



Public Policy Committee Meeting

July 16, 2026



Review of Today's Agenda

What is the Public Policy Committee?

- Do you have particular questions?
- Do you need clarification about anything I covered?

Results of the Legislative Priorities Survey

- What are the top 5 issues?
 - Can we talk about each of these issues and the main ideas we think are most important to include in our topics?
- Are there particular values that we think would be important to include in the upcoming priorities?
- A few minutes on Federal issues and resources
- What is coming up?

Between now and the next meeting I will be reaching out to this group so that you can have the opportunity to review some proposed language for the Legislative Priorities.

- Adjourn

What does the Public Policy Committee do?

- Help to create the Legislative Priorities for the Council
- Work with other Committee members to create the Legislative Priorities video
- Suggest things that can be created to help council members and our community understand the legislative process
- Hear about what is happening with our contractors and suggest creative ideas
- Participate in special activities in our community

Public Policy Committee

- Do you have particular questions?
- Do you need clarification about anything I covered?

Results From the 2027 Priorities Survey

[WA DD Council Priority Areas for 2027 – Results](#)

Priority #1 Medicaid (8 votes)

- What are some ideas you want to include?

The funding for Medicaid is a financial partnership between the Federal and State Gov't. The types of services it provides for people with disabilities includes:

- List services
- Independent and community living

These services allow people to remain in the community

- Additional idea to create a one pager to help people understand that Medicaid is more than just medical coverage. Create snapshots - use visuals – key areas that Medicaid provides

Priority #2 Caregiver Provider Shortage and training (in-home care) (6 votes)

- What are some ideas you want to include?
 - The Council opposes cuts that limit access to caregiving.
 - Provider shortages limit the ability for people to live full, safe lives in the community.
 - We support the removal of barriers to caregivers becoming certified, including financial barriers, access to free CPR training, technology barriers, language barriers (texting not always available in native language)
 - We support the funding needed for caregivers to receive a living wage – otherwise many talented caregivers leave the field.

Priority #3 Family Caregivers (6 votes)

- What are some ideas you want to include?
 - The DDC supports policy that allows caregivers to access paid voluntary training
 - Supports policy that continues to support family caregivers to care for their loved one
 - Acknowledge family caregivers and the support they provide
 - Don't require training that doesn't pertain to the person being cared for
 - Over 70% of caregivers are family members because they can't find other

Priority #4 Access to Disability Services and Supports (5 votes)

- What are some ideas you want to include?
 - The Council supports policies that build up support pools and service providers in rural communities
 - System navigation supports
 - Meaningful assessment that is age relevant
 - Efforts to equalize opportunities and remove service deserts
 - Oppose any policies that would result in cuts to services and supports

Values

- Last year the values that members of this committee used to describe each of the priorities.
- Here are some of them: accountability, adaptability, belonging, commitment, dignity, diversity, inclusion independence, justice, leadership, power, pride, respect, responsibility make a difference, trust, truth competence.
- Are there other words you would like in addition?
- Do you have other words that you would like not included

Last Years Priorities

- [Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council - 2026
Legislative Priorities | Videos & Movies on Vimeo](#)