

**DRAFT MINUTES – COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL**

Monday, August 14, 2023

625 SILVER AVENUE SW, SUITE 100 (DDC LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM)

TELECONFERENCE VIA ZOOM

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Members Present**

**Advocates**

Laurel Deans  
Amelia-Ann Dickey  
Crystal Garcia  
Elisheva Levin  
Lystra John

**Family Members**

Joel Davis  
Katie Stone  
Valentin Anaya  
Jennifer Sanchez  
Deanna Cole  
Tarra Main  
Selma Ramos Nevarez

**Agencies Present**

John Arango (CLSC)  
Scott Doan (DOH, DDSD)  
Eli Fresquez (CYFD)  
Elizabeth Groginsky (ECECD)  
Michal Hayes, proxy (ALTSD)  
Gary Housepian (DRNM)  
Tim Gardner, proxy (DRNM)  
Pat Osbourn (UNM, CDD)  
Casey Stone-Romero (DVR)  
Jennifer Scott (ALTSD)

**Staff Present**

Alice Liu McCoy (Executive Director)  
Joe Turk (OOG Legal Director)  
Maria Bourassa (OOG Program Manager)  
Donna Vigil (Chief Operating Officer)  
Michelle Varela (Chief Financial Officer)  
Michelle Tregembo (Special Education State  
Ombud)  
Daniel Ekman (CSA Program Manager)  
Lindsay Sloan (CSA Advocate Trainer)  
Vashad Frink (Job Trainee)  
Lucero Estrada (Office Administrator)  
Holly Gonzales (Social Worker)

**Advocates Absent**

Richard Segura

**Family Members Absent**

Joseph Melvyn Jaramillo

**Agencies Absent**

Melanie Buenviaje (HSD)  
Deborah Dominguez-Clark (PED)  
Lanthia Miles (Non-Government  
Agency)  
Maricia Moriarta (UNM)  
Delilah Tenorio (Assistant Attorney  
General)

**Public Guests**

None

**Call to Order/ Housekeeping**

Chair Joel Davis called the meeting to order, completed the roll call, and housekeeping was conducted. Joel recognizes Daniel Ekman for representing the Council and his moving speech during the Disability Pride event. The meeting convened at 11:05 AM.

**Public Comment**

Valentin Anaya introduced his son, Gogo, to the Council. Gogo recently graduated high school and was a strong advocate during the 2023 Legislative Session.

**Introductions & Icebreaker**

Council members introduced themselves and participated in icebreaker.

**Approval of August 14, 2023 Agenda – Action Item**

Valentin Anaya moved to pass the agenda with a revised date and attendee corrections, seconded by Jennifer Sanchez. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of May 22, 2023 Quarterly Meeting Minutes – Action Item**

Elisheva Levin moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Elizabeth Groginsky. Motion passed unanimously.

**Council Chair & Executive Director Report – Joel Davis & Alice Liu McCoy**

Alice reviewed the Council duties and responsibilities. Katie Stone asked if DDC has liability coverage. Alice responded that protections afforded to the State of New Mexico extend to the agency's activities.

**DDC Staffing & Reorganization Update – Donna Vigil**

Donna reviewed the agency's hiring and reorganization progress since 2019. Katie Stone asked if the new structure is an improvement. Alice described how the new hires and organizational structure has helped the agency run much more smoothly and is a tremendous improvement for the accomplishment of Council goals.

**FY 24 Operating Budget & Additional Funding – Michelle Varela**

Michelle Varela reviewed the FY24 operating budget and additional state and federal funding appropriated to the Council. Alice discussed the Office of Guardianship funding and the new STARS data system. Joel Davis asked if the Council was receiving adequate funding to staff the agency. Alice responded that funding is adequate for FY24, but more funds will be needed to expand the agency in FY25.

**Council Chair & Executive Director Report – Joel Davis & Alice Liu McCoy**

Alice reviewed the agency's budget request and discussed the agency's budget needs. Donna

Vigil discussed DDC's significant growth in FTE. Valentin discussed the need for additional staff for more administrative support and in Office of Guardianship, and exploring outside funding sources, such as federal funding and other grants. Alice gave an update on additional federal grants and funding awarded to DDC. Jennifer Sanchez, Scott Doan, Tim Gardner, Joe Turk, and Alice discussed the problem of DD Waiver service providers and school staff pushing individuals with disabilities toward guardianship. Secretary Elizabeth Groginsky urged DDC to invest in education and outreach efforts to change the culture around guardianship. Joel raised concern from tribal communities that the DD Waiver intake process is not allowing applicants to use tribal ID cards as secondary ID.

Joel Davis moved to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Jennifer Sanchez. Motion passed unanimously.

Joel announced that DDC and its staff won awards at The Arc of New Mexico conference.

Alice announced new leadership at the State, including Dr. Jose Acosta in the role of DDS Director and Secretary Jen Schroer, who was newly appointed at Aging and Long-Term Services Department.

### **NMDDC Program Updates & Council Committee Planning**

#### Self-Advocacy Committee:

Alice discussed ADA commemorative event in July and planning for next year's Disability Pride event. Katie Stone, Eli Fresquez, Elizabeth Groginsky, Elisheva Levin, Donna Vigil, Lindsay Sloan, and Alice discussed resources for language translation of DDC materials, including plain language.

#### Education Committee:

John Arango, Elisheva, Joel, Valentin, Jennifer, Michelle Tregembo, and Alice discussed the Legislative Education Study Committee's listening sessions and upcoming workgroup meetings. Alice gave updates on PED's partnership with DDC on special education issues. Katie urged DDC to continue working on higher education issues. Katie, Joel, Valentin, John, Michelle, and Alice discuss restraint and seclusion, suspensions, and the Senate memorial task force.

#### Employment Committee:

Alice discussed DDC's state jobs program. Valentin, Eli, Jennifer, Joel, Elisheva, Casey Stone-Romero, Michelle, and Alice discussed APS's transition program changes, transition services and opportunities, and higher education programs.

#### Health Committee:

Scott Doan, Deanna Cole, Tim Gardner, Tarra Main, Valentin, Eli, John, Daniel Ekman, and Alice discussed the DDS home visits, provider rates, problems with direct care services,

provider shortages, potential caregiver pipelines, and evaluation barriers.

Community-Based Services Committee:

Valentin, Maria Bourassa, Joe Turk, and Alice discuss DDC's alternatives to guardianship project.

**Member Announcements**

Eli announced that the State has contracted with a Disability Access Coordinator to ensure emergency planning accounts for disability access the needs of people with disabilities. Joel reminded Council members to participate in the LESC listening sessions. Alice reminded Council members to respond to Lucero's emails and complete meeting evaluations. Katie shared a success story. Katie and Representative Kathleen Cates organized a meeting with UNM officials to tour the facility and demonstrate how inaccessible the campus is. UNM is making incremental improvements over time to increase accessibility. All higher education campuses should be undergoing this process.

**Adjourn**

The next meeting will be held in November 2023. Motion to adjourn was made by Valentin Anaya and seconded by Katie Stone. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:42 PM.

