



IDDEAS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes Summary

Date: 04/30/2024

Time: 1:00-3:00 PM

Summary:

- Meeting began at 1:04 pm. Meeting Minutes from March 2024 were approved and introductions were made for council members.
- An update was given on stipends and reimbursements. Following this meeting, as long as council members sign the agreement forms previously sent, stipends will be processed and delivered.
- Various presenters from Denver Public Library gave updates and information about the library's strategic plans and the digital navigator program that promotes digital equity. Autism Community Store also presented on their work with the Sam Gary Branch library.
- There was no public comment.
- Council members provided updates.
- Next meeting is Tuesday May 28 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Discussion topics for next meeting:

Impacts of 4th of July celebrations on sensory accessibility and accommodation in Denver.



IDDEAS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

4/30/2024 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Council Members:

Brian Be
Chris Patton
Kizzly Blue
Michelle Dumay
Beth Bevilacqua
Kaley Day
Lindsay Westmiller
Stefanie Gross

Guests:

16 guests attended including presenters

Absent:

Brienne Wode

DHS Staff:

Michaela Hennig
Lynn Kutner
Jordan Humphreys

II. Call to Order

Meeting began at 1:04 pm.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from 3/26/2024 were reviewed and approved with council vote. 5 out of 7 attending members approved, 1 abstained vocally and 1 did not vote.

IV. Introductions of DHS staff and advisory council members

- Introductions of the attending council members were made.

Update – actively recruiting for 3 IAC seats; diverse representation; targeting to conduct interviews 1st week of June; if IAC members are interested in participating in interviews – please let us know (Brian, Michelle, Lindsey all indicated interest). Brian encouraged council members to be involved in this process.

V. Council and Partner Updates

- Community Advisory Council (CAC): Michelle provided update from the most recent RMHS CAC meeting (held April 16, 2024, mostly in person). Also recruiting for this advisory council – reviewed

recruiting materials and made application process more approachable. Inclusion of testimonials from CAC members and community about the mill levy program and what it means to them. Next meeting will be held mid-May 2024. Applications for RMHS CAC will be open May – June.

- Brian Be – Shared that he was one of the sensory trainers for the Special Olympics Colorado.
- Sharing about the in-person social meet up that was held on April 20, 2024.
 - Michelle – shared that it was very nice to gather in community.
 - Beth – it was nice to meet with people in person
 - Chris P – great café and loved seeing the people banded together. It was really fun to see everyone together.
 - Lindsey – feel free to share ideas for future meet ups

VI. Stipend Update

- Michaela provided updates about the implementation of stipends for IAC council members. This has been in progress for awhile!
- Stipend \$60 per person per meeting.
- Need IAC members to complete the paperwork that Corey send by email on 4/24/2024
- Michaela provided a summary of the stipend process.
- Reminder from Jordan Humphreys:
“Stipend payments (not expense reimbursements) ARE TAXABLE INCOME. So act accordingly and seek tax advice from your tax professional.”
- May count as taxable income – so please consider personal decision.
- Michaela noted that the City may develop city-wide stipend policies, so the IAC stipend process may change in the future

Reimbursement

Michaela: Expenses by IAC members related to costs to attend a meeting (examples – transportation, childcare). Needs to be connected to attending the meeting. Need to be submitted within 90 days. Reimbursement requests will be reviewed for reasonableness.

Brian: Encourages IAC members to submit for reimbursements

VII. Denver Public Library

- Kirsten Decker from the Denver Public Library presented about the library’s strategic plans.
- Overview of 2021-2024 Strategic Roadmap (see slides for VISION, MISSION & VALUES)
 - Current plan was done during COVID
 - Three themes: access & enrichment; space & place; culture & organizational health
- Next strategic planning cycle for 2025-2030
 - Maintain commitment to vision, mission & values

- Will embed DPL equity plan into the Roadmap; equity is foundational to library's work
 - Provide clarity on the library's core services and unique assets
 - Community engagement learning goals – expanding on what they learned during the 2022 community survey; current focus on reaching “missing voices”
 - Outreach to city commissions, newcomer spaces, DPL teen groups
 - Feedback Collection – digital survey with 8 open-ended questions; does not collect any identifying or demographic information; accessibility (6 languages); this survey only being offered through targeted outreach to missing voices; the survey tool also checks for multiple aspects of accessibility
 - Partnership – invite people at IAC to take the survey; also have a survey specific for advisory groups / commissions (will be sharing surveys with IDDEAS team after this meeting); request to help share survey with people in their networks. There's also hard-copy versions of the survey and promotional materials.
 - Contact: evaluation@denverlibrary.org
- Clarification about the two different DPL presentations:
- Strategic planning
 - Digital navigators

Q: Will the survey be available at the Autism Resource Fair May 19 (not ONLY Denver folk though)

A: DPL not planning to be at this event; can provide resources to people who will be attending this event

Q (Michelle): when people visit the library, how will they learn about the survey?

A: libraries have posters with questions posted for people to comment on; poster that links to the online digital version of the survey

Comment (Michelle): assumes people will visit a library in May and will have the ability to notice and interact with the posted questions; also assumptions about access to technology to do online survey; Michelle is wondering if the library might be open to doing more of a “push” such as during the checkout process to ask library visitors if they'd like to take a short survey

Kirsten: appreciate feedback about library experiences and comments about “pushing”; trying to strike a balance by combining targeted outreach to “missing voices” (“push” approach) with the more open passive posted at libraries; exploring other ideas such as having the survey info printed on check-out receipts

VIII. Break at 2:12; Reconvened at 2:15

IX.IDDEAS Digital Navigator Program

- Presentation by Nate Stone from the Denver Public Library on the library's digital navigators and the services they offer.
- Nate provided an explanation of digital equity and digital inclusion (full definition in slides); digital inclusion – activities necessary to reach digital equity
- Library – affordable internet, appropriate devices, digital literacy
- Statistics with the state of digital inclusion in Denver; the digital divide is wider in the I/DD community; geographic representation of digitally disconnected households in Denver
- Overview of DPL technology services & digital navigators

<https://www.denverlibrary.org/tech>

720-865-3446

dignav@denverlibrary.org

- maker spaces (ideaLABs)

Q (Brian Be): example of a specific tech help need with his phone – would this be the sort of thing that DN could help with?

A: yes, these are the sorts of things that DN can help with (including help select tech)

Q: Erica): alternatives to the now ended affordable connectivity program ACP

A: Unfortunately no, provided some options for low cost internet (lifeline, comcast, PCs for people, etc)

X.IDDEAS Sensory Friendly Denver – Sam Gary Branch Library

- Presentation by Shannon Sullivan from Autism Community Store on Sensory Friendly Denver and the work done with the Sam Gary Branch Library.
- Overview of sensory friendly Denver work by the Autism Community store
- Shared work that they did with the Sam Gary library – start with a sensory site assessment; conduct training with the staff; sensory audit of the space including recommendations. Can provide sensory supports / equipment to help mitigate the site specific situations
- Supplement site visits with surveys
- Shared information from the audit report – barriers include not feeling welcome in community spaces

Sensory Friendly Denver: shannon@autismcommunitystore.com

XI.Public Comment

- there were no written public comments submitted prior to the meeting.

- Several minutes were held open for public comment. No one made public comment.

XII. Planning for Next Meeting

- Tuesday May 28, 2024 from 1 – 3 pm with accessibility hour from 11:45 – 12:45 pm

Lindsey – checked with council members about availability to attend on this date

Lindsey – not able to attend

Brian – request fill in co-chair for one meeting? Not needed but making the offer

Agenda requests for May:

Brian – impacts of July 4th celebrations on many in the I/DD community (and also veterans)

Lindsey – perhaps a topic on sensory needs and community events in general?

Michelle – question about Sensory Friendly Denver; come back and talk about the airport (accommodations, what’s being planned)

Shannon: complicated – work in progress; would be happy to talk about airport efforts

Note – proposed legislation

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb24-1165>

<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb24-1452>

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm.

IDDEAS Advisory Council sessions are recorded; recordings are usually available upon request. Please contact DHS’s IDDEAS program with any clarifying questions related to these minutes.