

DDC August 2026 Monthly Update

Hello everyone, I hope August is treating you well! Since Brandi is away, I'm sending this month's update with a few Council and staff highlights, along with information about upcoming opportunities.

State Plan Update

The deadline to submit the new State Plan to the Administration for Community Living is August 15. Staff are now translating the Council's work into the required federal templates and completing an extensive internal review. We are on track to finish the submission several days before the deadline.

Upcoming Medicaid Webinar

We also want to share an upcoming training opportunity for Council members and staff. Medicaid 101: Basics and Recent Changes will be held virtually on Tuesday, August 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Pacific Time.

The webinar will provide an overview of how Medicaid is funded, eligibility, key protections, Medicaid's role in health and long-term care, how Medicaid and Medicare work together, and recent federal Medicaid cuts and policy changes. NACDD especially recommends the training for new staff, Council members, advocates, and anyone who would like a stronger foundation in Medicaid policy.

The webinar will be recorded, and registrants will receive the recording and materials afterward. The registration link is below.

[Medicaid 101: Basics and Recent Changes](#)

Notice of Funding Opportunity Update

At the beginning of summer 2026, the Council began accepting proposals for projects connected to the new State Plan. The Notice of Funding Opportunity process allows us to invite applicants to bring forward their own ideas and approaches, while using a competitive review process that does not automatically favor larger organizations simply because they have more experience, staff, or administrative capacity.

- [Legislative Engagement Information & Tools \(LEIT\)](#), which is now closed, and scorers have begun evaluating those proposals.
- [DD Community Advocacy Coalition \(CAC\)](#) is closed, and scorers have begun evaluating those proposals.
- [Self-Advocates In Leadership \(SAIL\)](#) closes on August 25th, 2026.

All projects are to begin in early October of 2026, which coincides with the beginning of the new State Plan.

Our Mission is to advocate, promote, and implement policies and practices to create pathways to meaningful, integrated, and productive lives for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities over the life course.



Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council
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July Staff Development Day

On July 20, staff met at the Lacey Community Center for a staff development day. We spent time on team-building activities and welcoming Tannis to the team. Kevin reviewed the work underway to prepare the new contracts for this fall, and Brian helped staff become more familiar with the new State Plan and the work ahead.

Disability Inclusion Network Award

A few weeks ago, Council staff received an award from the Disability Inclusion Network during its virtual Respect, Acceptance and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (RADD) ceremony on July 22. We were especially appreciative that so many Council members joined us for the event.

Inclusion, respect, and dignity are built into how staff approach our work every day. We often do not stop to think of these values as something separate because they are simply part of how we do the work. It was a real honor to be recognized for the care and commitment staff bring to the Council and the community we serve each day.

What Staff Are Working On

Since **Brandi** is on a well-deserved break, I get to hijack this message. Brandi is the most visible one on our team. I think everyone can see the work she does. What may not be obvious is the work she has done to support the Council and the staff to thrive. Because of this, I want to briefly highlight all the work lately that is happening behind the scenes.

Emily has been participating in numerous national and statewide meetings focused on recent federal Medicaid cuts and policy changes. There is a great deal of activity and concern, but many of the details and potential impacts remain unclear. She is closely tracking developments and gathering the most reliable information available.

Kevin has been supporting the State Plan work while also managing the extensive process required to put new contracts in place this fall as the new plan begins. That work includes developing competitive funding processes, seeking and reviewing applications, organizing scoring committees, and ultimately drafting the new contracts. It is an enormous amount of detailed work, and while the entire staff team is supporting the effort, Kevin is carrying much of the process from beginning to end.

Phil continues to provide day-to-day support that helps keep the Council running smoothly. He has also been preparing and assembling information packets to be mailed to Informing Families coordinators across the state, while working with his support team to strengthen and expand his responsibilities.

Tannis has been learning the Council's procedures and quickly jumping into work across many areas of Council activity. She has been developing presentation materials for the Bridge Forward project, helping the team organize the next Council meeting, supporting efforts to formalize membership processes, and learning how to support the Membership and Governance Committee.

Christie has been busy taking on the Informing Families project, including much of the behind-the-scenes work needed to strengthen the website and update and improve public-facing resources. She is also supporting experienced coordinators as they mentor and onboard newer coordinators. In addition, Christie has been organizing the next Council meeting and working to make sure everyone has a smooth and welcoming experience.

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Linda has been actively supporting preparations for the October Council meeting while also managing many administrative tasks that keep the Council functioning each day. She has been partnering closely with Tannis as Tannis becomes integrated into the broader team. Linda is also working with staff to strengthen the overall membership experience by establishing routines and procedures that are more cohesive, clear, and intentional.

I have said this previously in different ways, however, it is worth saying again. I appreciate the work all of you did to create an extraordinary State Plan and I admire the care and respect that was shown for the community we serve through this process. Additionally, I am so proud of this staff team. I have been around a long time both on the Council staff and in other disability work. Seldom have I had the opportunity to work with such intelligent, skilled, and empathetic people.

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