



IDDEAS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes Summary

Date: 07/30/2024

Time: 1:00-3:00 PM

Summary:

- Meeting began at 1:02 pm. An update was given to the new security measures put in place after June 25th's zoom bombing. Meeting minutes from that meeting were approved.
- Chris Patton shared his poetry and interests during his spotlight.
- One public comment was read aloud by council chairs.
- Louisa Bukiet from The Kelsey presented on the results from the Landlord and Builder Assessment.
- The IDDEAS advisory council engages in a question and answer period to provide thoughts and feedback.
- The council meeting was adjourned to allow for a public forum to take place, in which attendees asked questions and provided feedback based on the report.
- Next meeting is Tuesday August 27th from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Discussion topics for next meeting:

The Kelsey report, feedback on new meeting structure and security measures, and public comment policy changes.



IDDEAS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

7/30/2024 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Council Members:

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

Guests:

25 guests attended

Absent:

DHS Staff:

Michaela Hennig
Jordan Mulholland
Corey Boyle
Lynn Kutner
Tom Gamache
Jordan Humphreys
Whitney Nettleton
Mimi Scheuermann
Clint Woodruff

II. Call to Order

Meeting began at 1:02 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 iddeas@denvergov.org. Corey went over meeting expectations and the agenda, reminding council members to switch to “everyone” in the chat function on zoom.

Michaela provided an update of new security measures IDDEAS has adopted to prevent against Zoom bombing attacks moving forward. These include moving to a Zoom Webinar rather than a Zoom Meeting format, in which members of the public will attend as guests without the ability

to come off mute or access their camera. Guests must register beforehand to receive a link to attend the webinars. Only panelists can share their screens and speak; panelists will consist of the advisory council members, plus any presenters that may be attending depending on the agenda. Only United States IP addresses are now allowed into the webinar, and AI or third party software is not allowed to attend meetings. If traveling, or if anyone needs any assistance accessing and using the new webinar functions, council members and guests are invited to reach out to ideas@denvergov.org or corey.boyle@denvergov.org.

Due to technological issues, DHS CFO Clint Woodruff and DHS COO Mimi Scheuermann were unable to introduce themselves as planned at the head of the meeting; however, they did manage to connect by phone and introduced themselves later.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from 6/25/2024 were reviewed and approved with council vote. moved to approve and seconded. 7 out of 7 attending members approved.

IV. Council and Partner Updates

This standing item was omitted during this meeting to allow more time for The Kelsey's presentation of the landlord and builder assessment.

V. Council Member Spotlight

Chris Patton read statement with assistance from support staff Mel. Chris is a poet, who loves to hear other people's words as much as he likes to share them. In Chris's words, "See me as a killer, nasty man, making poems and putting them on my t-shirts. I have a messy killer life that needs meaty minds to gain safe harbor with my friends and family. I love to have opportunities to tell my words. Safe to say, I would like to read you guys a poem. This is titled Breakfast Time: **'Breakfast is starting the gears with joys, with joy. Friends find together. Food builds the body while drinking, smiling, and eating together. Giddy hears always are around the breakfast table. Breakfast bells from forks, hitting dishes gives us good friends to think about. My home is your home. My home is a friendly spot. Come by when you're hungry and you want to be friends.'**" Chris continued to express his interests, including friends, having people over his house, and cool clocks. He also shared some pictures of his clocks, bells, and friends at a t-shirt event.

Following council spotlight, Corey reminded attendees that during agenda items, guests would not be able to speak and unmute until the public forum or, if registered beforehand, the public comment period.

VI. Public Comment

One public comment was submitted, and read aloud by the attending chairs per the member of the public's request. From Ricardo Nieves, a Denver resident and community member who utilizes services: "My concern about the removal of my community awareness flyers by the cleaning team at Colfax and Williams. These non-commercial flyers are crucial for connecting with and seeking support from the community. The current enforcement of the zoning safety policy is overly stringent and hinders my efforts. I request an exception to the policy for community-oriented flyers and would like to discuss this matter further. Currently, the day programs are limited to daytime hours, which leaves a significant gap for individuals like myself who need structured activities and social interaction during the evenings and weekends. This gap often results in feelings of isolation and a lack of meaningful engagement during these times."

VII. Break

VIII. Presentation on IDDEAS-Commissioned Landlord and Builder Assessment by Louisa Bukiet, The Kelsey

Louisa Bukiet from the Kelsey presenting their findings and recommendations from the Landlord and Builder Assessment, an assessment recommended by the IDDEAS advisory council and commissioned through IDDEAS. Members of their steering committee were also in attendance to take part in the question and answer periods later on in the meeting.

Information was gathered from different groups of people, including residents with I/DD, government workers, property managers, developers, advocates, funders, family members of people with I/DD, service providers, and others. Throughout the use of surveys, focus groups, interviews, and a roundtable, a few recommendations were provided, including:

1. Increase availability of operating subsidies to support service-linked projects
2. Local funding incentives and enforcement
3. Increase the availability and use of vouchers to support integrated housing
4. Create navigation support for residents applying for housing
5. Educational support for property managers to understand and support people with I/DD in their communities
6. Require the use of plain language in leasing documents for projects that receive local funding for affordable housing
7. Fund an I/DD housing pilot project

These recommendations, the data collection methods, and other details of the report are included in the meeting powerpoint. The report itself will be posted when able and can be

reviewed in further detail. You can also watch the meeting recording to hear Louisa's presentation.

IX. Discussion about recommendation with IDDEAS Advisory Council

The IDDEAS Advisory Council members engaged in a brief question and answer period. Kaley Day noted the interesting reflection between housing providers who wanted training, and community members who wanted more affordability. She further asked if the information gained reinforced what we already knew, or provided new information. Jordan Mulholland mentioned that this report gathered new information from different community members including the housing providers and others, with clear recommendations to move upon that information.

Tim Dolan asked about the interest that other city agencies may have in this report and its topics. Jordan again responded, and noted that in the meeting itself we had representatives from different city agencies and organizations, and that there is clear interest. Once the report is published on the website, it is planned to be shared directly with other agency leaders.

Brian Be noted that it was good news that people with IDD were included and talked to in the report, and that also presented challenges in terms of unification from a varied group of people. Louisa reflected on those thoughts and stated how hard it can be to work within this system, and that some solutions would be short term and some long term.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was officially adjourned via council motion and vote at 2:30.

XI. Public Forum

Following this adjournment, a 30 minute public forum period was held, in which attendees submitted questions vocally and through the Q&A function on Zoom. The questions are included here:

1. "No question, just potential connection: There is a model for neuro-inclusive pre-development technical assistance that CHFA started- but it focuses efforts in rural and/or "small scale" (under 30 units) developments, so having a program for Denver would fill a gap. Happy to help connect DHS IDDEAS for a meeting to discuss their lessons learned if desired..."

A: Jordan responded that she would love to connect and is interested in learning more about that.

2. How long has IDDEAS been working on this particular project?

A: Thank you for your question! Jordan has answered your question live: We officially began working with The Kelsey last November, in 2023. It was about a nine month project.

3. Will there be specific recommendations for other disabilities as well? (accessible appliances & thermostats for visually impaired, light-based emergency alarms where needed for hearing impaired, etc.?)

A. IDDEAS funds are specifically to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, but this means supporting people with different needs. The goal of this project and accessible housing in general is that it needs to work for everyone, regardless of the disability. Thus, any projects that are built in mind with folks with IDD will also be accessible for people with other disabilities as well.

4. Will the report include a means to connect with folks from The Kelsey?

A. Louisa stated that people are welcome to connect with them by going to thekelsey.org and to potentially email Hello@TheKelsey.org.

5. Was there anything within the report that was surprising to you, whether it be because it was different than things you notice in California or were there any particular ideas that you felt would fit nicely with Denver's current arena in terms of those investments?

A. Louisa stated that she was pleasantly surprised with how many property managers were interested in learning more, and how they consider their job to be serving the residents and their needs. So many had a resident with IDD and were thirsty for the information to help provide people housing, so giving them the tools to do that better felt like a real opportunity that could be applied.

6. Something that this community has discussed a lot was the pros and cons of funding a project-based site, dedicated to meeting the housing needs of the IDD community versus supporting integrated housing through a kind of choice based waiver. I'm curious based on your work at large and the findings of this report, if you had any thoughts on that.

A. Louisa answered, saying that The Kelsey is very much in support of community integrated settings, where people with and without disabilities live together in community. While The Kelsey supports communities tailor made for people with disabilities, they feel that fully integrated communities that promote inclusion and access for all, including people who do and don't have disabilities, are the best environment to support.

7. When it comes to investing in service link projects, such as supporting an operating subsidy for supportive services on site, like on site support staff, did anyone talk about what other services they would ideally want in that? Is it just staffing simply to be there to support one

on one, or are there resources anybody recommended that we would want to include into that operating subsidy?

A. The key thing is that people have all sorts of different service and access needs, like everyone is an individual even when they have the same disability or same diagnosis and can have very different access needs. The Kelsey has what is called an inclusion concierge service who are staff members on site working full time to connect residents with the services and supports they need. Having the flexibility to connect people to the specific services they need according to their individual needs is a way to be able to serve everybody.

8. Hi - Jen Pringle here at AdvocacyDenver. Not a question, but just a comment. As a person who previously worked in property management for a locally (Denver) owned apartment community group, I can attest to the fact that we are all trained in the legal requirements for fair housing, but can definitely see the benefits of providing training on HOW to provide resources and information to those with disabilities. Also, training on how to market and provide outreach to people needing accessible housing would be wonderful as well! Thanks for all you are doing!

A. Feelings of appreciation were shared in response to this comment.

9. Currently, in Denver, we struggle with housing all around. How steep of a task do you think this is for providing affordable housing for folks with IDD especially given Denver's high cost of living?

A. Louisa responded. We compare it to curb cuts, which were 1st mandated in Berkeley right near where I live, because of disability activists who were in wheelchairs and could not use the sidewalks in their city. They protested and got a law passed that said every single side. That was pivotal for people who were chair users to get across the street, but it turned out it was incredibly useful for so many other people, for parents who have strollers or for somebody who has a mobility disability that could've gotten down a stair. So, even though they were implemented for people who had a specific disability, they're actually useful to everybody across the community. And so we see accessible housing in the same way. People with disabilities cannot live in non-accessible housing, but we believe that if it's created, it actually is beneficial to everybody to have more accessible housing.

The public forum was ended at 3:00 pm. The next advisory council meeting is scheduled for August 27th, 2024, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. This meeting will be virtual.



Please contact DHS's IDDEAS program with any clarifying questions related to these minutes.