

## IDDEAS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes Summary

Date: 08/27/2024

Time: 1:00-3:00 PM

### Summary:

- Meeting began at 1:06 pm.
- Introductions were made, and expectations were reviewed.
- Meeting minutes from July 30<sup>th</sup> were reviewed and approved.
- Council members gave updates. Corey stated that recruitment has ended and 4 new council members have been appointed, and will soon have orientation. Beth Bevilacqua gave an update that ABA services are now being provided in DPS school settings, at lunch and recess. Kaley Day updated everyone that this would be her last meeting and she is formally resigning. Brian Be gave an update on an upcoming housing summit held by the Inclusive Housing Coalition of Colorado (IHCC) on October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Kizzly Blue gave an update on the Community Advisory Council (CAC): where they discussed 2025 community initiatives, CAC recruitment, and client-family directed funds and recommendations related to those.
- Stefanie Gross gave her council member spotlight and spoke about her organization, MoveThroughYoga.
- The council discussed the public comment policy and approved its inclusion to the bylaws.
- The council discussed the meeting format and location, recommending that this discussion be revisited once the new council members come on board but expressing a preference to remain virtual and accessible. A request was made to send meeting links out the day of the meeting.
- The council discussed the Landlord and Builder Assessment and the 7 primary recommendations made within, voting to approve exploration in each of those recommendations.
- Next meeting is Tuesday September 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

### Discussion topics for next meeting:

- Discuss IDDEAS outreach and communication related to work of Point B(e) and Ground Floor Media.
- Invite IHCC to come and present at a future council meeting



## IDDEAS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

8/27/2024 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

### Council Members:

Brian Be  
Chris Patton (joined by support staff Jacob)  
Kizzly Blue  
Kaley Day  
Lindsay Westmiller  
Beth Bevilacqua  
Stefanie Gross

### Guests:

7 guests attended

### Absent:

Michelle Dumay

### DHS Staff:

Michaela Hennig  
Jordan Mulholland  
Corey Boyle  
Lynn Kutner  
Tom Gamache  
Jordan Humphreys

## II. Call to Order

Meeting began at 1:06 pm.

Corey provided an overview of the meeting agenda, the IDDEAS program, the IDDEAS Advisory Council (IAC) and meeting expectation, reminding council members to switch to “everyone” in the chat function on Zoom.

Corey then turned facilitation over to Brian, who initiated introductions for all IAC co-chairs and IDDEAS staff members. Brian thanked all meeting attendees for their persistence and patience in navigating through new technology to access the meeting stating, “We are co-creating. This is community. Welcome in.”



Brian and Corey clarified that, due to increased technological security measures, guests to the meeting are unable to access their cameras or the meeting chat, but are important members of our community and their presence is appreciated.

### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Minutes from 7/30/2024 were reviewed with no requested revisions from any council members. Kaley motioned to approved and Lindsey seconded. 4 out of 6 attending members approved; with one abstention, and one council member not voting.

### **IV. Council and Partner Updates**

Kizzly provided the RMHS Mill Levy Community Advisory Council (CAC) update on behalf of Michelle Dumay, who is the IDDEAS CAC liaison and was absent from today's meeting. Kizzly was absent from the last RMHS CAC meeting, but shared that the following items were listed on the agenda: the CAC discussed applications for their council, finalized Client and Family Directed Funds sustainability recommendations, and discussed 2025 community initiative priorities in advance of the scheduled release of RFP in October.

Kaley Day reported that she is starting a new job next week with Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities. She will remain in Denver, although due to the demands of this new job, will be resigning from the IDDEAS advisory council after this month's meeting. The advisory council shared their appreciation for Kaley's contribution in the chat.

Corey updated that the DHS executive director Anne-Marie Braga has appointed four new advisory council members who will join the council officially next month. Corey is working to schedule an orientation with them in the coming weeks.

Brian shared a website link to the Inclusive Housing Coalition and noted that they will be having an upcoming event. Jordan shared that IDDEAS is helping with the event: a regional Neuroinclusive Housing Summit which takes place on October 28, 2024 at University of Colorado in Boulder. Jordan noted that the event is free, open to the public, and welcomed the IAC members to attend.

Beth shared that Denver Public Schools passed a new policy that ABA, OT, speech can come within the school to do therapy during non-academic activities (including lunch and recess). Beth said she was very happy about that because her son can now access supports during these times.

Meeting guest Jen Pringle with Advocacy Denver submitted a Q&A asking for an introduction to Beth to learn more. Michaela encouraged Jen to reach out to IDDEAS program staff by emailing [iddideas@denvergov.org](mailto:iddideas@denvergov.org) so that the IDDEAS team could follow up on this request.

## V. Council Member Spotlight

Stefanie is the founder of MoveThroughYoga, a nonprofit that brings adaptive yoga to individual with I/DD and physical disabilities “we believe all bodies, all minds deserve an opportunity to feel good in their minds and bodies” MoveThroughYoga brings yoga to schools and day programs and provides trainings to educations, paraprofessionals, and other providers.

Stefanie shared about an event coming up, Yoga Wave, and asked for volunteers or suggestions for the resource fair. Corey encouraged anyone interested in getting engaged to connect with Stefanie outside of the IDDEAS advisory council meeting.

## VI. Break

Due to going over time, the scheduled break was moved up on the agenda from 1:55 pm – 2:00 pm

## VII. Update and Approval of the Public Comment Policy

Corey reviewed the newly implement public comment policy for IAC vote. The policy is:

1. Anyone interested in public comment have signed up beforehand. To sign up for public comment member of the public must email [IDDEAS@denvergov.org](mailto:IDDEAS@denvergov.org) or go to our online public comment form by 1:00 pm the day before the IAC meeting. The IAC Secretary will then contact the co-chairs to review and approve. Any written public comment will be read aloud by one of the co-chairs.
2. Anyone making a public comment should state:
  - Their name and any organizational affiliation
  - Whether they are a Denver resident
  - Public comment
3. Commentators have 3 minutes to speak
  - Please honor the time allowed so we can hear as many voices that wish to speak up as possible.
  - As commentators speak, council members and guest will listen without response or interruption
  - Speakers must limit their comment to an agenda item topic or a topic pre-approved by co-chairs.

Lindsey made a motion to approved and Beth seconded. The above public comment policy was approved by 6 of the 6 voting members in attendance.

*The council approved a recommendation to adopt the above public comment policy into the council bylaws. These will be written into the bylaws and sent to the chairs for signature, dictating that this policy be followed by the council going forward.*

### **VIII. Meeting Location and Structure Discussion**

Corey reviewed revised policies and procedures following the Zoom bombing incident that ended in the early termination of the June 2024 meeting. These include:

1. All guests must register beforehand. Registration links to be posted on the IDDEAS website.
2. We will be using Zoom Webinar; only council members and presenters will be able to speak, use the chat, and share their screen throughout the meeting.
3. We will no longer allow the use of AI or third-party software in the Zoom meetings.
4. Only panelists (council members, DHS staff, and presenters) will be able to unmute, show video, and chat. Pre-approved guests can request to come off mute during public comment by raising their hand. Only hosts will share screens.
5. Only United States IP addresses will be allowed into meetings.

Corey requested discussion on the new revisions and consideration of a hybrid model, hosted in person with an optional virtual component.

Kaley stated that her experience with the hybrid meetings have resulted in the people attending virtually seem to be left out a bit, and expressed concern about having an equal platform to share and be heard. Kaley noted the difficulties in balancing access and safety and acknowledged there were no easy answers. Kaley encouraged engagement of the four new council members who will be joining next month.

Beth stated that she is on other committees, one of which requires in-person attendance. The other committees that allow both in-person and virtual attendance usually end up eventually with mostly virtual attendance anyway.

Lindsey said that sometimes if you create a boundary and do more to create a safe environment, that can serve to increase accessibility by helping people feel more safe to participate.

Lindsey asked if we could provide a reminder email to folks the day of the meeting with the Zoom link. Corey stated that they could incorporate that into their regular processes.

Jacob stated that knowing Chris as he does, and after asking him a few questions about the topic, that he thinks Chris would most likely be up for either, but it would be a bit more cumbersome to be in



person and might cause some anxiety. Jacob stating that the virtual setting for Chris in which he can remain in his own home and known environment would likely be preferential.

Lindsey stated that she also has concerns about moving to a hybrid model based on some of the same concerns voices by Kaley.

Brian stated, “hybrid meetings are exhausting and yet they do increase access.” Brian stated that RMHS CAC recently opened their meeting to hybrid in-person, and it resulted in “a new level of human-ing”

Kaley noted that if hybrid meetings were piloted, encouraged being very intentional about proactively making space for virtual attendees to participate.

Lindsey noted that her order of preference for meeting platform: virtual only, in-person only, and hybrid (in that order).

Corey noted that they took notes on the discussion and proposed revisiting the discussion after the new advisory council members are onboarded next month.

## **IX. Landlord and Builder Assessment Review and Discussion**

Jordan provided an overview of the previous Housing-related Recommendations made by the IAC in 2021:

1. Incentivize builders to create I/DD inclusive housing
2. Leverage Mill Levy funds to convert already existing properties to tailor towards individual with I/DD.
3. Leverage Mill Levy funds to offer more housing vouchers for people with I/DD.
4. Create a housing navigation program. (implemented)
5. Investigate and Identify landlord and builder concerns with renting and creating housing for I/DD community (complete)
6. Advocate to the State on issues that are critical to Denver as they relate to housing.
7. Housing becomes priority for Mill Levy funds (implemented).

Jordan provided an overview of new recommendations offered by the Kelsey (page 29 of the Landlord Builder Assessment report.)

1. Increase availability of operating subsidies to support service-lined projects.
2. Create local funding incentives and enforcement to encourage housing builders to create accessible, affordable housing.
3. Increase the availability and use of vouchers to support integrated housing.

4. Create navigation support for residents applying for housing.
5. Provide 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 project that receive local funding for affordable housing.
7. Fund a IDD housing pilot project.

The first two recommendations made by The Kelsey (1. Increase availability of operating subsidies to support service-lined projects; and 2. Create local funding incentives and enforcement to encourage housing builders to create accessible, affordable housing) build directly onto the first IAC recommendation made in 2021 to incentive builders to create I/DD inclusive housing.

Jordan additionally reported that there are some overlapping recommendations between the 2021 housing recommendations and new recommendations offered by the Kelsey, which include offering more housing vouchers with I/DD and creating a housing navigation program. Jordan noted that although DHS IDDEAS had already launched a housing navigation program with Bayaud BEHOME, the Kelsey indicated that not many people they spoke with were aware of it, and therefore it might be worth revisiting ways to promote it more broadly.

The IAC members then engaged in a discussion of the new Kelsey recommendations:

Beth stated that she thought the Kelsey recommendation 7 (to fund an I/DD housing pilot project) was interesting because it could additionally address many of the first 6 recommendations.

Kaley stated that the first two Kelsey recommendations (to increase the availability of operating subsidies to support service-lined projects and local funding incentives and enforcement) were sticking out for her, to really start building up the available stock of accessible housing.

Kaley thought some of the other recommendations (to address the ongoing need for housing navigation, through broader promotion of the Bayaud Be-Home program, training for landlords, and to increase use of plain language in housing documents) could be achievable and linked with each other and other recommendations.

Beth said she thought the Kelsey Recommendation 3 stood out because her own housing navigator recommended a “Non-elderly Disabled (NED)” voucher, and said that there weren’t any available currently, but that she and her son would be the first on the list because they are the only ones that would qualify. Beth recommended doing more research to better understand what housing vouchers and resources exist and linking current programs to those resources.

Brian spoke about the need to better help residents understand and navigate through housing options, and that there can be a lot of fear and confusion associated with applying for and receiving vouchers and voucher renewals.

After council members had an opportunity to discuss the recommendations made by the Kelsey, Jordan provided a high-level overview of the estimated degree of difficulty and money involved for each recommendation, as listed below:

1. Increase availability of operating subsidies to support service-lined projects (*Difficult; Lots of Money*)
2. Create local funding incentives and enforcement to encourage housing builders to create accessible, affordable housing. (*Difficult; Lots of Money*)
3. Increase the availability and use of vouchers to support integrated housing (*Difficult; Lots of Money*)
4. Create navigation support for residents applying for housing (*Easy to moderately difficult; a little money*)
5. Provide educational support for property managers to understand and support people with I/DD in their communities (*Easy; a little money*)
6. Require the use of plain language in leasing documents for project that receive local funding for affordable housing (*somewhat difficult; very little money*)
7. Fund a IDD housing pilot project (*very difficult; lots of money*)

Beth said she thought the first recommendation was more “doable” than we might think based on her own supportive housing provider starting a similar program with help of government programming.

Kaley said her one recommendation that she had more “pause” on was Recommendation 7 to fund a I/DD housing pilot project. Kaley stated that she thought perhaps it was too big to implement right now and that implementing the first 6 recommendations might lead us down that path eventually.

Lindsey agreed with Kaley, stating that by prioritizing and implementing some of the other recs could be considered a pilot project in and of itself (for example, doing 1,2, and 5 together)

Lindsey made a motion to adopt the all the Kelsey recommendations for further research. Brian and Kaley seconded.

Motion was passed with 5 of 6 members in attendance voting in favor and one abstaining.



**Note** – Brian abstained from the vote because he was a member of the Kelsey’s Landlord and Builder Assessment Steering Committee.

***The council approved a recommendation to move forward in investigating each of the outlined recommendations from the Landlord and Builder Assessment, outlined above.***

#### **X. Public Comment**

No public comments were submitted for this meeting.

#### **XI. Forecasting next meeting**

Lindsey requested discussing IDDEAS outreach and communication related to work of Point B(e) and Ground Floor Media.

Brian requested inviting the inclusive housing coalition to come as guest speakers.

#### **XII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm by a vote of 4 of 6 participating members.

***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.***