



# IDDEAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

**Date:** 10/29/2024

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 PM

**Location:** Virtual (Go to the [IDDEAS Advisory Council website](#) to see meeting recordings)

## Summary:

- Meeting began at 1:10.
- Meeting minutes from September 24th were reviewed and approved.
- During council updates, the CAC member updated the council on the recent CAC meetings. The RMHS delegate also updated the council on the RMHS Community Initiatives which fund various programs promoting inclusion and access for Denver residents with I/DD and developmental delay. Michaela Hennig gave an update on the VOICES Mini Grant program, which is also a funding opportunity for organizations looking to support inclusion, self-advocacy, empowerment, and intersectionality for Denver residents with I/DD and developmental delay.
- Lynn Kutner from Denver Human Services IDDEAS Program gave an update on the Digital Navigator Program. Discussion between Lynn and the council occurred.
- Erica Hostetler from Bayaud Enterprises gave a presentation on the BE HOME Housing Navigator program. Discussion was had regarding the needs around this program.
- Two public comments were made.
- Planning for next meeting occurred.

## Discussion topics for next meeting:

- Officer positions and procedure to elect new officers come January, 2025.



# IDDEAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date (10/29/2024) Time 1:10PM

## Attendance:

1. Alexa Gagner
2. Beth Bevilacqua
3. Brian Be
4. Chris Patton
5. Jessica Raichle
6. Lindsay Westmiller
7. Michelle Dumay
8. Molly Mason
9. Stefanie Gross
10. Kizzly Blue (non-voting member)

## Guests:

Erica Hostetler

## Absent:

1. Janessa Systo

## DHS Staff:

- Michaela Hennig
- Jordan Mulholland
- Lynn Kutner
- Jordan Humphreys
- Tom Gamache
- Whitney Nettleton

## I. Call to Order

Meeting began at 1:10PM

Michaela read the IDDEAS Mission/Vision and Expectations slides

## II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from 9/24/2024 were reviewed with no requested revisions.

Michelle asked, "Do I need to not vote because I didn't attend last time? but I read them."

Lindsay answered that she could abstain.

Michelle motioned to approve the minutes and Beth seconded. Votes were as follows:

Approve: 6

Disapprove: 0

Abstain: 4

## III. Council Updates



Michelle Dumay gave an update on the recent CAC meeting. The CAC meeting was hybrid, but most decided to attend in person, and also decided to dress up (Halloween). More updates forthcoming. They will be looking more at the Community Initiatives.

Kizzly Blue mentioned that RMHS has released an RFP for funding opportunities and gave instructions on how to find more information on RMHS's website. The opportunity closes on Nov 15. For more information, please go to [RMHS's Community Initiatives site](#).

Brian Be commented on the SUMMIT that was held 10/28/2024 about housing for people with I/DD. Multiple attending guests and council members had attended that Summit.

Lindsay Westmiller thanked Jordan, Lynn, and Michaela for attending. It was a great event. It made her feel hopeful. Lindsay reported that it was laid out well and there was adequate space between sessions, without being overly scheduled.

Jordan Mulholland said that she believed Boulder County would post the slides of all the presentations. If that doesn't happen, then DHS will reach out to Boulder to try and get the slides.

Michelle Dumay said one of organizers will send out links to every session's recording.

Michaela Hennig gave updates on the 2025 VOICES Mini Grants, a new mini grant opportunity for organizations interested in supporting inclusion, self-advocacy, empowerment, and intersectionality for Denver residents with I/DD or developmental delay.

#### **IV. Denver Public Library I/DD Digital Navigator Presentation**

Lynn Kutner presented on the Denver Public Library Digital Navigators. DPL already had a robust program prior to the IDDEAS funding an FTE position. There has been a bit of turnover with filling this position. The navigator program can assist with affordable internet or even one on one instructions on how to use a digital device (phone, laptop, etc.)

Funding, provided by the IDDEAS Mill Levy, is for one staff person, and all other Digital Navigators to get trainings related to assisting individuals with I/DD.

Lynn is in the process of working with DPL for outreach where navigators may go to a community center that may be more accessible than a library for some.

Michelle Dumay asked what was the cause of the turnover? How can we fix/address that issue to aid continuity of the program? Lynn said the staff turnover was due to personal reasons.

Lynn asked the council about the types of supports and needs they often hear about in order to gain feedback.

There was talk of Lynn coming back in early 2025 with DPL staff to better engage with the Council.

Brian Be asked: Will they meet one-on-one with someone at a specific place (not their home)? Response: Not now, they do it at a library now and if they're not busy with an



appointment, then will help drop ins. It was mentioned that they want to do it more at community partner organization location, but they will not go to a home. If people are looking for these services, they should visit the library with an appointment.

Stefanie Gross mentioned that visiting coffee shops would be a nice possibility, as technology, coffee, and communication often go hand in hand. That could be a good partnership.

Stefanie Gross further mentioned that leveraging a more younger youthful generation, rather than just at the library, could be effective. Compared to unified teams. Maybe incorporate tech schools, colleges.

A few council members posed some questions in the chat. Jessica Raichle asked what anti-ableist training was. Lynn explained that the digital navigators receive a training on accessibility and disability acceptance, in which ableism is reviewed and anti-ableism is promoted by shifting mindsets and working on language to promote interactions with people that are supportive and engaging.

Time for this agenda item ended, so not all questions were answered.

#### **V. Break (1:52 – 1:57pm)**

#### **VI. Bayaud BEHOME Housing Navigator Program**

Erica Hostetler from Bayaud Enterprise's IDDEAS-funded BEHOME Housing Navigator program presented information about their program and the activities they've engaged in recently. Her presentation can be referenced in the recording and in the slide deck found on the [IDDEAS Advisory Council website](#).

- BE HOME is a partnership between their participants, their support networks, and BE HOME staff starting with a phone screening to verify eligibility to receive a customized housing stability plan to help people with I/DD achieve and maintain housing.
- If individuals meet criteria to be eligible, then they get an interview. If not, then BE HOME will direct them to other resources as best they can to where they live.
- Each client receives a Housing Stability Plan with their navigators. Their services vary from person to person and can include a wide variety of supports.
- BE HOME does offer limited financial resources such as assisting with first month rent, moving costs, and transportation.
- They have served a total of 143 clients out of 190 total referrals. Most clients are BIPOC, and are receiving an income of less than \$10,000 per year with many receiving no reported yearly income at all.

More details and information were presented. Please see the [BE HOME website](#) for more information. To make a referral, please use the [BE HOME Referral Form](#). For more questions, you can email Erica Hostetler at [erica.hostetler@bayaud.enterprises.org](mailto:erica.hostetler@bayaud.enterprises.org).



The council engaged in conversation with Erica and Jordan Mulholland about the program and the current issue of houselessness for people with I/DD in Denver.

## VII. Public Comment

Two public comments were submitted for this meeting. They are included, as submitted, here:

Submitted by Elisa Aucancela from El Grupo Vida: “There are limited shelter for the IDD population including asylum seekers. The city will close the Mullen Home on December 15th, 2024. The Welcome Center for newcomers was closed at the end of September. Also the Denver Asylum Seeker Program is going to close. The Mullen Home has been helping many asylum seekers families with children between birth to 12 to have a safe place to live. Currently, we have families in the Mullen shelter. We are working to support them. The shelter and transition programs options are limited for asylum seekers. We have witnessed families moving from shelter to a place called home with support, training, funding, legal, case management, and ongoing coaching. What resources do IDDEAS know/ have to support the need of shelter and transition programs?”

Submitted by Shaye Brinn Olander from The Foundation for Successful Living: ” I am the Program Coordinator for The Foundation for Successful Living and we offer SCC services to adults 18+ with I/DD and transition students. We also offer healthy relationship classes throughout the year and we currently do not have a waitlist.”

## VIII. Forecasting next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for November 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Zoom. For next meeting, the council will discuss officer positions for 2025. Lindsay requested that the BE HOME Housing Navigator Program be revisited in early 2025. There will be a community get together with the council in early December.

## IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02pm by a vote of 7 of 10 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 by emailing [IDDEAS@Denvergov.org](mailto:IDDEAS@Denvergov.org). Recordings and other information can be found at the [IDDEAS webpage](#).*