



IDDEAS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes Summary

Date: 05/28/2024

Time: 1:00-3:00 PM

Summary:

- Meeting began at 1:04 pm. Meeting Minutes from April 2024 were approved and introductions were made for council members. Council members provided updates.
- A new standing agenda item called “Member Spotlight” was started and kicked off with spotlighting Brian Be. Brian shared a little bit about himself and his connection to the I/DD community.
- The group discussed sensory friendly resources and thoughts related to events such as the 4th of July, Halloween, etc.
- Michaela, the IDDEAS Program Manager, presented an update on our budget and fund balance. The fund balance is finally starting the decrease through informed investments recommended by the Advisory Council
- There was no public comment.
- Next meeting is Tuesday June 25th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Discussion topics for next meeting:

The Kelsey, a contract partner, will present on their findings and recommendations produced from the Landlord and Builder assessment.



IDDEAS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

5/28/2024 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Council Members:

Brian Be
Chris Patton
Kizzly Blue
Michelle Dumay
Kaley Day
Stefanie Gross

Guests:

7 guests attended

Absent:

Lindsay Westmiller
Beth Bevilacqua

DHS Staff:

Michaela Hennig
Jordan Mulholland
Corey Boyle
Lynn Kutner
Tom Gamache
Richard Moore (subbing for Jordan
Humphreys)

II. Call to Order

Meeting began at 1:04 pm. Corey provided a description of IDDEAS and the relationship with the Advisory Council. They described opportunity for public comment during the meeting, however, anyone wanting to speak must reach out to IDDEAS beforehand at iddideas@denvergov.org. Corey went over meeting expectations.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from 4/30/2024 were reviewed and approved with council vote. Michelle moved to approve and Kaley seconded. 5 out of 5 attending members approved.

IV. Introductions of DHS staff and advisory council members

- Introductions of the attending council members were made.

V. Council and Partner Updates

- Community Advisory Council (CAC): Michelle provided update from the most recent RMHS CAC meeting. The group worked on application process to recruit new members to the CAC.
- Updates from DHS: Justin Sykes, the Financial Services Director at DHS has taken another position within the city and therefore is no longer supporting IDDEAS. Brie Wode, a IAC member, has resigned her position on the Council and will no longer be attending and voting during meetings, although she is welcome to join as a member of the public. We are now recruiting 4 new members to the Council. IDDEAS attended the Autism Resource Fair and tabled to provide IDDEAS information and resources as well as DHS general services to those who we present.
- Arnie from RMHS DHS came off mute to introduce himself
- Brian will be participating in the Sensory Friendly Training at the Aurora Library.

VI. Council Member Spotlight

- New initiative started to get to know each other more per Brian's suggestion. The goal is to better connect with all Council members. Brian kicked it off with his spotlight:
 - He is an Autistic Artist advocate
 - He works at JFK Partners at Anschutz Campus and a part of his role is to engage in community, including joining this council. He is a person with a disability and receives supports, and he also provides supports to those with disabilities.
 - Kaley asked: Brian where did you grow up? Brian is from southeast Denver Metro/Aurora and went to school within the Cherry Creek school district.
 - Kaley asked: Did you always know you were going to get into this work? Brian: It just happens, I can't stop it from happening even when I engage in other work as I naturally end up in these spaces.
 - Brian believes that the arts are a great way to create inclusion

VII. Discussion: Sensory Issues and Community Spaces, Events, and Holidays

- What are events, happenings in the area that present with sensory issues? For those with these experiences, how do you navigate them?
- Kaley asked for more information about what the discussion is centered on. Brian shared personal experiences with a war veteran during fireworks that triggered them and described how they managed it.
- Denver Art Museum has sensory-friendly programming. Denver Museum of Nature and Science has a sensory-friendly movie night Wednesday May 29th. Phamaly Theatre has sensory friendly performances.
- A member of the public, Tim Dolan, shared they have something to share if appropriate. Corey suggested if he has any resources he can send over to our IDDEAS email to get to the group.

- Corey offered other holidays besides the 4th of July, such as Halloween, and how that presents for those with sensory issues.
- Stefanie: I live in a new development close to the Rapids stadium. One mother makes signs for anyone with sensory issues and wanted a sign on their door acknowledging that their have a sensory-friendly home and to please be mindful of that as neighbors. Stefanie said maybe there's opportunity to create a similar tool (like a sticker, etc.) to share out to the community for folks to be seen and heard during stimulating events.
- Kaley has experience with growing up with her brother that had sound sensitivities. She described his sensitivity towards balloons and the immediate fear of them popping when entering a space with them. Maybe this is something for community partners to be mindful of when hosting events as well, identifying whether balloons are necessary.
- Brian read a message in the chat from Michael Pearl, who relayed that the Denver Commission for People with Disabilities were not approved to provide stickers when working on a similar initiative.
- Chris's support person shared helpful coping mechanisms during loud events and incidents, such as taking the space you need to and doing "lions breaths" to find a sense of calm and re-centering which proves to be helpful.

VIII. Break at 1:55pm and returned at 2:00pm

IX. Michaela Presented on IDDEAS Funding and Budget

- Michaela provided background on Mill levy and how it came to be.
- Definition of Revenue: money received each year from the property tax; Definition of expenditure: money that has been spent already through services directly for people with I/DD or administrative costs to manage the fund (such as salaries or the landlord/builder assessment); Definition of fund balance: any unspent revenue, anytime we bring in more money than we spend and can accrue year to year
- Where the money comes from: Generates revenue through a property tax that supports local programs. The money must be used within the City and County of Denver only. Michaela asked about Brian's work with Aurora library and whether that was being funded by another county. Brian shared he is unsure of the funding sources he is receiving for the training but it is not IDDEAS funding.
- Mill levy: \$1 for every \$1000 for every assessed value of a property. This is different from the market rate value of the property. The assess value in 2023 for a typical home

was only \$38,640, whereas the market rate was upwards of \$600,000. Take \$1 for every \$1000 of that \$38,640 amount is the revenue we collect aka 1 mill.

- Michelle asked about commercial properties. Michaela said commercial properties have a higher assessed value than residential properties. Michelle asked the ratio of residential vs commercial and Michaela did not have the answer but would follow up.
- Michaela discussed the ballot measure that created our funding stream, of which was approved in 2003. Many other counties have their own mill levy for I/DD services. Michaela provided some history on the fund:
 - 2003-2017: all of dollars went to RMHS
 - 2015: city audit occurred of RMHS and DHS, auditor made recommendations to better oversee the fund. Leadership changes at both agencies which changed how the funds were being spent.
 - 2016: fund balance accrued after determining better spending oversight processes and ordinance compliance.
 - 2017: IAC was seated to get community input on how to spend the fund balance. Helps IDDEAS be more responsible to the community.
 - 2019: codified the ability to spend funds with other vendors besides RMHS and hires internal staff
- 2024 projections: we do not know for sure, but our projection is that we will get \$26.77 million and spend \$29.3 million (97% are services), leaving us at a \$16.51 fund balance
- Michaela described a graph on the screen that looks at spending over the last 10 years, of which from 2018-2023 are actuals, 2024-2028 are projections. Green bars are revenue, orange are expenditures. We weren't able to spend all of the money each year up until last year, 2023, where the spending shifted from underspending to spending dollars that were responsive to the needs of the community and developed in an informed way. Our projections are that the trend will continue over the next five years, which means our fund balance will continue to decrease from year to year.
 - Brain reframed: There was a lot of leftover money, therefore, this Council was created. We did what we are here to do, and now we can see the fund balance decreasing. Michaela confirmed this summarization.
- The fund balance could range anywhere from \$1.4 million to \$12 million by the end of 2028. This uncertainty is due to several factors: unsure about how much revenue will

come in, unsure how much our contracted partners will spend, and unsure how much we will spend on pilots following the end of their contracts.

- Brian reframed: the money is going down and yet as we assume these projections, we are unsure what our budget will actually be from year to year.
- Michaela shared all the active contracts currently and what pillars of service they fall under, the contracted amount, the contract term, and the project itself.
- Brian thanked Michaela for the transparency.
- Michaela reported that all the contracts outside of the RMHS CCB Mill Levy are competitively procured meaning that community agencies got to apply for this kind of funding and vendors were carefully selected. RMHS is considered a sole source because they can provide unique services as the CCB a.
- Introduced new funding in community coming soon called Mini Grants VOICES Program: Vital Opportunities for Inclusion, Choice, Empowerment, and Self-Advocacy. This will be the first time we use grants rather than contracts. Application process is more streamlined and accessible and required less reporting than typical when invoicing. We are using Point b(e) model and intended to address a specific IAC Recommendations to “implement programs, trainings, campaigns to inspire, drive, and incentive true inclusion” and “Explore potential programs for empowerment, self-advocacy, identity, and choice for people with IDD in various events, trainings and other modes of inclusion.” More information to come on this project, but we wanted to inform you of our next project.
- Next steps: evaluate upcoming findings from Landlord builder assessment, revisit and prioritize existing recommendations, and continue to analyze financial information and refine projections
- Brian shared a reflection: to be where we are now is built on the work from all the community members. The reason that this Council exists and the reason this fund exists stems from a lot more than we can see and required community networking. We may only be here for a limited term, therefore, what can we do to engage others in this work in the future to ensure the mission lives on?
- Kaley: We have heard the concern that there has been so much money leftover in our program and therefore, to see this shift, I think that’s a really good shift not only for our service users, but also I think it will make a lot of community members happy given this has been a concern for quite some time.

X.Public Comment

- There were no written public comments submitted prior to the meeting. This is a requirement moving forward and we will make sure people know to email at iddeas@denvergov.org to sign up ahead of time.

XI. Planning for Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for June 25th, from 1pm-3pm
- We will have a presentation from our contract partners.

Agenda requests for May: None.

XII.Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:47pm. (Kaley motioned and Michelle seconded).

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.