breakfast: scrambled eggs, bacon, cottage fried potatoes, biscuits, and juice.
  - **Lunch** will be on your own and, if eligible, will be reimbursed at the current per diem rate
  - **Dinner** will be on your own and, if eligible, will be reimbursed at the current per diem rate

If you are eligible to be reimbursed for claimed meals, simply fill out the Travel Reimbursement form (provided during the meeting or available online at [WA DD Council Member Forms](#)) and submit it to Christie or Linda in person or via [email](#). You must live 50+ miles from the location of the Council meeting in order to be eligible for meal reimbursement.

Reimbursements will be processed after the meeting. Please make sure that your home and mailing address on the reimbursement forms matches what is in the travel reimbursement system. If you have had a change of address, work with Linda to get your address updated in the system.

**Eligible Meals** ([see per diem chart for reimbursement rate](#)):

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Dinner</b>
4/14 (travel day)	Claim per diem if you left home before 6:30 am	Claim per diem if you left home before 11:30 am	Claim per diem if you left home before 5:00 pm
4/15 (History Event)	Claim per diem	Provided	Claim Per Diem
4/16 (meeting day 1)	Provided	Provided	Claim Per Diem
4/17 (meeting day 2)	Provided	Claim per diem if you arrive home after 1:30 pm	Claim per diem if you arrive home after 6:30 pm

**Travel Expenses**

- Reimbursement is available for mileage, parking, taxis, and shuttles to and from the airport only, as well as baggage fees (over \$35 requires a receipt).
- Complete the Travel Reimbursement for at [WA DD Council Member Forms](#) and submit receipts in person, by mail, or email to Christie or Linda.
- If travel expenses are a concern, [contact Council Staff](#).

**Community Compensation**

You can request Community Compensation for the main meeting on 4/16 and 4/17. Compensation will not be provided for the History and Visioning event. You can claim compensation if you attend the following either in person or via Zoom:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>
4/16/25	Council Meeting Day 1	7	\$200/day	\$200
4/17/25	Council Meeting Day 2	3	\$45/hour	\$135
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$335</b>

**Hotel**

The Council covers room and tax with a check in on 4/14 after 4 pm and check out on 4/17 before 12 noon. We cannot pay for any incidentals to be charged to the room **under any**

**circumstances.** If you have any questions or concerns about your overnight hotel accommodations, please [contact Council Staff](#).

**4/14 Check-in:** 4 pm or later

**4/17 Check-out:** 12 pm or earlier

## Developmental Disabilities Council Meeting

### April 2026 Draft Agenda

April 16, 2026  
First Day

**Time:** 9:00am - 4:00pm

**Location:** In-Person and Virtual

**In-Person Location:** Hampton Inn  
4301 Martin Way E  
Olympia WA 98516

**Zoom Link:** [April 2026 DD Council Meeting Day One](#)

**Call-in number:** 253-215-8782

**Meeting ID:** 879 8527 7578

**Passcode:** 235830

9:00	<p><b>Call to order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions and establish quorum</li> <li>• Changes to the agenda</li> <li>• Approve January 2025 Minutes</li> </ul> <p><b>Reading: 26-11 January 2026 Minutes</b> <b>VOTE:</b> Approve January 2026 minutes</p>	Co-Chairs, Leigh Spruce and Tayshia Farra and Vice-chairs, Melanie and Katie
9:15	<p><b>Co-Chair Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome new members</li> <li>• Executive Director Review</li> <li>• Land Acknowledgement</li> </ul>	Co-Chairs, Leigh Spruce and Tayshia Farra
9:30	<p><b>Executive Director Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal updates</li> <li>• Legislative updates</li> <li>• Dan Thompson</li> </ul>	Brandi Monts
10:00	<p><b>Budget Report</b></p> <p>Reading 26-12 All Programs Reading 26-13 Fed Award 24</p>	Brandi Monts



	Reading 26-14 Fed Award 25 Reading 26-15 Informing Families	
10:15	<b>Break</b>	
10:45	<b>2025 Program Performance Report &amp; Annual Report</b> Reading 26-16 PPR Impact Reading 26-17 PPR Plain Language	Kevin Vargas Brian Dahl
11:30	<b>Legislative Recap</b> Reading 26-18 PowerPoint	Julie Clark, PP Chair and Emily Rogers
12:00	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:00	<b>History and Visioning Debrief</b>	Vice Chairs and staff
1:45	<b>Meeting Paperwork</b>	Linda and Christie
2:00	<b>Break</b>	
2:15	<b>Committees</b>  <b>Membership and Governance</b>  <b>Join Zoom Meeting:</b>  <a href="#">April 2026 Memebership &amp; Governance</a>  <b>Meeting ID:</b> 846 7812 3761 <b>Passcode:</b> 920680 <b>Call-in:</b> 253-215-8782	

	<p><b>Reading 26-MG-10</b> January 2026 Minutes  <b>Vote:</b> Approve January 2026 Minutes  <b>Reading 26-MG-11</b> Committee Work Plan  <b>Reading 26-MG-12</b> Council Charter  <b>Reading 26-MG-13</b> Council Charter Plain Language  <b>Reading 26-MG-14</b> Membership Data</p> <p><b>Public Policy</b>  <b>Main Room Zoom Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Reading 26-PP-02</b> January 2026 Committee Meeting Minutes  <b>Vote:</b> Approve January 2026 Minutes</p>	
4:00	<b>Day One Meeting in Recess</b>	Co-Chairs, Leigh Spruce and Tayshia Farra

**Developmental Disabilities Council Meeting**  
 April 17, 2026  
 Second Day

**Time:** 9:00am - 12:00pm

**Location:** In-Person and Virtual

**In-Person Location: Hampton Inn, Olympia**

4301 Martin Way NE  
 Olympia WA 98516

**Zoom Link:** [April 2026 DD Council Meeting Day Two](#)

**Call-in number:** 253-215-8782

**Meeting ID:** 850 6634 2851

9:00	<b>Call to Order</b> <b>Establish quorum</b>	Co-Chairs, Leigh Spruce and Tayshia Farra
9:15	<b>Council Member Appreciation</b>	Sydney Krebsbach
9:25	<b>State Plan Development</b> Reading 26-19 State Plan Document for Public Comment 26-20 Plain Language State Plan Document for Public Comment  <b>Vote: Approve State Plan for Public Comment</b>	Kevin Vargas Brian Dahl
10:00	<b>Expansion 2025 Review</b>	Expansion Committee and staff
10:30	<b>Break</b>	
10:45	<b>Dan Thompson Presentation</b> <b>Vote</b>	Dan Thompson Team
11:30	<b>Agency Reports</b>	Agency Representatives
11:45	<b>Committee Reports</b>  <b>Public Policy Report</b>	Melanie Baker, MG Chair Julie Clark, PP Chair
11:50	<b>Public Comment</b>	Co-Chairs, Leigh Spruce and Tayshia Farra
11:55	<b>Review of the Day/Next Meeting Details</b>	Co-Chairs, Leigh Spruce and Tayshia Farra

12:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	Co-Chairs, Leigh Spruce and Tayshia Farra
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## **Reading 26-11 January 2026 Full Council Meeting Minutes**

### **Cover Sheet**

#### **What this is**

These are the draft minutes from the January 15, 2026 Full Council meeting, summarizing key discussions, reports, and actions taken by the Council.

#### **Why it's included**

This gives a record of what happened at the last meeting and allows members to confirm that it is accurate.

#### **Action**

Be prepared to review and vote to approve the minutes.

## READING 26-11

### Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council Full Council Meeting Minutes January 15, 2026

**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)

**Present:** Riley Daughtery, Tayshia Farra, Sydney Krebsbach, Julie Clark, Melissa Dodge, Leigh Spruce, Bridget Parkhill, Melanie Baker, Dana Floyd, Melanie Baker, Katie Nash, Sandy Gruberg, Kris Pederson (HCLA), Megan DeSmet (DDCS), Angela Randal, HCA, Monica Burke (DOH), Cassie Martin (OSPI), Mark Harniss (UCEDD), Noah Seidel (DRW),

**Staff:** Brandi Monts, Brian Dahl, Kevin Vargas, Emily Rogers, Phil Rasmussen, Christie Chiles, Linda West

Guests: Heather Chappell (DDCS/HCLA), Tammy Bowen (Work Opportunities), AJ Roberts (RCS Training Unit), Cathy Murahashi (Arc of WA), Ayan Elmi (Informing Families Coordinator), Stacy Dym (Arc of WA), Christine Brelia (Dept. Of Commerce), Nichole Paulis (DDCS/HCLA), Kacie Smarjesse (DDCS/HCLA), Rachel Paquin (DDCS/HCLA), Nicole Jensen (DDCS/HCLA), Shawn Latham (Allies in Advocacy), Peter Musante (Open Doors for Multicultural Families)

### Call to order and welcome

The Co-Chairs called the meeting was called to order. Members were reminded that this was the first fully virtual Full Council meeting in several years and that patience and flexibility were appreciated.

### Introductions and icebreaker

Council members, staff, and guests introduced themselves and shared an item from their home or workspace that had personal meaning. New members were welcomed and encouraged to take their time learning how the Council works.

## **Tribal land acknowledgment**

A Tribal Land Acknowledgment was read to recognize that the work of the Council takes place on the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples. The Council affirmed its commitment to learning from Tribal communities and to supporting equity, justice, and sovereignty in its work.

## **Approval of October 2025 meeting minutes**

The Council reviewed the minutes from the October 2025 Full Council meeting.

**Katie Nash moved and Sydney Krebsbach seconded to approve the October 2025 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **Co-chair reports**

Council co-chairs shared updates on current work and priorities. One report focused on Tribal outreach efforts and the importance of building strong relationships with Native American communities. Ongoing challenges such as transportation, housing, and limited funding were acknowledged.

Advocacy updates included discussion of the upcoming legislative session, the importance of protecting Medicaid, and continued efforts related to institutional closure and records preservation. Members were encouraged to stay engaged in advocacy activities.

## **Executive Director report**

The Executive Director shared updates on Council operations and priorities. Appreciation was expressed to Council members and staff for adapting to a fully virtual meeting format.

Updates included conflict mediation and resolution training opportunities, planning efforts, and an overview of the Governor's proposed budget.

Concerns were shared about possible reductions to the Dan Thompson account and the potential impact on community services.

Brandi Monts also gave an update on the Council's 50th anniversary and upcoming history and visioning activities.

## **Dan Thompson account update**

Staff from the Developmental Disabilities Community Services Division presented an update on the Dan Thompson account. They shared information about how funds have been used across the state, including projects related to housing, transportation, technology, recreation, and culturally responsive services.

They described the most recent grant round and noted that far more applications were received than funds available. Updates were also provided on the Governor's proposed budget and concerns about transferring funds out of the account. Council members asked questions and shared appreciation for the program.

### **Budget overview**

Brandi Monts provided an overview of the Council's budget. The presentation explained how funds are divided between Council operations and state plan activities and described challenges related to federal funding delays and uncertainty.

Changes to the Informing Families program were discussed, including efforts to reduce costs and improve access.

### **State plan development**

Brian Dahl and Kevin Vargas presented on the development of the next five-year State Plan. They explained how feedback from the October 2025 meeting shaped the draft plan and reviewed the three focus areas of advocacy, systems change, and capacity building.

Council members asked questions and shared reflections on the direction of the plan.

### **Breakout discussions**

Council members joined breakout groups focused on the three State Plan goal areas. Each group discussed whether the draft goals matched the Council's vision and identified areas that could be strengthened. Staff collected notes from all groups to use in revising the draft State Plan.

### **Lunch break and committee meetings**

The Council recessed for lunch. In the afternoon, members met in committees, including the Public Policy Committee and the Membership and Governance Committee.

### **Reconvened Full Council and committee reports**

The Membership and Governance Committee reported on its work and brought the following policies to the full Council for a vote:

#### **Policy 115 Training and Travel Reimbursements**

**Julie Clark moved and Tayshia Farra seconded to approve Policy 115 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Policy 301 Delegation to the Executive Director**

**Riley Daughtery moved and Mellissa Dodge seconded to approve Policy 301 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Policy 403 Council Agenda Development Process**

**Riley Daughtery moved and Julie Clark seconded to approve Policy 403 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Policy 414 Reimbursement for Non-Council Members**

**Sydney Krebsbach moved and Riley Daughtery seconded to approve Policy 414 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Policy 417 Equipment Purchases with Federal Funds**

**Mellisa Dodge moved and Riley Daughtery seconded to approve Policy 417 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Policy 421 Chair and Vice-Chair Nomination Process**

**Riley moved and Julie seconded to approve Policy 421 as amended and with the additional of the executive order language.**

The Public Policy Committee shared that they reviewed the Council's legislative priorities video, had a panel discussion with advocacy partners and updates related to Advocacy Days.

### **Agency reports**

Partner agencies and state representatives shared brief updates. Topics included leadership changes, funding uncertainty, healthcare transition resources, research challenges, and Medicaid-related updates.

### **Public comment**

No public comments were made.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.



## *Reading 26-12 All Programs Budget Status*

### Cover Sheet

#### **What this is**

This is a summary of the Council's current budget across all programs, showing how funds are allocated and spent.

#### **Why it's included**

This provides a snapshot of financial status to help the Council understand how resources are being managed.

#### **Action**

No action required. For review and awareness.



## Reading 26-12 All Programs Budget

Reading 26-12 DDC All Programs Budget - February 2026				
Fund Source	Total Funding	Expenditures	Balance	Percent of Total Budget
<b>Federal Award 2023</b>	\$1,577,033	\$1,576,369	\$664	29.70%
<b>Federal Award 2024</b>	\$1,576,358	\$1,576,358	\$0	29.69%
<b>Federal Award 2025</b>	\$1,572,600	\$464,391	\$1,108,209	29.62%
<b>Additional Staffing - GFS FY26</b>	\$140,000	\$93,246	\$46,754	2.64%
<b>Informing Families FY26 (IAA with DSHS)</b>	\$443,093	\$223,145	\$219,948	8.35%
<b>Total</b>	\$5,309,084	\$3,933,508	\$1,155,628	91.65%

## Reading 26-13: Federal Award 2024 Budget Report

### Cover Sheet:

#### **What this is**

This report shows the status of federal funds for the 2025 award, including expenditures, obligations, and remaining balances.

#### **Why it's included**

This helps the Council track how federal funding is being used and understand timing differences in spending.

#### **Action**

No action required. For review and discussion if needed.

Reading 26-13 Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

**Reading 26-13 Federal Award 2024**

	Budget	Actuals	Variance
<b>Council Operations</b>		<i>Expenditures thru February 2026</i>	
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Salaries and Benefits	187,502	259,417	(71,915)
Community Compensation	30,000	0	30,000
Goods and Services	45,000	86,561	(41,561)
Equipment	5,000	264	4,736
Council Meeting Costs	93,000	93,426	(426)
Indirect	50,000	50,000	0
<b>Council Operations Total</b>	<b>410,502</b>	<b>489,668</b>	<b>(79,166)</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Salaries and Benefits	439,989	174,979	265,010
Goods and Services	70,000	67,110	2,890
Equipment	5,000	0	5,000
Grants/Contracts	588,977	880,467	(291,490)
<b>State Plan Total</b>	<b>1,103,966</b>	<b>1,122,556</b>	<b>(18,590)</b>
<b>Total 2024 Award</b>	<b>1,576,358</b>		
<b>Balance</b>	<b>(35,866)</b>		
<b>Notes:</b>			
1 Started spending in Council Operations in July 2024.			

## Reading 26-14 Federal Award 2025 Budget Report

### Cover Sheet

#### **What this is**

This is an updated version of the federal budget report, providing the most current financial information for the 2025 award.

#### **Why it's included**

This ensures the Council has the most accurate and up-to-date information when reviewing federal funding.

#### **Action**

No action required. For review.

Reading 26-14 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

**Reading 26-14 Federal Award 2025**

	Budget	Actuals	Variance
<b>Council Operations</b>		<i>Expenditures thru February 2026</i>	
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Salaries and Benefits	214,303	70,138	144,165
Goods and Services	45,000	9,478	35,522
Equipment	5,000	0	5,000
Council Meeting Costs	76,500	11,782	64,718
Indirect	50,000	50,000	0
<b>Council Operations Total</b>	<b>390,803</b>	<b>141,398</b>	<b>249,405</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Salaries and Benefits	439,172	84,157	355,015
Goods and Services	70,000	2,781	67,219
Equipment	5,000	0	5,000
Grants/Contracts	586,848	172,703	414,145
<b>State Plan Total</b>	<b>1,101,020</b>	<b>259,641</b>	<b>841,379</b>
<b>Total 2025 Award</b>	<b>1,572,600</b>		
<b>Balance</b>	<b>1,171,561</b>		

**Notes:**

1 Started spending in Council Operations in October 2025.

\$80,777 not allotted in budget

## **Reading 26-15 Informing Families Roll-Up**

### **Cover Sheet:**

#### **What this is**

This document provides a summary of Informing Families activities, outputs, and reach across the state.

#### **Why it's included**

This helps the Council understand how information and resources are being shared with families and where the program is having impact.

#### **Action**

No action required. For review and context.

Reading 26-15 Informing Families Budget

<b>Reading 26-15 Informing Families - Roll Up</b>			
<b>FY26</b>			
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<i>July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026</i>	<i>YTD Expenditures thru December 2025</i>	
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>	21,120	16,606	4,514
<b>Goods and Services</b>	91,555	20,308	71,247
<b>Grants/Contracts</b>	324,320	180,792	143,528
<b>Travel</b>	0	0	0
<b>Indirect</b>	6,098	5,263	835
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>443,093</b>	<b>222,969</b>	<b>220,124</b>



## Reading 26-16 PPR Impact Report – 2025

### Cover Sheet

#### **What this is**

This is a plain language summary of the Council’s 2025 Program Performance Report, which describes the work completed, progress toward State Plan goals, and how federal funds were used.

#### **Why it’s included**

This provides an accessible overview of the Council’s activities, impact, and key issues affecting people with developmental disabilities in Washington. fileciteurn4file0

#### **Action**

No action required. For review and discussion.

## Reading 26-16

### PPR Impact Report – 2025

#### What is the Annual Program Performance Report?

Each year, the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council submits a Program Performance Report (PPR) to the federal Administration for Community Living. This report summarizes the work completed during the year, the progress made toward State Plan goals, and how federal funds were used to support those efforts.

In other words, it is the Council’s required report to the federal government for continued funding.

We took responses from the submitted PPR and formatted them into plain language for accessibility.

At the time of this report, the federal Administration for Community Living (ACL) has confirmed receipt of the PPR and it is currently under review.

The PPR is organized into six sections:

<b>Section</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>I.</b>	Identification	Who is submitting this report?
<b>II.</b>	Comprehensive Review and Analysis (CRA)	Provide input and data on challenges faced
<b>III.</b>	State Plan Implementation	How are your activities advancing your goals outlined in your State Plan, and share any priorities taken this year?
<b>IV.</b>	Progress Report	Report the progress you have made in your State Plan.
<b>V.</b>	Council Financial Information	How much were you awarded, expended and if match was met?
<b>VI.</b>	Measures of Collaboration	What collaborative efforts taken with network partners?

## What this report highlights

This report summarizes key information from the Council's 2025 Program Performance Report submitted to ACL.

In this report you will find:

- Key issues affecting people with developmental disabilities in Washington
- Work the Council carried out during the reporting year
- Progress made toward the Council's State Plan goals
- Major collaborations with partners across the state
- How federal funds were awarded and used

The goal of this summary is to provide Council members with an accessible overview of the Council's work and impact during the reporting period.

Highlights from the Council's 2025 Program Performance Report include:

- More than 50 stakeholders participate in the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Quality Assurance Advisory Committee working to improve waiver service quality across Washington.
- Leadership development programs supported families and self-advocates through initiatives such as Family Leadership Training and Self-Advocacy Leadership Training.
- Statewide advocacy coordination occurred through the Advocacy Partnership Project and the Community Advocacy Coalition.
- The Bridge Forward initiative convened partners across systems to address gaps affecting people with developmental disabilities and behavioral health needs.
- The Informing Families project continued expanding accessible and multilingual information for families navigating developmental disability services.

## **Section II – Comprehensive Review and Analysis (CRA)**

For the Program Performance Report, the Council is asked to describe how well services and supports meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities in

Washington. This includes services provided through Home and Community-Based Services and other supports that help people live in their communities.

**Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)** Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) support people with developmental disabilities to live, work, and participate in their communities. When these services are reliable, individuals often experience greater independence and stability for themselves and their families.

However, many people across Washington still struggle to access these supports.

Key challenges include:

- **Long waitlists** leaving many eligible people without services
- **Workforce shortages** for direct support workers and behavioral health providers
- **Limited behavioral health services** for people with developmental disabilities
- **Regional differences** in services and transportation access
- **Barriers for BIPOC and immigrant families** including language and cultural access

Overall, HCBS services in Washington are effective when available, but they are not accessible to everyone who needs them. This highlights the need for expanded services and workforce support.

### **Section III – State Plan Implementation**

#### *Evaluation of Activities*

During the reporting period, the Council monitored progress on State Plan activities through regular review of contractor reports, work plans, and project deliverables. Staff tracked progress across State Plan goals including systems change, leadership development, public policy, and information sharing.

Feedback was gathered from self-advocates, families, Council members, contractors, and partners through meetings, trainings, conferences, and advocacy activities.

This information helped the Council monitor progress, identify challenges, and make adjustments while remaining aligned with State Plan goals and Developmental Disabilities Act priorities.

### *The Council's Role*

The Developmental Disabilities Council plays a unique role in Washington's developmental disabilities system. While many agencies provide services, the Council focuses on identifying system barriers, bringing partners together, supporting leadership development, and advancing policies that improve services and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Through its State Plan activities, the Council works to strengthen collaboration across systems, support self-advocates and families in leadership roles, and promote changes that improve how services and supports work across Washington.

### *Input on National Priorities*

In July 2025, Congress passed a federal budget bill that is projected to significantly reduce Medicaid funding over time. The Congressional Budget Office estimates reductions of approximately \$930 billion over the next 10 years.

*Washington State officials estimate that between 194,000 and 250,000 people in Washington could lose Medicaid coverage. These cuts could affect the developmental disabilities (DD) community by reducing services and increasing financial stress for individuals and families.*

*When information about possible Medicaid cuts first became public, the Council launched the **Medicaid Matters Campaign** through the Informing Families project, in partnership with The Arc of Washington State. The campaign shares updates, provides a Medicaid video information series, invites families to share their stories about why Medicaid matters, and offers ways for people to take action and advocate.*

### *Goal 1 – Collaboration and Coordination*

The Council strengthened partnerships across state systems and the developmental disabilities network to improve coordination and identify service gaps.

### Key Activities

- Participated in statewide planning and workgroups addressing **Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), workforce shortages, community integration, and long-term supports.**
- Collaborated with **Developmental Disabilities Administration leadership, the Health Care Authority, the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), and Disability Rights Washington** to improve policy coordination and information sharing.
- Partnered with UCEDD on research examining the **experiences of people with IDD in the criminal justice system.**
- Convened the **Bridge Forward initiative**, bringing together partners to address disparities affecting people with both developmental disabilities and behavioral health needs.
- Continued collaboration with **Allies in Advocacy** to support development of a potential **fourth DD Network partner led by self-advocates.**
- Coordinated visibility and learning from projects supported through the **Dan Thompson Memorial Trust.**

### Impact

These efforts strengthened collaboration across agencies and partners and helped align statewide priorities around behavioral health, community living, and systems change.

### *Goal 2 – Leadership and Advocacy*

The Council expanded leadership opportunities and advocacy capacity for people with developmental disabilities, families, and historically underserved communities.

### Key Activities

#### **Leadership Development**

- Supported culturally relevant leadership training through **Open Doors for Multicultural Families (ODMF).**

- Programs included **Family Leadership Training, Self-Advocacy Leadership Training, and Homegrown Legislative Priorities**, which prepare families and self-advocates to engage in policy advocacy and community leadership.

### **Advocacy Infrastructure**

- Coordinated statewide advocacy through the **Advocacy Partnership Project** and the **Community Advocacy Coalition**.
- Produced advocacy tools such as legislative notebooks, bill tracking resources, and action alerts to help advocates follow and engage in the legislative process.

### **Self-Advocacy Development**

- Supported **Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL)** and continued development of **Allies in Advocacy** as an emerging statewide self-advocacy organization.

### **Emerging Policy Issues**

- Responded to potential federal Medicaid cuts by launching the **Medicaid Matters campaign**, which provides updates, educational videos, and opportunities for families and advocates to share their experiences and engage in policy discussions.

### *Impact*

These activities strengthened leadership capacity among self-advocates and families, increased participation in statewide advocacy efforts, and expanded access to advocacy tools and policy information.

### Goal 3 – Policies, Programs, and Practices

The Council worked to improve statewide policies and systems affecting people with developmental disabilities.

### *Key Activities*

#### **Public Policy and Legislative Engagement**

- Developed and implemented the Council’s **legislative priorities** and coordinated advocacy activities with partner organizations.

### **Informing Families Project**

- Expanded access to information for families navigating developmental disability services.
- Continued development of multilingual and culturally relevant materials to improve access to services and supports.

### **Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities**

- Advanced the **Bridge Forward initiative**, focusing on disparities affecting people with both developmental disabilities and behavioral health needs.

### **Equity and Outreach**

- Expanded engagement with **BIPOC, immigrant, refugee, and rural communities** to ensure more communities are represented in advocacy and systems change efforts.

### **Community Living and Institutional Systems**

- Participated in statewide conversations about **Residential Habilitation Centers and community living alternatives**, supporting efforts to strengthen community-based services.

### **Justice System Issues**

- Shared research and recommendations on the experiences of people with IDD in the **criminal justice system**, helping inform future policy discussions.

### *Impact*

These efforts improved access to information, strengthened statewide policy coordination, and helped advance systems change to support community living and equitable access to services.

## **Overall Progress**

Across all three goals, the Council made **steady progress advancing the priorities outlined in the State Plan.**

Through collaboration with partners, leadership development initiatives, and policy engagement, the Council continued to support systems change that improves services, advocacy opportunities, and access to information for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

## **Section V: Council Financial Information**

This section summarizes the Council’s federal funding for the reporting period, including the total award, expenditures, and required match. It shows how resources are managed and aligned with the Council’s State Plan activities and federal requirements.

### **Fiscal Year 2025**

Due to the timing of federal reporting and contracting cycles, a large portion of funds may appear as unexpended or unobligated during the reporting period, even though they are committed to ongoing and future State Plan activities.

### **Reporting Period 10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025**

Total Federal Fiscal Award for Reporting Year	1,572,600.00
State Funds Contributing to Council State Plan Activities	0
Additional Funds Used for Other Activities	0
Federal Share of Expenditures	0
Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations	1,572,600.00
Unobligated Balance of Federal Funds (=Total Federal Fiscal Year Award - Federal Share of expenditures - Federal Share of unliquidated obligations)	1,572,600.00

Match Required	542,200.00
Match Met	0

**Fiscal Year 2024**

**Reporting Period 10/01/2023 - 09/30/2024**

Total Federal Fiscal Award for Reporting Year	1,576,358.00
State Funds Contributing to Council State Plan Activities	0
Additional Funds Used for Other Activities	0
Federal Share of Expenditures	69,653.73
Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations	1,506,704.27
Unobligated Balance of Federal Funds (=Total Federal Fiscal Year Award - Federal Share of expenditures - Federal Share of unliquidated obligations)	0
Match Required	525,452.67
Match Met	13,198.01

**Fiscal Year 2023**

**Reporting Period 10/01/2022 - 09/30/2023**

Total Federal Fiscal Award for Reporting Year	1,577,033
State Funds Contributing to Council State Plan Activities	0

Additional Funds Used for Other Activities	0
Federal Share of Expenditures	449,121.69
Federal Share of Unliquidated Obligations	1,083,952.31
Unobligated Balance of Federal Funds (=Total Federal Fiscal Year Award - Federal Share of expenditures - Federal Share of unliquidated obligations)	0
Match Required	520,420.89
Match Met	520,420.89

## **Section VI: Measures of Collaboration**

During the reporting period, the Council worked with Developmental Disabilities Network partners and other collaborators to identify and address key issues and barriers affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families.

### ***Reliance on Segregated Facilities***

*The Council is working to address the lack of community services that can lead to reliance on segregated facilities. In partnership with the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system, the Council is identifying barriers and supporting related projects, including work connected to the Trueblood lawsuit.*

*The Council and UCEDD also co-authored a report on barriers in the justice system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The report highlights the challenges people with IDD face and offers recommendations for future work.*

*In addition, the Council's behavioral health paper and the 2025 Bridge Forward Conference focused on how to better support people who use both developmental disability and behavioral health services in the community. The*

*conference brought together self-advocates, families, providers, and system leaders to identify gaps, share experiences, and develop ideas for more coordinated, person-centered supports.*

### **Workforce Development**

*Workforce shortages remain a key focus of the Council's Legislative Agenda. The Council is advocating for higher provider rates, better training, and stronger professional standards. This work is supported through the Community Advocacy Coalition, which brings stakeholders together to strengthen the direct support workforce.*

### **Restraint and Isolation in Schools**

*The Council is also working to reduce the use of restraint and isolation for students with developmental disabilities. The Council participates in the Transition Collaborative to improve coordination between education, developmental disability, and employment systems. The Council also joined the Inclusionary Practices Technical Assistance Network to help schools better support students with developmental disabilities in inclusive classrooms.*

### **Quality Assurance of Services**

*The Council hosts the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Quality Assurance Advisory Committee, which includes more than 50 stakeholders from across the state. The committee works to measure and improve the quality of waiver services in Washington and includes partners such as UCEDD, P&A, the Department of Health, and the Health Care Authority.*

This section describes the issues and barriers addressed through collaboration, the strategies used, and the Council's role in this work. It also highlights challenges, unexpected benefits, and opportunities to share knowledge with other Councils.

*Washington State continues to operate four large institutional facilities, along with several smaller facilities that serve specific groups, including children and people with developmental disabilities who also have significant behavioral health needs.*

*To help community members better understand these settings, the Council organized two tours of one of the institutions for community stakeholders. The Council also participated in a tour of another facility.*

*The Council is also involved in national discussions through the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities about intentional communities. The Council remains committed to finding new ways to help people live and receive support in their local communities.*

## **Reading 26-17 PPR 2025 – Council Impact Summary**

### **Cover Sheet**

#### **What this is**

This is a visual summary of the Council’s 2025 Program Performance Report, highlighting key activities, issues, and outcomes in a simplified format.

#### **Why it’s included**

This provides a quick, high-level overview to support understanding of the Council’s work and impact.

#### **Action**

No action required. For review.

## Reading 26-17

### PPR 2025 – Council Impact Summary

#### **What is this report?**

- Annual report submitted to the federal Administration for Community Living
- Summarizes work completed and progress toward State Plan goals
- Demonstrates how federal funds were used to support systems change, advocacy, and leadership
- Required for continued federal funding

#### **2025 Highlights**

- 50+ stakeholders participated in the HCBS Quality Assurance Advisory Committee
- Leadership programs supported families and self-advocates across Washington
- Statewide advocacy coordinated through the Advocacy Partnership Project and Community Advocacy Coalition
- Bridge Forward initiative addressed gaps between developmental disabilities and behavioral health systems
- Informing Families expanded multilingual and culturally relevant resources

#### **Key Issues**

- Long waitlists leave many eligible individuals without services
- Workforce shortages impact service availability and quality
- Limited behavioral health services for people with developmental disabilities
- Regional differences affect access to services and transportation
- Barriers for BIPOC, immigrant, and non-English speaking families

#### **What the Council Did**

- Strengthened partnerships with state agencies, UCEDD, and Disability Rights Washington
- Convened partners through the Bridge Forward initiative
- Supported leadership development through ODMF and other programs
- Expanded statewide advocacy tools, training, and coordination
- Advanced legislative priorities and policy engagement
- Increased outreach to underserved and underrepresented communities

#### **Impact**

- Improved coordination across state systems and partners

- Expanded leadership opportunities for self-advocates and families
- Increased access to information, training, and advocacy tools
- Progress toward more equitable, community-based services

## **Collaboration Focus Areas**

- Reducing reliance on institutional settings
- Strengthening the direct support workforce
- Addressing restraint and isolation in schools
- Improving quality assurance for HCBS services
- Supporting cross-system coordination (DD, behavioral health, justice system)

## **Funding Overview**

- Federal funding supports advocacy, leadership development, outreach, and systems change activities
- Funds are aligned with State Plan goals and federal requirements
- Some funds may appear unspent due to reporting timing but are committed to ongoing and future work

## **The Big Picture**

- The Council continues to advance systems change across Washington
- Focus remains on access, equity, and community living
- Work is grounded in collaboration, leadership development, and policy engagement
- Ongoing efforts aim to improve outcomes for people with developmental disabilities and their families

## **Top Takeaways for Council Members**

- Services are effective when available, but access remains a major challenge
- The Council is strengthening leadership, advocacy, and system coordination statewide
- Continued collaboration is critical to improving access and equity

## WA State Developmental Disabilities Council Community Impact 2026



The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) advocates for better services, supports, and policies for people with developmental disabilities and their families. We collaborate with agencies, train advocates, and push for positive change through policy work and statewide initiatives. Guided by our core values of self-determination, inclusion, and independence, we work to create a more equitable future for people with IDD in Washington State.

### 2025 Project and Program Highlights

#### Bridge Forward Conference



In the summer of 2025, the DDC hosted **Bridge Forward**, a free virtual four-day event with state and national leaders, people with disabilities, families, service providers, researchers, policymakers, and community partners to plan the future of intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) and behavioral health (BH) supports in Washington.

- **423** people attended the conference
- **92%** said presentations were useful for advocacy in Washington
- **94%** learned more about IDD and behavioral health challenges
- **95%** felt presentations supported progress for people with IDD and BH needs

#### Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL)



Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) is a group in Washington State led by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to speak-up about important issues.



**260 members from across Washinton State**



**Members serve on 12 other statewide committees, workgroups or councils.**



**Hosted and engaged more than a dozen Washington State lawmakers in 2025**



**Supported passage of key legislation, including SB 5393, SB 5680, HB 1217, and HB 1130**

#### Informing Families

Program FY 2025



Informing Families is a resource provided by the DDC, in collaboration with the Developmental Disabilities Community Services (formerly DDA) and other partners throughout the state



Approximately  
**2348**  
families and  
individuals  
received one-on-  
one support



Coordinators  
connected with  
over  
**17,700**  
community  
members



**13**  
coordinators  
serving families in  
**30**  
counties  
across the state

#### New IF Initiatives:

- 2025 website redesign strengthens access to clear, easy-to-use information for families
- New Northeast Washington coordinator (Stevens and Ferry Counties) expands local support and community connections
- Updated materials improve accuracy across resources

#### Advocacy Partnership Project

The Advocacy Partnership Project (APP), carried out in partnership with The Arc of Washington, helps people with developmental disabilities, their families and guardians, and other community members get involved in shaping public policy. The project gives individuals tools, opportunities, and support to speak up about the issues that matter most to them.

**863**

people attended virtual **Advocacy Days in 2025**

**30%**

were first time attendees

**99**

wrote a message to their legislator

### 2026 Projects

2026 projects include the Council's 50th Anniversary **History and Visioning** initiative in April, bringing together community members to reflect on past progress and shape the future of disability advocacy in Washington. The Council will also release the draft 2026–2031 State Plan for public comment in spring 2026, giving Washingtonians an opportunity to help guide the Council's priorities and work for the next five years. Through these initiatives, we continue to advance policies and programs that create meaningful, lasting change for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

[www.ddc.wa.gov](http://www.ddc.wa.gov)

## **Reading 26-18 April 2026 Legislative Session Wrap-Up**

### **Cover Sheet**

#### **What this is**

This is a presentation summarizing the outcomes of the 2026 legislative session, including key issues, budget context, advocacy efforts, and bills affecting people with developmental disabilities.

#### **Why it's included**

This provides an overview of what happened during the session, what was protected or changed, and what it means for the DD community moving forward.

#### **Action**

No action required. For review and discussion.

## Reading 26-18 2026 Session Wrap Up PPT

### **2026 Session Wrap Up**

Emily Rogers, Public Policy Director

Julie Clark, Chair, Public Policy Committee

### **Things to think about:**

- This was a short 60-day session
- Known as a supplemental session or one where small changes to the budget are made (adjustments).
- Since the first day of session it was widely known that there was not going to be money available.

### **What Legislators Had to Deal With When thinking about this Session?**

- Inflation is still an issue
- Revenue in our state is down
- New SNAP costs
- Loss of Medicaid funding
- Growing caseloads
- Employment is cooling

### **Concerns for Our Community**

- Maintaining Eligibility for DD Services
- Preserving Personal Care Hours
- Keep Waiver Services the same
- Sustaining Provider Rates

### **Celebrations!**

- No changes to eligibility
- No cuts to early supports for infants and toddlers
- Provider Rates were not lowered
- No cuts to therapies
- No cuts to Medicaid for schools
- \$ for a comprehensive plan- Dan Thompson Account

### **Concerns**

- Employment and Day and IFS Underspend
- Next year HRI impacts

- Medicaid "Fraud" . Washington has received a letter concerning fraud. Mostly documentation errors. Other states have had Medicaid funding withheld so that is a concern.
- Social Security

### Bills That Have Passed-Civil Rights

Bill Number	Title	Brief Description	Sponsor	Status
SB 5863	An ACT Relating to the preservation and inspection of state historical records	Preservation of records at Lakeland Village	Kauffman	Delivered to the Governor
SHB 2350	Increasing transparency regarding Residential Habilitation Center compliance with certain federal requirements		Farivar	Delivered to the Governor
SHB 1390	Repealing the Community Protection Program		Goodman	Delivered to the Governor

### Bills That Have Passed-Education

Bill Number	Title	Bill Description	Sponsor	Status
ESHB 1795	Addressing restraint or isolation of students in public schools and		Callan	Delivered to the Governor

	educational programs			
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### Bills that Have Passed-Services & Supports

Bill Number	Title	Bill Description	Sponsor	Status
SHB 2230	Streamlining monitoring and oversight activities related to community residential service business providers.		Zahn	Governor Signed

### Provisos Requested

Bill Number	Title	Bill Description	Sponsor	Status
	Funding for a comprehensive plan for Community Based Services	From the Dan Thompson Account	Senate- \$250,000 from DT	

### CAC Successes-Letters

- [Budget Letter](#)-January 12, 2026
- [R-Word Letter](#)-March 6, 2026
- [Proposed Budget Cuts \(Underspend\) Letter](#)

Thank you for all of your advocacy this year!

### What do you do now?

- Thank your legislators!
- Meet with legislators for a coffee or a snack. They have so much more time to meet now that session is over.
- Work with others and think about what should be done next year.
- Refine your ideas
- Work on Federal issues
- Take a break, rest and relax!

## April 2026 Membership and Governance Committee Proposed Agenda

Date: April 16, 2026  
Time: 2:15 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: Hampton Inn  
4301 Martin Way E  
Olympia WA 98516

Join Zoom Meeting  
[April 2026 MG Agenda](#)

Call-in: 253-215-8782  
Meeting ID: 846 7812 3761  
Passcode: 920680

Members: Bridget Parkhill, Dana Floyd, Melanie Baker (Chair), Katie Mirkovich, Angela Randel and Cassie Martin

Ex-Officio Members: Tayshia Farra and Leigh Spruce

Staff: Kevin Vargas, Linda West and Brian Dahl

2:15	Call to Order	Melanie
2:20	Adjust Agenda	Melanie
2:25	Approval of January 2026 MG Minutes Reading 25-MG-10 VOTE: Approve January 2026 MG minutes with changes, if applicable	Melanie
2:30	Committee Work Plan Reading 25-MG-11	Brian



## Reading 26-MG-10 Membership & Governance Committee Meeting Minutes (January 2026)

### Cover Sheet:

#### **What this is**

These are the draft minutes from the Membership and Governance Committee meeting held on January 15, 2026. They summarize discussions, policy actions, and next steps.

#### **Why it's included**

This provides a record of committee work, including policy recommendations and upcoming governance priorities.

#### **Action**

Be prepared to review and vote to approve the minutes.

## Reading 26-MG-10

### **Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council Membership and Governance Committee Meeting Minutes January 15, 2026**

**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)

**Present:** Sydney Krebsbach, Bridgett Parkhill, Dana Floyd, Melanie Baker, Kris Pederson, Megan DeSmit, Angela Randal,

**Staff:** Brian Dahl, Kevin Vargas, Linda West

#### **Call to order and introductions**

Melanie Baker called the meeting to order at 1:06. She asked everyone to raise their hand to speak so the meeting could run smoothly.

Council members, staff, and guests introduced themselves. It was noted that it had been some time since the committee last met.

#### **Agenda review**

The agenda was reviewed and no changes were made. Staff noted that Policy 115 included updated language that differed slightly from what appeared in the meeting packet, and that the updated version would be reviewed during the meeting.

#### **Approval of October 2025 committee meeting minutes**

**Sydney Krebsbach moved and Dana Floyd seconded to approve the October 2025 minutes. There was no discussion. The motion carried.**

#### **Committee work plan overview**

Brian Dahl reviewed the work plan and explained its purpose. Members were reminded that this committee oversees many operational aspects of the Council including:

- Council member recruitment;
- Orientation;
- Membership rotation and compliance;
- Council meeting planning;

- Executive Director evaluation process;
- Charter review and updates;
- Development Day planning; and
- General review of Council operations

The work plan was described as a living document that helps track progress and guide agendas. Brian Dahl noted that the committee's workload has grown over time while the number of meetings has decreased, making organization and planning especially important. Members were invited to suggest ways to organize or present the work plan more clearly.

## **Policy review and actions**

### Policy 115 Training and Travel

Staff reviewed Policy 115 and explained recent changes related to travel advances. Members were informed that Council travel must now follow Department of Commerce policies, which changed how advances can be handled. Staff shared that they are exploring alternative systems used by other councils to improve accessibility for members.

**Sydney Kresbach moved and Dana Floyd seconded to move Policy 115 to the full Council for approval. Dana seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.**

### Policy 301 Delegation to the Executive Director

Staff explained that Policy 301 clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Director, Council members, and staff. The policy was updated to align with the current Developmental Disabilities Act and to improve clarity using plain language.

**Dana Floyd moved and Bridget Parkhill seconded to move Policy 301 to the full Council for approval. There was no discussion. The motion carried.**

### Policy 403 Council Agenda Development Process



Staff shared that Policy 403 is the process for adding items to Council agendas. Staff explained that while advance notice is preferred, the policy allows flexibility for urgent or emerging issues.

**Dana Floyd moved and Bridget Parkhill seconded to move Policy 403 to the full Council for approval. There was no discussion. The motion carried.**

#### Policy 414 Reimbursement for Non-Council Members

Staff reviewed Policy 414, which explains reimbursement rules for people who are officially asked to participate in Council work but are not Council members.

**Sydney Krebsbach moved and Dana Floyd seconded to move Policy 414 to the full Council for approval. There was no discussion. The motion carried.**

#### Policy 417 Equipment

Staff reviewed Policy 417 as the policy that governs the purchase and ownership of equipment using Council funds. Staff explained that the policy ensures compliance with state rules and reflects current Council practice.

**Dana Floyd moved and Bridget Parkhill seconded to move Policy 417 to the full Council for approval. There was no discussion. The motion carried.**

#### Policy 421 Chair and Vice-Chair Nomination Process

Staff reviewed Policy 421 which discusses how Council leadership is selected. Staff proposed adding clarifying language stating that the policy is subject to revision upon execution of a new executive order. Members agreed this clarification was important.

**Angela Randal moved and Dana Floyd seconded to move Policy 421 to the full Council with the updated language for approval. There was no discussion. The motion carried.**

**Charter introduction and discussion**

Staff introduced the Council Charter and explained that it has not been updated since 2010. Members were informed that now that the policy updates are complete, the Charter is the next major area of work.

The Charter was described as the document that ties Council policies together and defines how the Council operates. Members discussed the importance of updating the Charter in a thoughtful and inclusive way and shared ideas for organizing the work.

### **Planning for future meetings**

Staff shared updates related to upcoming Council meetings, Advocacy Day, Development Day, and potential locations for future in-person meetings. Members discussed accessibility, travel concerns, and the importance of early planning.

### **Adjournment**

Melanie adjourned the meeting.

## **Reading 26-MG-11 Membership & Governance Committee Work Plan**

(2026–2027)

Cover Sheet

### **What this is**

This is the Membership and Governance Committee work plan outlining priorities, activities, and timelines for 2026–2027.

### **Why it's included**

This shows how the committee plans to manage recruitment, member experience, and governance improvements over time.

### **Action**

No action required. For review and discussion.

## **Reading 26-MG-11**

### Membership & Governance Roadmap (2026–2027)

#### **Purpose**

Strengthen Council membership, modernize governance structures, and improve member experience and engagement.

#### **Membership Pipeline**

Recruitment; Candidate Interviews; Orientation (Design → Delivery);  
Membership Rotation Review

#### **Member Experience**

Development Day; Meeting Locations; Membership Handbook; Website  
Review

#### **Governance Infrastructure**

Charter Revision; Executive Order Review; Executive Director Evaluation

### Detailed Work Plan

Legend: ● Active ○ Planned ✓ Complete

#### Membership Pipeline

Activity	Phase	Jan 2026	Apr 2026	Jul 2026	Oct 2026	Jan 2027	Apr 2027
Recruitment	Plan	●	○	○	●	○	○
	→ Active						
	→ Repeat						
Candidate Interviews	Active		●			●	
Orientation	Design		●	●	○	●	
	→ Deliver						
Rotation Review	Cycle		●			●	

#### Member Experience

Activity	Phase	Jan 2026	Apr 2026	Jul 2026	Oct 2026	Jan 2027	Apr 2027
Development Day Prep	Planning		●	●		●	
Development Day	Delivery			●			
Meeting Locations	Planning			●			
Handbook	Update		●				●
Website Review	Review			●			

#### Governance Infrastructure

Activity	Phase	Jan 2026	Apr 2026	Jul 2026	Oct 2026	Jan 2027	Apr 2027
Charter Revision	Multi-Phase	●	●	●	●	●	●

Executive Order Review			•	•				
ED Evaluation	Ongoing	•	•	•	•	•	•	

## **Reading 26-MG-12 Council Charter (Current Version)**

### **Cover Sheet:**

#### **What this is**

This is the current Council Charter, last approved in 2010, which defines how the Council is structured, governed, and operates.

#### **Why it's included**

This provides the baseline document to support discussion of potential updates and revisions.

#### **Action**

No action required. For review and context.

## **Reading 26-MG-12**

### **Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council Charter**

Approved January 22, 2010

Pursuant to federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, P.L. 106.402, (DD Act), as amended, (hereafter the Act) and Executive Order 96-06, the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council (hereafter the Council) shall undertake advocacy, capacity building and systemic change activities.

The goal of these activities is to assure individuals with developmental disabilities are able to live independently, productively, with choice and self-determination, and integrated and included in all aspects of community life.

The Council shall produce a State Plan that outlines the performance targets, activities and budget that address this goal and the requirements of the Act.

#### **Section 1 MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of the Council shall be appointed by the Governor and be consistent with the requirements of the Act and the Executive Order.

The members of the Council, with the exception of the representatives of the principal state agencies, shall be appointed to serve for three years. In the case of a vacancy, the appointment shall be only for the remainder of the unexpired term for which the vacancy occurs. No member shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms.

#### **Section 2 GOVERNANCE OF THE COUNCIL**

The responsibility of the full Council is governance. "Governance" is defined as the development and revision of the internal and external policies directing the work of the Developmental Disabilities Council.

Council policy shall fall into the following groups:

“Do” Policies are Ends, Outcome or Mission-related policies.

These include policies describing what priorities are being addressed, what are the target populations, and what cost or use of resources should be used.

“Don’t” Policies are limitations on Executive Director authority.

These include policies describing those principles of prudence and ethics that limit the choice of means (practices, activities, circumstances, methods) used by the Executive Director.

“Who” Policies describe the Council Executive Director relationship.

These include policies describing the manner in which power is passed to the Executive Director and how the use of that power by the Executive Director will be assessed.

“How” Policies are Council processes.

These include policies describing how the Council conducts its work and how it provides leadership.

The full Council, not individual members or subgroups, is responsible for governance.

### Section 3 OFFICERS

The Council shall have the following officers:

A. Chair

The Governor shall appoint the Council Chair in accordance with Executive Order.

#### First Vice-Chair

The First Vice-Chair shall serve a term of twelve months beginning at the first meeting of the federal fiscal year.

In the case of a vacancy, the Second Vice-Chair shall become the First Vice-Chair for the remainder of the First Vice-Chair's term and serve one additional term.

#### C. Second Vice-Chair:

In September of each year, the Second Vice-Chair shall be elected by a majority vote of the full Council at a meeting immediately prior to the expiration of or vacancy of the twelve-month term served by the First Vice-Chair. Nominees will be presented at the meeting prior to the vote. Council members will be given an opportunity to nominate additional candidates on the day of the vote. In the case of a vacancy, an election shall be held to fill the remainder of the term.

The Second Vice-Chair shall serve twelve months in that position, and then will assume the position of the First Vice-Chair. The term of the Second Vice-chair shall begin at the first meeting of the federal fiscal year.

### Section 4 DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

#### A. The Chair Shall:

Appoint the Chairs and members of all standing committees, workgroups, and ad hoc committees of the Council;

Convene and facilitate the annual (at least) performance evaluation of the Executive Director by the full Council;

Be an ex-officio member of all standing committees, workgroups and ad hoc committees;

Convene and facilitate the Full Council meetings;

Resolve disputes regarding the responsibility of standing committees, workgroups and/or ad hoc committees as they may arise;

Act as liaison between the Governor and the Council; and

Work with the Membership Committee to implement Council policies related to attendance and participation.

B. The First Vice-Chair shall:

Preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair;

Preside at Council meetings in the event the Chair wants to actively participate in the discussion of, or has presentation duties, for a given agenda item;

Receive reports of conflict of interest as stated in Policy 401 and;

Assume special duties and appointments as needed.

C. The Second Vice-Chair shall:

Preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair and First Vice-Chair;

Preside at Council meetings in the event the Chair or First Vice-chair has presentation duties for a given agenda item; and

Assume special duties, represent the Chair and attend meetings as requested.

Prohibition

An officer of the Council shall not make public statements, or advocate a position to legislators, department directors, or other policy makers, which is contrary to a final action approved by the Council.

Section 5 MEETINGS

The Council shall approve an annual schedule of meetings by majority vote when quorum is present.

The Council shall meet every other month, or more often at the call of the Council Chair or at the written request of twelve or more members of the Council.

Cancellation or modification of meeting dates shall be at the discretion of the Council Chair; however, the Chair may not cancel a meeting called at the request of Council members without prior written approval of the requesting Council members.

All regular and special meetings of the Council and its standing committees and workgroup shall be open to the public consistent with state law (RCW 42.30.)

## Section 6 QUORUM, VOTING, ATTENDANCE, AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Active and consistent participation in Council, standing committee and workgroup meetings is a responsibility of all members. The Council shall have an attendance policy passed by a majority vote at a meeting where a quorum is present. It shall be the duty of the staff of the Council to maintain attendance records of Council members at meetings and to notify the Chair of attendance by a member(s) inconsistent with the requirements of the Council's attendance policy. It shall then be the duty of the Chair to address any inconsistencies with the attendance policy. It is the responsibility of the Membership Standing Committee to review the policy at least annually and make recommendations, if appropriate, for revision in the policy.

The initial agenda shall be distributed to all members at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

The initial official agenda shall be the official agenda for meeting the requirements of the Public Open Meetings Act. Generally, the agenda items should come through a standing committee, workgroup, ad hoc

committee or any action item requested by seven or more members of the Council.

Any material related to an agenda item that is submitted four weeks or more prior to a meeting shall be included as an attachment to the agenda. At the time of a meeting the full Council may, as it deems appropriate, remove any item from the agenda, act on it, table it, or refer it to a standing committee, workgroup, ad hoc committee or the Executive Director.

All “final actions” items must be so noted on the official agenda and final action items cannot be added to the official agenda of the Council once it is published.

All motions for “final action” of the Council must be submitted in writing and read to the Council prior to vote. All “final action” must be approved by a majority vote (except as otherwise specified in the Charter) of those present at a Council meeting for which there is a quorum. The vote must be recorded in the minutes.

The Council shall have written parliamentary procedures to be used by the Council in conducting its business including, but not limited to, rules for meeting conduct and a Council member code of ethics.

## Section 7 MINUTES OF MEETINGS

The Council staff shall record, distribute, and maintain minutes of all meetings of the Council, its standing committees, workgroups and ad hoc committees.

## Section 8 SUB-ORGANIZATIONS

It shall be the policy of the Council, through the Chair, to use appointed standing committees, workgroups, and ad hoc committees to develop recommendations related to governance responsibilities, for consideration by the full Council, so that the full Council can, to the maximum extent possible, use its time on “action items”.

A *standing committee* is a sub-organization of the Full Council established to make recommendations to the full Council involving a category of governance responsibilities. The Council shall have three on-going Standing Committees: a Governance Committee, a Membership Committee, and a Public Policy Committee. The responsibilities of each Standing Committee are described in Appendix A to the Charter and these can be amended by a simple majority vote of the full Council.

A *workgroup* is a sub-organization of the Council established to organize the governance responsibilities of the State Plan on an issue-oriented basis. The general responsibilities of a workgroup are described in Appendix B to the Charter. The full Council can determine how many workgroups the Council shall have and amend the general responsibilities by a simple majority vote of the full Council.

An *ad hoc committee* is a sub-organization of the Council established on a time-limited basis to make recommendations to the full Council involving a governance responsibility or a category of governance responsibilities.

The Chair may appoint such ad hoc committees as may be needed to conduct governance responsibilities.

Each Council member shall be appointed to one standing committee and one workgroup. Membership on standing committees and workgroups shall, to the extent possible, be equal in number. The composition shall, to the extent possible, reflect the diversity of the Council.

Four members shall constitute a quorum for standing committees and workgroups.

The Council Chair appointed the Chairs of the Standing Committees and Workgroups. A Council member shall serve only as chair of one Standing Committee or Workgroup at a time.

A chair of a standing committee or workgroup shall serve a one-year term. A chair of a standing committee or workgroup is eligible for reappointment. In the event of a vacancy, a chair shall be appointed to fill the remainder of

a term. Annual appointments shall be made at the first meeting of the federal fiscal year.

The Council shall determine the length of the appointment for the chair and members of an ad hoc committee and whether non-Council members will be included in a particular ad hoc committee. The Council shall approve a written statement of the nature and scope of an ad hoc committee as well as the number of members and what constitutes a quorum for the purposes of their meetings. The statement shall include an ending date for the work of the ad hoc committee. At the ending date, the ad hoc shall conclude its work or seek reauthorization for its work from the full Council. There is no limitation on the number of ad hoc committees on which a Council member may serve as a member or a chair.

Only members of standing committees, workgroups and ad hoc committees shall be permitted to vote and to have their expenses reimbursed by the Council.

Recommendations of a standing committee, workgroup or ad hoc committee must be committed to writing, read to its members prior to a vote, and approved by a majority of members present at a meeting for which there is a quorum and for which proper notice (including date, time, place and agenda items) is given to all members.

Changes to the recommendations of a standing committee, workgroup, or ad hoc committee shall only be made at a meeting for which proper notice (including date, time, place and agenda item) was given to all members or at a Council meeting where the recommendations are a part of the agenda.

The Executive Director shall be responsible for designating staffing for standing committees, workgroups, and ad hoc committees.

## Section 9 REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

The Council shall have written policies on reasonable accommodation that comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with

Disabilities Act, and the Washington State Law Against Discrimination RCW 49.60.

B. The policy shall address but not be limited to:

1. Availability of independent expertise on accommodating board participation;
2. A fair, impartial and internal (to the Developmental Disabilities Council) complaint procedure;
3. Availability of a written individualized accommodation plan when requested by a member;
4. An overall plan to comply with federal law described above; and
5. Training for Council members and staff on their role regarding accommodations.

C. The Council shall hold its meeting and the activities it sponsors in facilities that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, RCW 49.60 and other applicable state or local policies. At meetings the Council holds or sponsors, reasonable accommodations shall be provided so that all members can participate.

## Section 10 COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

The Council shall have a procedure for handling formal complaints as outlined in Council policy.

## Section 11 COMPENSATION OF THE COUNCIL

The members of the Council, who are not representing principal state agencies, shall be entitled to approved expenses according to federal and state rules, regulations, and Council policy.

## Section 12 MANAGEMENT

The Executive Director is responsible to the full Council for the management of the Council. Management is defined as the performance of the activities necessary to implement the policies approved by the full Council. The Executive Director is accountable to the full Council for achieving “Do” policies (see section 2.A) and not violating “Don’t” policies (see section 2.B).

The full Council shall conduct a performance evaluation of the Executive Director at least annually (based on the federal fiscal year) for the purpose of assessing the degree to which policy outcomes were achieved by management.

In order to assure the Council “speaks with one voice”, the Executive Director, within the parameters set forth in policy approved by the full Council, has the sole responsibility of authorizing staff or Council members to represent or speak on behalf of the Council.

The use of the terms “task force”, “coalition”, “association”, “advisory group”, or “advisor” shall be reserved for use by the Executive Director to describe individuals or entities engaged in management responsibilities.

Responsibility for the nature, use, number and scope of task forces, coalitions, associations, advisory groups and advisors is delegated to the Executive Director, within the constraints of the Council approved budget and other related policies. The Chair and the Executive Director may, on an exception-to-policy basis, approve the expenses for non-Council participants.

## Section 13 AMENDMENTS

Amendments to Council Charter may be presented by any member of the Council at meetings of the Council for consideration and adoption or rejection at the following meeting. Adoption of amendments to the Charter shall require the approval of a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the meeting of the Council at which a proposed amendment is to be considered.

Appendix A

## Responsibilities of the Standing Committees of the Council:

### Governance Committee shall:

Review formal complaints involving alleged violations of the DD Act, the Council Charter and the procedures, or Council-approved policies by members and make a recommendation for action to the full Council;  
Remind the Council, on at least an annual basis, to assess its own performance and make recommendations for improvement as appropriate;  
Make recommendations to the Council regarding the development, revision, or elimination of policies in the categories of “Don’t”, “Who”, and “How” (See section III A, B, C, and D.)  
Update and revise the Council Charter, including governance responsibilities, as necessary and make recommendations to the Council as appropriate;  
Propose changes to the Executive Director Evaluation Criteria and Process and submit proposed changes to the full Council for approval;  
Appoint Council member(s) to perform a direct inspection should the Council decide to review Executive Director’s compliance with fiscal or budget policy established by the Council; and  
Review, update and make recommendations to the full Council regarding governing documents including, but not limited to the Council Charter and Governance Committee responsibilities in addition to written parliamentary procedures, rules for meetings and the Council member Code of Ethics.

### Membership Committee shall:

Assist the Council in determining the kind and quantity of diversity, skills and experience that is needed in each recruitment “class” of new Council members in order to “fill the gaps” in Council membership, assure the interviewing of potential members, and forward names of candidates to the Governor after reviewing with the full Council how the candidates “fill the gaps” in Council membership.  
Maintain information about the skills, experience and interests of current members for use by the Council Chair in making appointments to committees, workgroups, and other internal or external committees or workgroups;

Perform responsibilities related to nominating a Council Chair as outlined in Council Policy;

Solicit ideas and suggestions for the orientation, the annual development day, and ongoing education of members;

Assure the planning/facilitation of the new member orientation session(s), the planning/facilitation of the annual member development day, and assure all members complete a member Individual Development Plan annually;

Assure that each member who wishes a mentor has a mentor assigned to them. The Mentor shall provide guidance and advice those being mentored. The Membership Committee shall provide education, upon request, to individual Council members, standing committees, workgroups, ad hoc committees and/or the full Council on the subjects of parliamentary rules, how to be an effective meeting participant, consensus building, interest based negotiation and conflict resolution.

Annually evaluate and review the Council's new member orientation, individual development plan process and mentor program and make necessary improvements to those programs;

Conduct ongoing surveys of Council members to determine satisfaction with their participation on the Council and evaluate the feedback regarding ways to address issues or concerns that are identified; and

Recommend to the Council revisions in the attendance policy and enforce its requirements.

Public Policy Committee shall:

Provide input to the Executive Director or designee on proposed agendas for Council meetings.

Make recommendations to the Council for "Do" policies responding to public policy issues;

Develop and recommend the Council's annual legislative agenda for consideration by the full Council;

Review ongoing and emerging legislation, rules, policies and issues and make policy recommendations to the full Council;

Monitor federal legislation and make policy recommendations to the full Council; and

Monitor the developmental disabilities and related service and funding systems and make policy recommendations to the full Council.  
Provide for communication with Council members about current public policy and legislative issues.

Appendix B

Workgroups shall

Based on feedback from individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, workgroups:

Develop and oversee the implementation of the State Plan focused on the areas assigned to the workgroup;

Make recommendations to the Council related workgroup's assigned issues for the purpose of formulating a proactive Legislative agenda; and

Make recommendations to the Council, establishing guidelines and criteria for responding to the legislative initiatives (related to workgroup's assigned issues) of others.



## Reading 26-MG-13 Council Charter

### Cover Sheet

#### **What this is**

This is a plain language version of the Council Charter that explains governance, roles, and processes in a simpler and more accessible format.

#### **Why it's included**

This helps ensure the Charter is understandable to a wide range of audiences, including Council members and the public.

#### **Action**

No action required. For review.



## **Reading 26-MG-13**

### **Developmental Disabilities Council Charter (Plain Language)**

#### **What is the Council?**

The Council helps people with developmental disabilities.

We work so people can live on their own, make their own choices, and be part of their community.

We make a plan to guide our work. This is called the State Plan.

#### **Who is on the Council?**

The Governor chooses the members.

Most members serve for 3 years.

Members can serve up to 2 terms.

#### **What does the Council do?**

The Council makes the big decisions. This is called governance.

We decide what we want to change, what we should not do, who is in charge, and how we do our work.

The full Council makes decisions together.

#### **Council Leaders**

The Council has leaders: Chair, First Vice-Chair, and Second Vice-Chair.

They help run meetings and support the Council.

#### **Meetings**

The Council meets every other month.

Meetings are open to the public.

Members get the agenda before the meeting.

#### **Decisions and Voting**

Members should come to meetings and take part.

A group must be present to vote. This is called a quorum.

Most decisions pass by a majority vote.

#### **Committees and Groups**

The Council uses smaller groups to do work.

Committees do ongoing work.

Workgroups focus on State Plan topics.  
Ad hoc groups do short-term work.

### **Accessibility**

The Council makes sure everyone can take part.  
This includes accessible meetings and support for individual needs.

### **Executive Director**

The Executive Director runs daily work.  
They follow Council rules and are reviewed each year.

### **Changes to the Charter**

The Charter can be changed.  
Changes must be shared first and voted on later.

## Reading 26-MG-14 Council Membership Snapshot

### Cover Sheet:

#### **What this is**

This document provides a snapshot of current Council membership, including representation, geography, demographics, and terms.

#### **Why it's included**

This helps identify strengths and gaps in membership and supports recruitment and planning discussions.

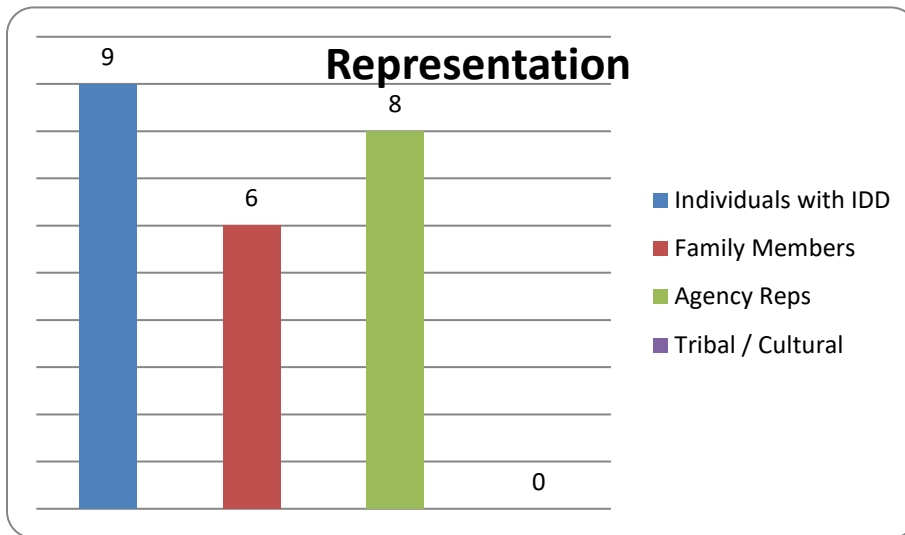
#### **Action**

No action required. For review and discussion.

## Reading 26-MG-14 Membership Data

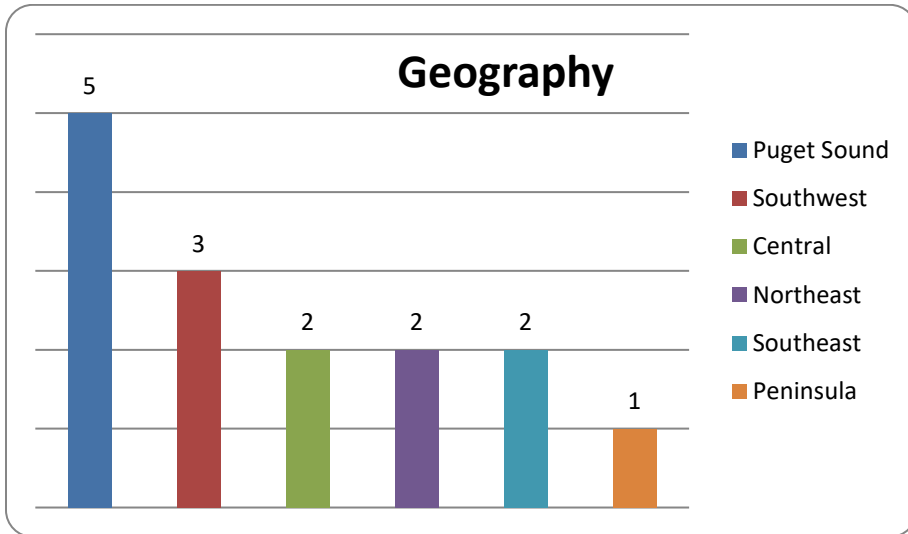
### Representation

Individuals with IDD	9
Family Members	6
Agency Reps	8
Tribal / Cultural	0



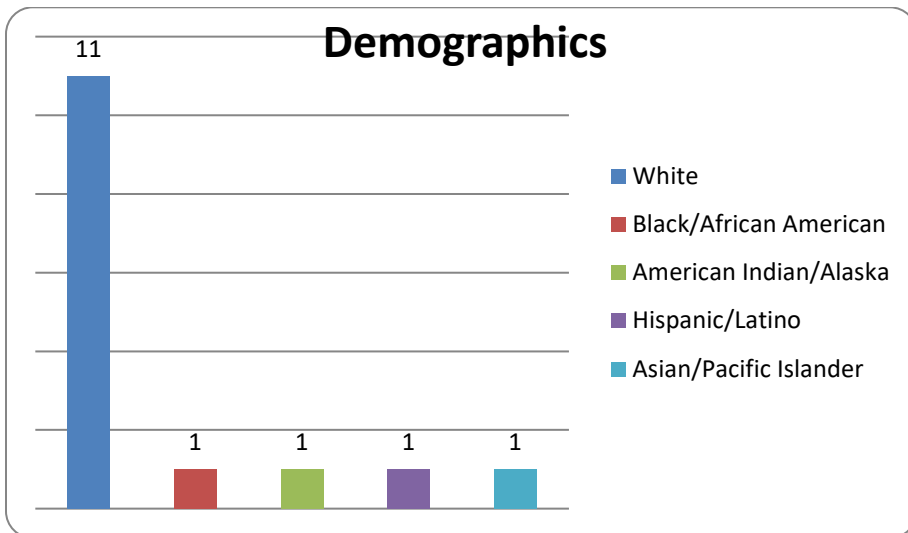
### Geography

Puget Sound	5
Southwest	3
Central	2
Northeast	2
Southeast	2
Peninsula	1



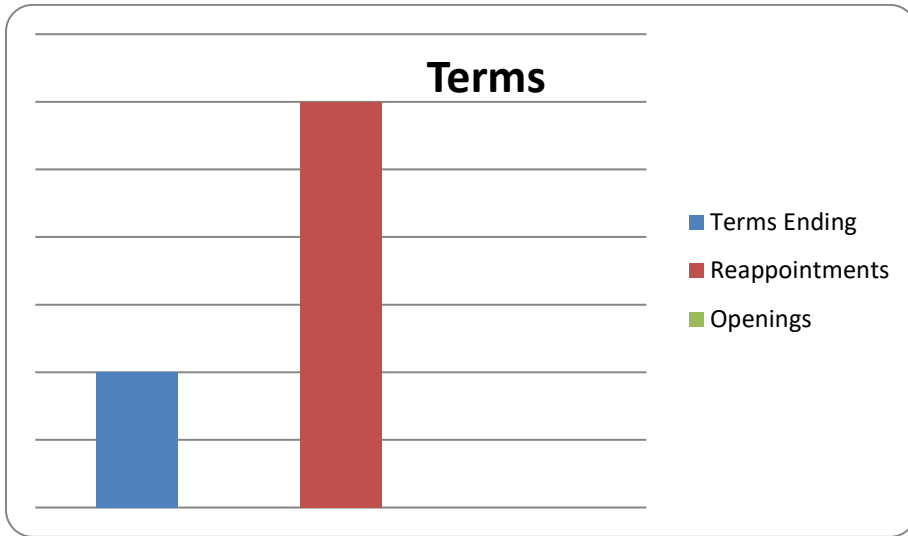
### Demographics

White	11
Black/African American	1
American Indian/Alaska	1
Hispanic/Latino	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1



### Terms

Terms Ending	1
Reappointments	3
Openings	0



## Public Policy Committee Agenda

(DRAFT)

April 16, 2026

**Date: April 16, 2026**

**Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

**Location: Zoom (Virtual)**

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

**Members:** Julie Clark, Chair, Riley Daugherty, Robert Wardell, Alex Koval, Melissa Dodge, Katie Nash, Sandi Gruberg, Monica Burke (DOH), Mark Harniss (UCEDD), Noah Seidel (DRW)

**Staff:** Emily Rogers and Christie Chiles

**2:15 Welcome**

**2:20 Vote on January 2026 Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes  
Reading 26-PP-02**

**2:30 All of the Session activities are complete.**

Think about all of the Session activities that our community had going on.

- Are there things that you think worked really well?
- Are there things that you think could be improved?
  - Do you have ideas as to how to make our advocacy better?

**2:45 Review of last year's Public Policy Areas for 2026 Survey**

Before the next meeting in July the Public Policy Areas for 2027 will be going out to all Council members.

- Are there any changes that need to be made?
- Are there any things that were left off that you think should be added?
- Are there any things that should be taken off?

**3:15 Are there things you would like the new members of this committee to know as they start in July?**

**3:30 Are there any things I can create that would:**

- Make it easier for you to understand the legislative process?

- Help you to be able to advocate for things that are important to you?

**3:45 Are there any other things you would like to talk about?**

**4:00 Meeting Adjourn**

## **Reading 26-PP-02 Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes (January 2026)**

### **Cover Sheet**

#### **What this is**

These are the draft minutes from the Public Policy Committee meeting held on January 15, 2026. They summarize discussions on legislative priorities, advocacy efforts, and partner perspectives.

#### **Why it's included**

This provides a record of public policy discussions and helps connect Council priorities to ongoing legislative and advocacy work.

#### **Action**

Be prepared to review and vote to approve the minutes.

## Reading 26-PP-02

### Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

#### Draft Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2026

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Attendance: Julie Clark (Chair), Riley Daugherty, Tayshia Farra, Melissa Dodge, Leigh Spruce, Sandi Gruberg, Monica Burke (DOH), Mark Harniss (UCEDD), Noah Seidel (DRW)

Staff: Emily Rogers, Brandi Monts, Christie Chiles

#### Meeting overview

The Public Policy Committee met on January 15, 2026, during the afternoon session of the Council's January meeting. The meeting included committee business, a review of Council advocacy materials, and a panel discussion with partner organizations about the 2026 legislative session.

#### Welcome and introductions

Committee members, Council members, staff, and guests joined the meeting. Because some people were new or attending only for the panel discussion, participants briefly shared their names and where they were from. Staff reviewed the agenda and explained how the meeting would move forward.

#### Approval of October 2025 meeting minutes

The Committee reviewed the October 2025 Public Policy Committee meeting minutes. Leigh Spruce made a motion to approve the minutes. Riley Daugherty seconded and approved by the Committee. There were no objections or abstentions.

#### Review of the 2026 legislative priorities video

Staff shared the Council's completed 2026 Legislative Priorities video. The video explains the issues the Council will focus on during the legislative session and includes Council members speaking about why advocacy is important to them. Committee members thanked staff for their work and shared positive feedback. A few small captioning errors were noted, and staff shared that they would continue working to correct them. Members

were reminded that the video is available on the Council website and may be shared with others.

### **Legislative panel discussion**

The Committee hosted a panel discussion with organizations that work closely with the Council on advocacy and public policy. The panel presentation was recorded so it could be shared later with the full Council.

Panelists represented Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL), The Arc of Washington and the Advocacy Partnership Project, and Open Doors for Multicultural Families. Each panelist talked about their organization and shared their priorities for the 2026 legislative session.

Topics discussed included protecting Medicaid and essential services, helping people with developmental disabilities live in the community, increasing housing options, improving transportation access, ending highly restrictive programs, preserving historical records from institutions, expanding language access, reducing restraint and isolation, and improving access to mental and behavioral health services. Panelists also shared advocacy tools and resources that Council members and community members can use during the legislative session.

### **Questions and discussion**

After the recorded panel ended, Committee members asked questions and shared comments. Discussion included mental health access, updates on legislation related to the Community Protection Program, preserving historical records, and strategies for advocacy during a challenging budget year. No motions or votes were taken during this discussion.

### **Advocacy day information**

Staff shared information about upcoming Advocacy Days, including schedules, travel and reimbursement details, hotel arrangements, and options for meeting with legislators. Committee members asked questions to clarify logistics and participation.

### **Break and conclusion**

The Committee completed its work early to allow time for a break before the full Council meeting resumed. The Public Policy Committee meeting concluded at approximately 3:00 PM, with members scheduled to reconvene for the full Council meeting at 3:15 PM.



## Reading 26-19 2026–2031 State Plan (Full Draft)

### Cover Sheet:

#### **What this is**

This is the full draft of the Council's 2026–2031 State Plan, including goals, objectives, activities, and performance measures that will guide the Council's work over the next five years.

#### **Why it's included**

This document outlines the proposed direction and priorities of the Council and reflects input from members, partners, and the community.

#### **Action**

Be prepared to review, discuss, and provide feedback. A vote may be requested.

## Reading 26-19

Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council  
2026–2031 State Plan  
Compiled Edited Text (January 2026)

### Introduction

This document is the full draft of the 2026–2031 State Plan, including proposed goals, objectives, activities, and performance measures.

**It reflects what the Council has learned from community input, data, and discussion, including feedback from Council member small group discussions, and shows how the Council proposes to organize its work over the next five years to move learning into coordinated action. Across all goals, Council members emphasized the importance of reducing silos, strengthening collaboration across systems, and ensuring that coordination leads to meaningful outcomes for people with developmental disabilities and their families.**

### **Goal 1: Advocacy – Helping People Speak Up and Be Heard**

The Council will help people with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families learn how to speak up for what they need, share their experiences, and work together for change. **Our focus is on strengthening self-advocacy, growing diverse leadership, protecting rights, improving access to information, and coordinating public-policy efforts statewide in ways that lead to clear, decisive action rather than passive coordination alone.**

#### **Objective 1.1 — Strengthen Self-Advocacy and Peer Leadership**

The Council will support self-advocacy activities and organizations across Washington through training, mentorship, and collaboration.

**Programs such as Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) and Allies in Advocacy will continue to develop emerging leaders and connect them to opportunities for civic participation, including intentional outreach to youth and emerging advocates.**

#### **Activities**

Support self-advocacy groups and peer-led initiatives statewide.

Expand training in leadership, policy advocacy, and civic engagement.

Create plain-language self-advocacy and civil-rights resources.

Foster collaboration between self-advocacy, civil-rights, and cross-disability coalitions with an emphasis on reducing silos across systems and advocacy efforts.

Support education and peer discussion on **sexual health, healthy relationships, consent, and bodily autonomy**, helping individuals understand their rights and make informed choices.

Include materials and peer-learning opportunities about supported decision-making and other less-restrictive alternatives to guardianship, helping individuals understand their rights and plan for future decision-making.

Promote awareness and peer training on assistive technology and communication supports that help individuals express choices, advocate for themselves, and participate fully in community life.

**We'll know it's working when more self-advocates report confidence in influencing policy, feel empowered to discuss health, communication, and personal rights including decision-making supports, and when advocacy efforts show stronger coordination that leads to visible outcomes, and more individuals with DD serve in advisory and leadership roles.**

## Performance Measures

### Outputs

Number of self-advocacy trainings, workshops, and peer-led events delivered statewide.

Number of self-advocates participating in trainings, mentorship, and leadership activities.

Number of plain-language resources developed or updated on self-advocacy, civil rights, supported decision-making, and healthy relationships.

Number of self-advocacy groups and peer-led initiatives supported, including SAIL and Allies in Advocacy.

Number of trainings or peer-learning opportunities that include assistive technology and communication supports.

### **Outcomes**

More self-advocates report confidence in influencing policy and speaking up about issues that matter to them.

More individuals with developmental disabilities serve in advisory, leadership, and decision-making roles across systems.

More self-advocates report feeling informed and confident discussing health, communication, relationships, and personal rights, including decision-making supports.

Self-advocacy groups and coalitions report stronger leadership pipelines and more sustained engagement.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

Participants show improved knowledge on post-training surveys about self-advocacy, rights, and decision-making options.

Self-advocates provide more testimony, comments, or feedback in public policy processes.

Increased use of supported decision-making and other less-restrictive alternatives to guardianship is reported by partners and participants.

Partners report increased use of assistive technology and communication supports to help people express preferences and make choices.

### **Council Initiatives: SAIL | Allies in Advocacy | Other (TBD)**

#### **Objective 1.2 — Develop Leadership Capacity Among Diverse Families and Emerging Leaders with IDD**

**Families, youth and emerging leaders with IDD are powerful advocates for change. The Council will partner with community organizations to provide multilingual, culturally responsive mentoring and leadership training for families and emerging leaders with IDD, prioritizing Tribal, rural, and underrepresented communities and supporting pathways that connect lived experience to broader advocacy and policy efforts.**

### **Activities**

Partner with community-based organizations to provide culturally relevant leadership and mentoring.

Build a statewide advocacy-leadership program.

Offer small grants and support for local family and IDD-led leadership projects.

Develop outreach that reflects cultural values and community strengths.

*We'll know it's working when more family members, youth and emerging leaders with IDD from diverse backgrounds join statewide networks, lead initiatives, and influence decision-making.*

## **Performance Measures**

### **Outputs**

Number of leadership development, mentoring, and family advocacy and self-advocate trainings conducted with community partners.

Number of participants in leadership activities from Tribal, rural, immigrant, and other underrepresented communities.

Number of family and youth led projects or initiatives funded or supported by the Council.

Number of multilingual and culturally responsive outreach materials and tools developed.

### **Outcomes**

More family members and emerging leaders and youth with IDD from diverse communities participate in statewide advocacy networks and advisory bodies.

More participants from underrepresented communities report increased confidence and skills to advocate for services, rights, and systems change.

Partner organizations report stronger leadership and advocacy capacity among the families and community members they serve.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

Participants report specific ways they have used their skills (e.g., testifying, joining boards, organizing local efforts).

Increased representation of diverse family leaders on coalitions, advisory groups, and planning bodies.

Community-based organizations report improved collaboration with the Council and DD Network partners on leadership and advocacy initiatives.

Local, culturally grounded leadership projects show evidence of continued activity after Council support ends.

### **Council Initiatives: Open Doors for Multicultural Families | ALDC-type Activity | Tribal Outreach**

#### **Objective 1.3 — Reduce Institutionalization and Justice-System Involvement**

**The Council will expand cross-agency advocacy to prevent people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) from entering or remaining in restrictive or carceral settings. This includes strengthening collaboration between justice, crisis-response, and disability-service systems to actively address silos that contribute to harm or unnecessary system involvement.**

#### **Activities**

Partner with law enforcement, courts, and community systems to divert individuals from jails and institutions.

Provide training on disability rights, de-escalation, and person-centered supports.

Promote policies that reduce restraint, seclusion, and unnecessary institutionalization.

Support programs that build safe reintegration pathways into community life.

*We'll know it's working when more individuals with DD are supported in their communities, fewer are placed in restrictive environments, and crisis-response systems demonstrate effective diversion practices.*

#### **Performance Measures**

##### **Outputs**

Number of trainings and technical-assistance sessions provided to law enforcement, courts, crisis-response teams, and service providers.

Number of cross-system meetings or planning efforts focused on diversion, rights, and community-based supports.

Number of tools and resources developed that support disability-informed crisis response and alternatives to institutionalization.

### **Outcomes**

Fewer individuals with IDD enter or remain in jails, institutions, or other restrictive settings when community-based supports are appropriate.

Justice and crisis-response systems increase the use of diversion practices and community-based responses for people with IDD.

Families and individuals report better experiences navigating crisis systems and accessing timely support.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

Partners report increased knowledge of disability rights, de-escalation, and person-centered practices.

Cross-system agreements, protocols, or policies are developed or strengthened to support diversion and community-based responses.

Documented examples show successful reintegration and stability for individuals transitioning from restrictive or carceral settings.

Data from partners shows reduced use of restraint, seclusion, and unnecessary institutional placements.

## **Council Initiatives: Justice & Crisis Response Collaboration | Contracted Activities | Staff Support**

### **Objective 1.4 — Strengthen Statewide Communication, Resources, Outreach, and Navigation**

**Access to accurate, plain-language information empowers families and individuals with IDD. The Council will expand and modernize the Informing Families project, ensuring materials are accessible, tools that help people understand how systems connect and where gaps between systems exist, including plain-language systems mapping tools that show how services, agencies, and decision points relate to**

**one another across the lifespan that are culturally relevant, and available in multiple languages.**

### **Activities**

Maintain and modernize Informing Families as the state's primary source for disability information.

Collaborate with agencies and advocacy partners for consistent messaging.

Produce multilingual, universally designed materials in digital and print formats.

Conduct targeted outreach with Tribal, rural, and immigrant communities.

Gather user feedback to continuously improve accessibility and relevance.

*We'll know it's working when families, individuals, and professionals report better understanding of services, improved navigation, and greater access to inclusive opportunities.*

### **Performance Measures**

#### **Outputs**

Number of plain-language, universally designed resources created or updated through Informing Families.

Number of resources translated into additional languages and formats.

Website, social media, and digital analytics (page views, downloads, engagement) for Informing Families and related materials.

Number of targeted outreach activities with Tribal, rural, and immigrant communities.

#### **Outcomes**

Families, individuals with DD, and professionals report improved understanding of services, supports, and rights.

Families and individuals report that it is easier to find information and navigate systems using Informing Families and related resources.

Agencies and partners increasingly rely on Informing Families as a primary resource for disability information.

#### **Sub-Outcomes**

User feedback shows improved accessibility, cultural relevance, and clarity of materials.

Increased referrals to Informing Families from state agencies, providers, and community partners.

Analytics indicate increased use of key navigation tools (e.g., timelines, checklists, decision guides).

Outreach partners report better alignment and consistency in information shared with families.

### **Objective 1.5 — Advance Coordinated Advocacy Through the Community Advocacy Coalition**

**The Council will strengthen collaboration among advocacy groups through the Community Advocacy Coalition (CAC). The CAC will facilitate collaborations and initiatives through its work to align training, outreach, and legislative engagement. The CAC will create statewide alliances that bring together people with developmental disabilities, families, and organizations to identify shared priorities and advance change through coordinated action that is intentional, time-bound, and focused on shared outcomes.**

#### **Activities**

Support the work of the Community Advocacy as a unifying statewide voice on disability issues.

Coordinate testimony, legislative visits, and community-education events during the legislative session.

Develop plain-language policy materials and legislative updates for advocates and families.

Provide platforms for cross-organizational learning and communication among advocacy partners.

Promote shared policy priorities that reflect the lived experiences of people with DD and their families.

*We'll know it's working when statewide advocacy organizations collaborate around shared goals, new and diverse voices participate in advocacy, and policy changes reflect priorities identified by people with disabilities and families.*

## **Performance Measures**

### **Outputs**

Number of Community Advocacy Coalition (CAC) meetings, planning sessions, and joint advocacy activities held each year.

Number of organizations and advocates participating in CAC activities, including new and diverse members.

Number of plain-language policy briefs, legislative updates, and advocacy tools produced and distributed.

Number of coordinated legislative visits, testimony events, and community-education activities.

### **Outcomes**

Statewide advocacy organizations, self-advocates, and families increasingly coordinate around shared policy priorities.

New and diverse voices, including people with DD and families from underrepresented communities, participate in advocacy efforts.

Policy changes and legislative outcomes more clearly reflect priorities identified by people with disabilities and families.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

CAC partners report improved communication, alignment, and reduced duplication of advocacy efforts.

Increased number of jointly developed policy priorities, sign-on letters, or shared campaigns.

Participant feedback indicates that CAC activities make it easier to understand and engage in policy processes.

Documented examples show advocacy wins or system improvements linked to CAC coordination.

## **Council Initiatives: Community Advocacy Coalition | Policy & Systems Committee**

### **Goal 2: Systems Change – Making Programs and Services Work Better**

**The Council will work with state and community partners to improve how supports and services function for people with developmental**

**disabilities and their families. It will focus on fairness, accessibility, coordination, and ensuring that programs reach people in every community — especially those who are underserved or underrepresented, including people and families navigating multiple systems at the same time.**

### **Objective 2.1 — Improve Coordination Between Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Systems**

**The Council will bring agencies and partners together to improve integration between behavioral-health and developmental-disability services, ensuring timely, person-centered support and fewer institutional placements. This includes a focus on people with IDD who are aging and the growing number of family caregivers who are themselves aging, as well as families experiencing gaps when individuals move between child, adult, and aging systems.**

#### **Activities**

Convene cross-system partners for coordination and planning that includes direct service providers and smaller agencies, not only state-level systems.

Collaborate with crisis-response and justice systems to promote diversion.

Develop tools that improve communication between families and providers and clarify overlapping roles across systems where similar titles or functions create confusion (e.g., care coordinators).

Support policies that advance prevention, early intervention, and equitable access.

Partner with agencies providing supports and services to people who aging and family networks to strengthen coordination between aging and DD systems.

Promote supports that recognize the dual challenges of people with IDD who are aging and family caregivers who are themselves aging.

Identify and share models that help families plan for long-term care transitions, including housing, health, and alternatives to guardianship planning, with attention to kinship caregiving and grandparents serving as primary caregivers.

**We'll know it's working when systems communicate effectively, fewer people are institutionalized, older adults with DD and aging family**

**caregivers have access to coordinated supports and smooth transitions, and families report that services feel less fragmented and easier to understand, and families report easier access to care.**

## **Performance Measures**

### **Outputs**

Number of cross-system meetings, workgroups, or planning sessions held that include DD, behavioral health, aging, crisis-response, and justice partners.

Number of tools, protocols, or communication aids developed to support coordination between families, providers, and agencies.

Number of trainings or learning sessions on integrated support for people with IDD who have behavioral-health needs, including aging-related issues.

### **Outcomes**

Fewer people with IDD experience institutional or crisis placements due to gaps between systems.

Older adults with IDD and aging family caregivers have better access to coordinated supports and smoother transitions across systems.

Families and partners report that services are easier to navigate and more responsive to complex behavioral-health and aging needs.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

Cross-system partners adopt or pilot new coordination tools (e.g., shared care plans, warm-hand-off protocols).

Collaborative initiatives are created that address co-occurring IDD and behavioral-health needs, including crisis diversion.

Documented examples show improved stability and quality of life for people with IDD and their caregivers.

## **Council Initiatives: Behavioral Health Collaboration | Staff Activities**

### **Objective 2.2 — Promote Expansion, Inclusion, and Policy Reform Across Systems**

**The Council will embed expansion principles — equity, access, belonging, and representation — into all Council initiatives and advocacy. We'll review policies for fairness, support inclusive**

**navigation models, and share recommendations that improve access statewide, including across systems that are not traditionally part of the DD service network.**

### **Activities**

Conduct equity and expansion reviews of DD policies and initiatives.

Collaborate with CAC and advocacy partners to track and influence legislation.

Promote culturally responsive navigation and support models that help people from different cultures understand how systems work and how services connect.

Monitor restraint, isolation, and rights protections across service systems.

### **Performance Measures**

#### **Outputs**

Number of DD policies, initiatives, or proposals reviewed using equity and expansion principles.

Number of legislative and policy analyses prepared in collaboration with CAC and advocacy partners.

Number of navigation models or projects supported that help people from diverse communities access services.

Number of monitoring or data-gathering activities related to rights protections, restraint, and isolation across systems.

#### **Outcomes**

More policies and initiatives across systems reflect equity, access, belonging, and representation.

Navigation supports are more available and effective for underrepresented communities, including Tribal, rural, and immigrant populations.

Advocacy and policy recommendations result in measurable improvements in how systems protect rights and promote inclusion.

#### **Sub-Outcomes**

Partners report increased use of equity frameworks and data when designing or revising policies.

Examples emerge of policy or practice changes that reduce disparities and improve access.

Data shows improved attention to rights protections, including reductions in restraint, isolation, and harmful practices.

Community members from underserved groups report feeling more seen, heard, and included in planning and decision-making.

### **Council Initiatives: Community Advocacy Coalition | Policy Analysis | Staff Coordination**

#### **Objective 2.3 — Expand Equitable Participation and Collaboration Across Communities and Tribal Nations**

**The Council will work in partnership with Washington’s Tribal governments and rural communities to co-develop culturally grounded supports, host listening sessions, and provide local grants that build lasting change, including partnerships with smaller and community-based organizations that are often excluded from statewide systems work.**

#### **Activities**

Partner with Tribal and inter-Tribal organizations to expand culturally grounded services.

Support rural and frontier communities in developing local solutions.

Host community-led listening sessions and fund local initiatives.

Collaborate with DD Network partners (UCEDD, P&A) on Tribal and rural projects.

*We’ll know it’s working when Tribal and rural projects grow, partnerships strengthen, and community solutions become part of statewide policy and planning.*

#### **Performance Measures**

#### **Outputs**

Number of formal partnerships and projects with Tribal governments, inter-Tribal organizations, and rural communities.

Number of listening sessions, community forums, or local planning events hosted or supported.

Number of mini-grants or local initiatives funded to address community-identified priorities.

Number of collaborative projects with DD Network partners that focus on Tribal and rural communities.

### **Outcomes**

Tribal and rural communities report stronger relationships with the Council and DD Network partners.

Locally designed solutions and projects in Tribal and rural communities become more visible and sustainable.

Community-generated priorities increasingly inform statewide policy, planning, and resource allocation.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

Increased participation of Tribal and rural community members in Council activities, committees, and state-level conversations.

Documented examples of local practices or models being shared or replicated in other communities.

Feedback from Tribal and rural partners indicates increased trust, relevance, and cultural responsiveness.

Mini-grant and project reports show concrete changes in access, inclusion, or service quality.\

### **Council Initiatives: Tribal Outreach | Council Collaborations**

#### **Objective 2.4 — Build Evaluation and Data-Driven Learning Across All Council Initiatives**

**The Council will create an evaluation framework to measure the impact of all funded projects and use data to guide future planning and accountability, including expanding the types of data reviewed to better understand gaps between systems and communities currently underrepresented in existing data sources.**

#### **Activities**

Implement a unified evaluation system for all Council projects.

Publish annual summaries of statewide outcomes and trends.

Use results to inform future priorities and funding decisions.

*We'll know it's working when the Council consistently uses data to show impact, improve decision-making, and strengthen public trust.*

## **Performance Measures**

### **Outputs**

A unified evaluation framework and set of tools is developed and implemented for all Council-funded initiatives.

Number of Council projects and contracts that report data using the unified evaluation system.

Number of annual or periodic summaries produced on statewide outcomes and trends.

### **Outcomes**

The Council consistently uses data to show impact, improve decision-making, and adjust priorities over time.

Council members, partners, and community stakeholders have greater access to clear information about what is working.

Evaluation findings inform future funding decisions, strategic planning, and policy recommendations.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

Increased completeness and quality of data submitted by grantees and contractors.

Staff and partners report that evaluation tools are feasible, useful, and reflect community values.

Examples emerge of specific changes (e.g., funding shifts, new activities, policy recommendations) driven by evaluation results.

Public-facing summaries and dashboards show progress in ways that are accessible and understandable to non-technical audiences.

## **Council Initiatives: Evaluation Framework | Data Analysis | Council Reporting**

### **Goal 3: Capacity Building – Strengthening Communities and the Council**

**The Council will support programs and practices that help people with developmental disabilities live full lives in their communities. This includes funding innovation, improving workforce skills, promoting inclusion and health, and ensuring that the Council itself remains strong, transparent, and accountable, with a clearer emphasis on outward-facing impact and long-term community sustainability.**

#### **Objective 3.1 — Respond to Emerging Issues and Test Innovative Approaches**

**The Council will fund flexible, community-driven projects that address emerging issues and promote inclusion, accessibility, and quality of life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families, with an emphasis on building lasting community infrastructure rather than short-term solutions.**

#### **Activities**

Provide flexible funding opportunities that help communities respond to new challenges and test creative ideas for inclusion and access.

Fund projects focused on housing, employment, health, and technology or assistive-technology access, including workforce development efforts that strengthen community sustainability.

Encourage partnerships with Tribal and rural communities.

Provide technical assistance and evaluation support to grantees.

Share promising practices and success stories statewide.

**We'll know it's working when new local solutions improve inclusion and access, and successful pilot projects are sustained or expanded across Washington, and communities demonstrate increased long-term capacity beyond the life of individual projects.**

#### **Outputs**

Number of grants and flexible funding opportunities awarded to address emerging issues and test new approaches.

Number of projects focused on housing, employment, health, technology, or assistive-technology access.

Number of Tribal and rural communities participating in innovation projects.

Number of technical-assistance and evaluation-support activities provided to grantees.

### **Outcomes**

New local solutions improve inclusion, access, and quality of life for people with IDD and their families.

Successful pilot projects are sustained, expanded, or replicated in other communities or regions.

Community partners report increased capacity to respond to emerging needs and implement innovative practices.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

Projects report specific, measurable changes in areas such as housing stability, employment participation, health access, or technology use.

Stories and case examples highlight how innovations have changed practice or improved lives.

Lessons learned from innovation projects are documented and shared statewide.

Follow-up data shows which models are sustained beyond initial funding.

## **Council Initiatives: Community Innovation Grants | DTMT Partnerships | Council Collaborations**

### **Objective 3.2 — Dan Thompson Memorial Trust (DTMT): Innovation, Review, and Investment**

**The Council will strengthen statewide innovation by supporting the Dan Thompson Memorial Trust (DTMT) process in collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Dan Thompson Advisory Committee. Through this role, the Council**

**reviews proposals submitted by individuals and community organizations, recommends projects for funding, and promotes models that improve housing, employment, health, and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities, with attention to how these models contribute to broader community capacity and sustainability.**

### **Activities**

Review and recommend innovative community and organizational projects that promote inclusion, independence, and access.

Provide technical assistance and outreach to help applicants develop strong, community-based proposals.

Prioritize recommendations that benefit underserved, Tribal, and rural communities.

Host learning exchanges and networking opportunities for DTMT grantees to share outcomes and lessons learned.

Use DTMT results to identify emerging needs and inform statewide policy and systems change.

*We'll know it's working when DTMT-funded projects demonstrate measurable outcomes in inclusion, employment, housing, and health — and successful models are replicated and integrated into Washington's broader system of supports.*

### **Performance Measures**

#### **Outputs**

Number of DTMT proposals reviewed and recommended for funding each cycle.

Number and proportion of DTMT-funded projects serving underserved, Tribal, and rural communities.

Number of technical-assistance and outreach activities provided to applicants.

Number of learning exchanges or networking events held for DTMT grantees.

#### **Outcomes**

DTMT-funded projects show measurable improvements in inclusion, employment, housing, health, or community participation for people with DD.

Successful DTMT models are replicated or integrated into ongoing services and systems.

DTMT results inform broader statewide policy and systems-change efforts.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

Grantees report increased capacity to design, implement, and evaluate innovative, community-based supports.

Evaluation data and stories from DTMT projects are used in Council and DSHS planning.

Cross-project learning leads to refinements in DTMT priorities and guidance.

Emerging needs identified through DTMT inform future funding rounds and Council advocacy.

### **Council Initiatives: Dan Thompson Memorial Trust Partnership | Innovation Exchange | Technical Assistance and Review**

### **Objective 3.3 — Strengthen Council Leadership, Transparency, and Public Engagement**

**The Council will model inclusion and accountability by ensuring its work is transparent, accessible, and responsive to the communities it serves. By strengthening member leadership and promoting open communication, the Council will build trust, demonstrate best practices in governance, and help other organizations learn from its approach to inclusive decision-making, while maintaining a balance between internal capacity and outward-facing leadership.**

#### **Activities**

Provide training, mentorship, and leadership opportunities that strengthen Council members' ability to represent their communities.

Conduct annual reviews of Council operations using diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) principles and **community and partner** feedback.

Publish public-facing updates, meeting summaries, and data dashboards that show progress and promote accountability.

Share governance tools and practices that other organizations can use to strengthen inclusion and transparency.

Host community briefings and listening sessions to ensure the Council's work remains connected to local and statewide priorities.

*We'll know it's working when the Council is recognized as a model of transparent, inclusive leadership; members feel supported and prepared to lead; and community partners report increased trust and engagement with the Council's work.*

## **Performance Measures**

### **Outputs**

Number of trainings, mentorship opportunities, and leadership-development activities provided for Council members.

Number of annual reviews of Council operations that incorporate DEI principles and stakeholder feedback.

Number of public-facing updates, meeting summaries, or data dashboards produced and shared.

Number of tools or resources on governance and inclusive leadership shared with other organizations.

### **Outcomes**

Council members report feeling more prepared, supported, and confident in their leadership roles.

Community partners and **community members** report increased trust in the Council's transparency and responsiveness.

Other organizations adopt or adapt Council governance tools and practices to strengthen inclusion.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

Increased participation of community members, partners and people with lived experience in Council meetings, listening sessions, and input opportunities.

Feedback from Council members indicates improvements in meeting structure, information flow, and decision-making.

Public-facing materials clearly show progress on goals and how input was used.

DEI reviews lead to concrete changes in Council operations, membership support, or outreach.

## **Council Initiatives: Membership & Governance Committee | Public Engagement | Transparency Tools**

### **Objective 3.4 — Promote Autonomy, Healthy Relationships, and Personal Safety**

The Council will build the capacity of communities and organizations to support personal autonomy, healthy relationships, and safety for people with developmental disabilities across the lifespan.

This objective connects to ongoing self-advocacy and leadership development efforts (see Goal 1.1) and supports education, resources, and community learning that affirm dignity and informed choice.

#### **Activities**

Provide grants or partnerships that support personal and bodily autonomy, sexual health, healthy-relationships, consent and personal-safety education within community programs.

Share resources on supported decision-making and communication tools that promote autonomy and reduce unnecessary guardianship.

Collaborate with partners to strengthen local response networks for rights protection and safety.

*We'll know it's working when community organizations demonstrate increased awareness and readiness to support autonomy and safety, and people with DD report greater confidence in making informed personal choices.*

#### **Performance Measures**

##### **Outputs**

Number of grants, partnerships, or trainings focused on healthy relationships, personal safety, and autonomy.

Number of resources created or shared on supported decision-making and communication tools.

Number of partners engaged in strengthening local response networks for rights protection and safety.

### **Outcomes**

Community organizations and partners demonstrate increased readiness to support autonomy, healthy relationships, and safety for people with DD.

People with DD report greater confidence in making informed personal choices about relationships, health, and daily life.

Families and supporters report better understanding of how to balance safety and autonomy.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

Partners adopt or expand curricula and practices that center consent, safety, and self-determination.

Increased use of supported decision-making tools and reduced reliance on unnecessary guardianship.

Documented examples show improved local responses to abuse, neglect, or rights violations.

Participants report feeling more informed about how to seek help and exercise their rights.

### **Council Initiatives: Allies in Advocacy | Self-Advocacy Leadership | Community Training**

### **Objective 3.5 — Strengthen Supports for Aging Individuals with IDD and Aging Caregivers**

The Council will enhance statewide and local capacity to meet the needs of older adults with developmental disabilities and aging family caregivers, ensuring that planning, housing, and services are sustainable across generations.

This objective complements the system-coordination work in Goal 2.1 by promoting replication, innovation, and capacity building at the community level.

## **Activities**

Support pilot projects that build sustainable models for aging-in-place, intergenerational housing, and long-term care planning.

Share promising practices and toolkits that help families and caregivers plan for aging transitions.

Facilitate learning partnerships between DD providers, aging networks, and family organizations.

## **Performance Measures**

### **Outputs**

Integrate findings from these initiatives into Council recommendations and state policy planning.

*We'll know it's working when families, caregivers, and aging adults with DD report improved access to planning resources and community supports that promote independence and stability throughout the lifespan.*

Number of pilot projects focused on aging-in-place, intergenerational housing, and long-term care planning.

Number of toolkits, guides, or planning resources developed and distributed to families and providers.

Number of learning exchanges or partnership activities between DD providers, aging networks, and family organizations.

### **Outcomes**

Families, caregivers, and aging adults with DD report improved access to information and supports for planning across the lifespan.

More communities pilot or implement sustainable models that help individuals with DD age in place with stability and choice.

Systems and providers show increased collaboration around aging and lifelong supports.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

Pilot projects report measurable improvements in stability, housing, or continuity of supports for aging adults with DD.

Increased uptake and use of planning toolkits by families, case managers, and providers.

Cross-system partners report specific changes in practice or policy related to aging and DD.

Findings from pilots and learning exchanges are incorporated into Council recommendations and state-level planning.

### **Council Initiatives: Family Support Partnerships | Community Mini-Grants | Aging & Lifespan Learning Exchange**

#### **Objective 3.6 — Building Skills and Confidence for Civic Engagement**

Through training, mentorship, and partnership, the Council will build confidence, civic knowledge, and the practical skills needed to make change in communities and the Legislature.

#### **Activities**

Provide plain-language, interactive trainings on how government works and how to advocate effectively.

Partner with local and statewide organizations to host workshops, advocacy days, and mentorship opportunities.

Create accessible materials and online resources that explain legislative and policy processes.

Connect participants with policymakers, agencies, and advocacy coalitions to share their experiences and influence change.

Encourage participants to remain active after training through ongoing peer-learning and leadership opportunities.

*We'll know it's working when participants report greater confidence in advocating for themselves and others, community organizations integrate advocacy skill-building into their programs, and local and statewide advocacy networks grow stronger and more connected.*

#### **Outputs**

Workshops, trainings, and mentorship activities provided each year.

Number of participants, including people with DD and family members, who complete activities.

Number of accessible materials and online resources created to explain legislative and policy processes.

Number of partnerships with local and statewide organizations to host advocacy days and community events.

### **Outcomes**

Participants report increased confidence and knowledge in advocating for themselves and their communities.

More community organizations integrate advocacy skill-building into their ongoing programs and supports.

Local and statewide advocacy networks grow stronger and more connected through partnerships.

### **Sub-Outcomes**

Participants engage in specific advocacy actions after participation in related Council activities (e.g., contacting legislators, attending hearings, joining coalitions).

Organizations report that the tools created and implemented and approaches help them support ongoing civic engagement.

Increased diversity of participants across regions, cultures, and disability experiences.

Stories and examples show how participation leads to longer-term leadership and involvement in policy work.

### **Council Initiatives: Leadership Training | Community Outreach**

#### **Cross-Cutting Priorities**

**Expansion: Ensuring every person — regardless of background, identity, or location — has a fair chance to be included and can access supports across connected systems, not in isolation.**

**Tribal Partnerships: Working side by side with Washington’s Tribal Nations to share knowledge, resources, and leadership through sustained, government-to-government relationships.**

**Rights and Safety: Promoting human rights and ending restraint and isolation across systems, including justice, crisis-response, health, and long-term care systems.**

**Health and Lifespan Inclusion: Promoting access to sexual-health education, wellness resources, and aging supports that respect dignity, safety, and self-determination across the lifespan, especially during key life transitions.**

**Evaluation: Using data and community feedback to learn, improve, and share lessons across partners and communities about what is working and where gaps remain.**

**Innovation: Supporting new ideas and replicating effective models through the Dan Thompson Memorial Trust and other funding opportunities, with attention to sustainability and broader community impact.**

### **Looking Ahead**

The Council's 2026–2031 State Plan reflects both a vision and a promise: that people with developmental disabilities and their families will have the power, support, and opportunities to shape their own lives and communities.

**Through advocacy, systems change, and capacity building, the Council will continue to listen first, act collaboratively, and move from coordination to shared action that reduces silos and improves real-world outcomes.**

**As Washington grows and changes, the Council will remain a trusted partner — learning from experience, adapting to new challenges, and advancing inclusion and equity for all people with developmental disabilities in ways that are practical, measurable, and responsive to lived experience.**

## **Reading 26-20 2026–2031 State Plan (Plain Language Version)**

### **Cover Sheet:**

#### **What this is**

This is the full plain language version of the Council’s 2026–2031 State Plan. It explains the goals, objectives, and activities in a clear and accessible way.

#### **Why it’s included**

This version helps ensure the State Plan is understandable to a wide audience, including people with developmental disabilities, families, and community members. □filecite□turn6file0□

#### **Action**

Be prepared to review and provide feedback. This supports understanding ahead of discussion and potential approval of the full State Plan.

## 2026–2031 State Plan in Plain Language Compiled Plain Language Text (March 2026)

### Introduction

This document is the full plain language draft of the Council’s 2026–2031 State Plan. It explains the goals, objectives, activities, and ways the Council will measure progress over the next five years.

The plan is based on what the Council heard from community members, reviewed in data, and discussed in small groups. It shows how the Council plans to turn learning into action. Across all goals, Council members emphasized the need to break down silos, work better across systems, and make sure coordination leads to real, meaningful results for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

### Goal 1: Advocacy – Helping People Speak Up and Be Heard

The Council will help people with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families learn how to speak up for themselves, share their experiences, and work together to create change. The focus is on building self-advocacy skills, growing diverse leaders, protecting rights, improving access to information, and coordinating advocacy and policy work across the state in ways that lead to real action.

Goal 1 focuses on:

- Strengthening self-advocacy and peer leadership
- Supporting diverse family and community leaders
- Preventing institutionalization and justice-system involvement
- Improving access to clear disability information
- Coordinating advocacy across organizations

### Objective 1.1 — Strengthen Self-Advocacy and Peer Leadership

The Council will support self-advocacy groups and activities across Washington by offering training, mentorship, and opportunities to work together.

Programs like Self-Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) and Allies in Advocacy will continue to help people build leadership skills and connect them to civic and policy opportunities. The Council will intentionally reach out to youth and new advocates.

### **Activities**

- Support self-advocacy groups and peer-led efforts across the state.
- Offer more training in leadership, advocacy, and civic engagement.
- Create easy-to-understand resources about self-advocacy and civil rights.
- Encourage collaboration between self-advocates, civil-rights groups, and disability coalitions to reduce silos.
- Support learning and peer discussions about sexual health, relationships, consent, and bodily autonomy so people understand their rights.
- Provide information and peer learning about supported decision-making and other options besides guardianship.
- Increase awareness and peer training on assistive technology and communication supports that help people express choices and participate fully in community life.

How we will know this work is making a difference more self-advocates feel confident speaking up, influencing policy, and talking about their rights, health, communication, and decision-making. Advocacy efforts will work together better and lead to clear results, and more people with DD will serve in leadership and advisory roles.

**Council Initiatives:** SAIL | Allies in Advocacy | Other (TBD)

### **Objective 1.2 — Develop Leadership Capacity Among Diverse Families and Emerging Leaders with IDD**

Families, youth, and emerging leaders with IDD play an important role in advocacy. The Council will work with community organizations to offer mentoring and leadership training that is culturally responsive and available in multiple languages. The focus will be on Tribal, rural, and

underrepresented communities, and on connecting lived experience to advocacy and policy work.

### **Activities**

- Partner with community organizations to provide culturally relevant leadership and mentoring.
- Create a statewide advocacy and leadership program.
- Offer small grants and support for family-led and IDD-led leadership projects.
- Develop outreach that reflects community values, cultures, and strengths.

How we will know this work is making a difference more families, youth, and emerging leaders from diverse backgrounds join statewide networks, lead efforts, and influence decisions.

What we will measure

**Council Initiatives:** Open Doors for Multicultural Families | ALDC-type Activity | Tribal Outreach

### **Objective 1.3 — Reduce Institutionalization and Justice-System Involvement**

The Council will work across systems to prevent people with IDD from entering or staying in jails, institutions, or other restrictive settings. This includes improving coordination between justice, crisis-response, and disability service systems to reduce harm caused by system gaps.

### **Activities**

- Work with law enforcement, courts, and community systems to divert people away from jails and institutions.
- Provide training on disability rights, de-escalation, and person-centered supports.
- Support policies that reduce restraint, seclusion, and unnecessary institutional placements.
- Support programs that help people safely return to and stay in their communities.

How we will know this work is making a difference more people with DD receive support in the community, fewer are placed in restrictive settings, and crisis systems use diversion effectively.

**Council Initiatives:** Justice & Crisis Response Collaboration | Contracted Activities | Staff Support

### **Objective 1.4 — Strengthen Statewide Communication, Resources, Outreach, and Navigation**

Clear, plain-language information helps people make informed choices. The Council will expand and update Informing Families as a central source of disability information. Materials will show how systems connect, where gaps exist, and how services relate across a person's life. Information will be culturally relevant and available in multiple languages.

#### **Activities**

- Maintain and update Informing Families as the main statewide disability information resource.
- Work with agencies and partners to share consistent information.
- Create multilingual, accessible materials in digital and print formats.
- Conduct targeted outreach with Tribal, rural, and immigrant communities.
- Collect feedback to improve accessibility and usefulness.

How we will know this work is making a difference people report better understanding of services, easier navigation, and greater access to opportunities.

### **Objective 1.5 — Advance Coordinated Advocacy Through the Community Advocacy Coalition**

The Council will strengthen collaboration among advocacy groups through the Community Advocacy Coalition (CAC). The CAC will help groups work together on training, outreach, and legislative advocacy. The goal is

coordinated, focused action that reflects shared priorities and leads to real change.

### **Activities**

- Support the Community Advocacy Coalition as a statewide advocacy voice.
- Coordinate testimony, legislative visits, and community education during the legislative session.
- Create easy-to-understand policy materials and updates.
- Provide spaces for organizations to learn from each other and communicate.
- Promote shared policy priorities based on lived experience.

How we will know this work is making a difference advocacy groups work together, new voices join advocacy efforts, and policy changes reflect the priorities of people with DD and their families.

**Council Initiatives:** Community Advocacy Coalition | Policy & Systems Committee

### **Goal 2: Systems Change – Making Programs and Services Work Better**

The Council will work with state agencies, community organizations, and partners to improve how programs and services work for people with developmental disabilities and their families. The focus is on fairness, access, coordination, and making sure services reach people in every community — especially those who are underserved or who must navigate more than one system at the same time.

Goal 2 focuses on:

- Improving coordination between developmental disability and behavioral health systems
- Promoting fair and inclusive policies across systems
- Strengthening partnerships with Tribal Nations and rural communities
- Using evaluation and data to improve Council work

## **Objective 2.1 — Improve Coordination Between Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Systems**

The Council will bring partners together to improve how behavioral health and developmental disability services work together. The goal is timely, person-centered support and fewer people ending up in institutions.

This work will focus on people with IDD who are aging, family caregivers who are also aging, and families who experience gaps when people move between child, adult, and aging systems.

### **Activities**

- Bring together partners from different systems for planning and coordination, including service providers and smaller agencies, not just state-level systems.
- Work with crisis-response and justice systems to support diversion from jails and institutions.
- Create tools that help families and providers communicate better and understand who does what across systems, especially when roles are confusing.
- Support policies that focus on prevention, early support, and fair access to services.
- Partner with agencies that serve older adults and family caregivers to improve coordination between aging and DD systems.
- Promote supports that addresses the needs of people with IDD who are aging and family caregivers who are also aging.
- Identify and share models that help families plan for long-term care, including housing, health care, and alternatives to guardianship, with attention to kinship care and grandparents as primary caregivers.

How we will know this work is making a difference systems communicate better, fewer people are placed in institutions, older adults with DD and aging caregivers experience smoother transitions, and families report that services are easier to understand, less fragmented, and easier to access.

**Council Initiatives:** Behavioral Health Collaboration | Staff Activities

## **Objective 2.2 — Promote Expansion, Inclusion, and Policy Reform Across Systems**

The Council will apply principles of equity, access, belonging, and representation to all its work. This includes reviewing policies for fairness, supporting inclusive navigation models, and sharing recommendations that improve access across systems — including systems that do not traditionally serve people with developmental disabilities.

### **Activities**

- Review DD-related policies and initiatives using equity and inclusion principles.
- Work with the Community Advocacy Coalition (CAC) and advocacy partners to track and influence legislation.
- Promote culturally responsive navigation and support models that help people understand how systems work and connect.
- Monitor the use of restraint, isolation, and rights protections across service systems.

**Council Initiatives:** Community Advocacy Coalition | Policy Analysis | Staff Coordination

## **Objective 2.3 — Expand Equitable Participation and Collaboration Across Communities and Tribal Nations**

The Council will partner with Tribal governments and rural communities to co-create culturally grounded supports, host listening sessions, and provide local grants that support lasting change. This includes working with smaller, community-based organizations that are often left out of statewide systems work.

### **Activities**

- Partner with Tribal and inter-Tribal organizations to support culturally grounded services.
- Support rural and frontier communities in developing local solutions.
- Host community-led listening sessions and fund local initiatives.

- Work with DD Network partners (UCEDD and P&A) on Tribal and rural projects.

How we will know this work is making a difference partnerships grow stronger, local projects expand, and community-led solutions influence statewide policy and planning.

**Council Initiatives:** Tribal Outreach | Council Collaborations

### **Objective 2.4 — Build Evaluation and Data-Driven Learning Across All Council Initiatives**

The Council will create a shared evaluation system to measure the impact of all funded work and use data to guide decisions, improve accountability, and build trust. This includes expanding the types of data used to better understand system gaps and communities that are underrepresented in existing data.

#### **Activities**

- Put a single evaluation system in place for all Council-funded projects.
- Publish yearly summaries that show statewide outcomes and trends.
- Use evaluation results to guide future priorities and funding decisions.

How we will know this work is making a difference data is regularly used to show impact, improve decisions, and strengthen transparency.

**Council Initiatives:** Evaluation Framework | Data Analysis | Council Reporting

### **Goal 3: Capacity Building – Strengthening Communities and the Council**

The Council will support programs and practices that help people with developmental disabilities live full, meaningful lives in their communities. This includes funding new ideas, strengthening the workforce, promoting inclusion and health, and making sure the Council itself is strong, transparent, and accountable. The focus is on long-term community impact and sustainability, not just short-term projects.

Goal 3 focuses on:

- Supporting innovative community solutions
- Investing in statewide innovation through the Dan Thompson Memorial Trust
- Strengthening Council leadership and transparency
- Promoting autonomy, relationships, and personal safety
- Supporting aging individuals with developmental disabilities and their caregivers

### **Objective 3.1 — Respond to Emerging Issues and Test Innovative Approaches**

The Council will fund flexible, community-led projects that respond to new and emerging issues. These projects will promote inclusion, access, and quality of life for people with IDD and their families, with a focus on building lasting community capacity rather than temporary solutions.

#### **Activities**

- Offer flexible funding so communities can respond to new challenges and try new ideas.
- Fund projects related to housing, employment, health, technology, and assistive technology, including workforce development.
- Encourage partnerships with Tribal and rural communities.
- Provide technical assistance and evaluation support to grantees.
- Share lessons learned and success stories across the state.

How we will know this work is making a difference local solutions improve inclusion and access, successful pilot projects continue or expand, and communities show stronger capacity beyond individual grants.

**Council Initiatives:** Community Innovation Grants | DTMT Partnerships | Council Collaborations

### **Objective 3.2 — Dan Thompson Memorial Trust (DTMT): Innovation, Review, and Investment**



The Council will support statewide innovation through its role in the Dan Thompson Memorial Trust (DTMT), working with DSHS and the Dan Thompson Advisory Committee. The Council reviews proposals and recommends projects that improve housing, employment, health, and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities, with attention to long-term community impact.

### **Activities**

- Review and recommend innovative projects that promote inclusion, independence, and access.
- Provide outreach and technical assistance to help applicants develop strong proposals.
- Prioritize projects that serve underserved, Tribal, and rural communities.
- Host learning and networking opportunities for DTMT grantees.
- Use DTMT results to identify emerging needs and inform policy and systems change.

How we will know this work is making a difference DTMT projects show clear improvements in housing, employment, health, and inclusion, and successful models are used more widely across the state.

**Council Initiatives:** Dan Thompson Memorial Trust Partnership | Innovation Exchange | Technical Assistance and Review

### **Objective 3.3 — Strengthen Council Leadership, Transparency, and Public Engagement**

The Council will model inclusive and accountable leadership by being open, accessible, and responsive to the communities it serves. By supporting Council member leadership and improving communication, the Council will build trust and demonstrate best practices in inclusive governance.

### **Activities**

- Provide training, mentoring, and leadership opportunities for Council members.

- Conduct annual reviews of Council operations using DEI principles and community feedback.
- Share public updates, meeting summaries, and data dashboards that show progress.
- Share governance tools that other organizations can use to improve inclusion and transparency.
- Host community briefings and listening sessions to stay connected to local and statewide priorities.

How we will know this work is making a difference the Council is seen as a model of transparent leadership, members feel supported, and community partners report stronger trust and engagement.

**Council Initiatives:** Membership & Governance Committee | Public Engagement | Transparency Tools

### **Objective 3.4 — Promote Autonomy, Healthy Relationships, and Personal Safety**

The Council will support efforts that help people with developmental disabilities understand their rights, make informed choices, and build healthy relationships throughout their lives. This includes education and resources related to autonomy, consent, sexual health, healthy relationships, and personal safety.

This work promotes dignity, self-determination, and access to information so people can make decisions about their own lives with confidence and support.

How we will know this work is making a difference organizations are better prepared to support autonomy and safety, and people with DD feel more confident making personal choices.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

Provide grants or partnerships that support education on autonomy, consent, healthy relationships, sexual health, and safety.

Share resources on supported decision-making and communication tools.

Work with partners to strengthen local systems that protect rights and promote safety.

**Council Initiatives:** Allies in Advocacy | Self-Advocacy Leadership | Community Training

### **Objective 3.5 — Strengthen Supports for Aging Individuals with IDD and Aging Caregivers**

The Council will strengthen community and statewide capacity to support older adults with developmental disabilities and aging family caregivers. The focus is on sustainable planning, housing, and services across the lifespan.

#### **Activities**

- Support pilot projects focused on aging in place, intergenerational housing, and long-term planning.
- Share tools and resources that help families plan for aging-related transitions.
- Bring together DD providers, aging networks, and family organizations to learn from each other.
- Use lessons learned to inform Council recommendations and state planning.

**Council Initiatives:** Leadership Training | Community Outreach

### **Objective 3.6 — Build Skills and Confidence for Civic Engagement**

The Council will help people with developmental disabilities and their families build the skills and confidence to take part in their communities and in government decision-making. This includes learning how systems work, how to speak up, and how to create change.

#### **Activities**

Provide easy-to-understand trainings on how government works and how to advocate effectively.

Work with local and statewide organizations to offer workshops, advocacy days, and mentoring opportunities.

Create accessible materials and online resources that explain policy and legislative processes.

Connect participants with policymakers, agencies, and advocacy groups so

they can share their experiences.

Encourage ongoing involvement through peer learning and leadership opportunities.

How we will know this work is making a difference

People report feeling more confident speaking up and taking action. More organizations include advocacy skill-building in their work, and advocacy networks grow stronger and more connected.

Council Initiatives: Leadership Training | Community Outreach

## **Cross-Cutting Priorities**

These priorities guide all the Council's work across goals, objectives, and initiatives.

### **Expansion**

The Council will work to make sure every person — no matter their background, identity, or where they live — has a fair chance to be included and can access supports across connected systems, rather than having to navigate systems in isolation.

### **Tribal Partnerships**

The Council will work in partnership with Washington's Tribal Nations through ongoing, government-to-government relationships. This includes sharing leadership, knowledge, and resources in ways that respect Tribal sovereignty and build long-term collaboration.

### **Rights and Safety**

The Council will promote human rights and work to end the use of restraint and isolation across systems, including justice, crisis response, health care, and long-term care. The focus is on safety, dignity, and person-centered supports.

### **Health and Lifespan Inclusion**

The Council will promote access to sexual health education, wellness supports, and aging services that respect dignity, safety, and self-determination. This work will support people across the lifespan, especially during key life transitions.

### **Evaluation**

The Council will use data and community feedback to learn what is

working, identify gaps, and improve its work. Lessons learned will be shared with partners and communities to strengthen outcomes statewide.

### **Innovation**

The Council will support new ideas and expand effective models through the Dan Thompson Memorial Trust and other funding opportunities. Innovation efforts will focus on sustainability and long-term impact for communities.

### **Looking Ahead**

The Council's 2026–2031 State Plan reflects both a vision and a commitment. People with developmental disabilities and their families should have the power, support, and opportunities to shape their own lives and communities.

Through advocacy, systems change, and capacity building, the Council will continue to listen first, work collaboratively, and move from coordination to shared action. This approach will reduce silos and lead to real, meaningful outcomes.

As Washington continues to grow and change, the Council will remain a trusted partner — learning from experience, adapting to new challenges, and advancing inclusion and equity in ways that are practical, measurable, and grounded in lived experience.