



IDDEAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

Date: 11/26/2024

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

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

Summary:

- This meeting was Lindsay Westmiller and Beth Bevilacqua's last meeting as Councilmembers, due to their terms ending. We will miss them and look forward to ways to stay connected.
- Corey reviewed process for officer elections coming up in January and invited all Councilmembers to consider running for co-chair or the CAC liaison. Brian, Lindsay and Michelle reflected on their times serving in these roles.
- Erica Hostetler, the program manager for the IDDEAS-funded BE-HOME I/DD housing navigation program, returned to address follow up questions from the program status update she provided to the council in October.
- The Council discussed recruitment plans coming up. There are 3 seats that need to be filled and the process is planned for February – April 2025. The group discussed particular communities unrepresented on the Council so far, including specific Denver City Council districts, immigrant communities, and the aging I/DD community.
- There will be a get-together on December 14th at 1pm at Brewability for all Councilmembers to attend and have some fun, with no official business to occur.

Discussion topics for next meeting:

- In January we will plan to hold officer elections and continue our work with recruiting new Councilmembers for the vacant positions. **There is no meeting scheduled for December.**



IDDEAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date (11/26/2024) 1:05 pm to 2:59 pm MST

Attendance:

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

Guests:

5

Absent:

1. Janessa Systo
2. Molly Mason
3. Stefanie Gross

Guest Presenters:

1. Erica Hostetler

DHS Staff:

- Michaela Hennig
- Corey Boyle
- Jordan Mulholland
- Lynn Kutner
- Jordan Humphreys

I. Call to Order

As a reminder, we don't have a meeting scheduled for December, so Corey asked that we move efficiently today to make sure nothing is outstanding for the rest of the year. Meeting began at 1:05pm. Corey went over agenda items for today. Councilmembers introduced themselves. Corey shared IDDEAS's mission and vision and described the Council's role with the program. They also went over meeting expectations.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Be sure to record the number of council votes approving, disapproving, or abstaining in this and all voted business. Lindsay motioned to approve, Brian seconded. 2 abstained. 4 voted yes. 0 voted no.

III. Council Updates



Michelle, as the CAC liaison, shared that they have 6 new members on the CAC that joined for the first time last month. One member left the CAC. The CAC discussed the process for reviewing the community initiatives with the goal that they will review next week to identify awardees. Kizzly reported that they received 43 proposals, which is the highest they've ever received. To give the CAC more time, the deadline was extended but they are on track for making decisions by the end of this year.

Corey shared that on Dec 14th they will have an in-person gathering at Brewability at 1pm. All are welcome, please come to meet the new Councilmembers and say goodbye to Lindsay and Beth.

Corey shared that Beth and Lindsay are ending their terms after this meeting ends. They shared thanks for the service on the Council and the rest of the members shared their appreciation as well.

Lastly, Corey shared the VOICES application closed and they are being reviewed as we speak. A lot of great proposals have come in so far and IDDEAS is excited to engage with and award new partners.

IV. Agenda Item 1

Corey reviewed process for officer elections coming up in January. Current co-chairs are Lindsay and Brian. The powerpoint listed the responsibilities of the co-chair. The chairs are there to help facilitate the meetings and get the Council to go from A point to B point as they related to the agenda items.

Brian shared he came here a couple of years ago and he enjoys his role as a council member. He reflected on his decision to become co-chair after getting support from other councilmembers. Brian reminded everyone that all Councilmembers have strong leadership skills and anyone would be great in this role if interest. Brain thanked DHS for the opportunity.

Lindsay welcomed the Council to share any questions they have for the co-chairs to better understand the role. Michelle shared more about the CAC role: she share's information between the RMHS CAC and the IAC to ensure good communication and balance between both programs/groups.

Corey provided details on the election process (see powerpoint for more details). The process must be public, recorded and documented. Corey will ask the Council if there are any nominations. You can nominate yourself, or if someone else nominates you, you can decline. Corey will record the nominations in the order they come through. Councilmembers are expected to vote for only one person. If someone receives majority, they will then be confirmed as co-chair. We will continue with this process until all seats are filled. The roles will start the following meeting after the election process is complete, and Corey will connect with you prior to ensure you understand your responsibilities. Brian reminded folks that they



will have support from DHS staff, prior co-chairs, and councilmembers at-large as they navigate their new roles. Brian relayed that co-chairs meet with DHS a week prior to each meeting to prepare.

Michaela shared that we had a Councilmember join in, Chris Patton and we are having trouble switching him to panelist. Corey offered to help but Chris then was successfully promoted to panelist.

Brian offered to share more about his role as co-chair. Lindsay shared she can touch base with people at the December meeting. Brian said when he first came into the Council, there weren't any people with IDD. He knew this needed to change and prior to his role as co-chair, he elevated this which is what helped get more people with lived experience onto the Council, along with compensating people for their time. Brian also discussed what we can do to stay in touch with past Councilmembers which is still to be developed. He shared how his ability to be on the Council has helped the Council grow and wants that experience for others. Lindsay reminded folks that there are a lot of things you can do in your role as a Councilmember and as a community member.

V. Break

VI. Agenda Item 2

Follow up Discussion with Bayaud BE-HOME

Erica Hostetler, the program manager for the IDDEAS-funded I/DD housing Navigator Program BE-HOME I/DD contracted with Bayaud Enterprises returned to address follow up questions from the program status update she provided to the council in October.

Erica provided the following additional information:

- 74 individuals enrolled into Bayaud BE-HOME while housed. All of those individuals remain housed except for one person who experienced a period of homelessness and is now housed again.
- For folks that are housed, if they are seeking different type of setting, BE-HOME tries and help them determine what that is and achieve that, or if wanting to stay in current setting, try and work to help stabilize that through rental assistance or other types of assistance
- For folks that enter the program unhoused, Bayaud works to support them and their networks in getting housed as quickly as possible. Staff complete coordinated entry assessments for those experiencing literal homelessness.
- All of clients and families have access to mental health counselor for counseling and/or mental health referrals.
- Services are very client-centered and are based on client-led housing stability plan that is updated every 90 days or during significant changes. Will continue to provide



support after housing is obtained to help client and family maintain housing. If client loses eligibility for IDDEAS mill levy funding due to change in residency or disability status determination, Bayaud will help transition them off of services within 90 days.

- They determine when it's time to exit clients from the program based on when clients feel that they are ready and feeling stable. With regard to timeline, most people continue to engage in program since being referred. In terms of outreach, Bayaud Be-Home continues to engage with community partners (both new and old) including DHS, RMHS, and working on developing marketing materials (flyers), will be ready to share soon

Jordan noted that Bayaud has helped folks avoid eviction through building relationships with property managers and landlords and advocating for their clients, in addition to providing rental assistance. Erica acknowledged that this is a big part of their work and that they can also help folks avoid evictions through legal support. Jordan explained the importance of helping individuals avoid evictions, because having an eviction on your record is a huge barrier to obtaining housing in the future.

Michelle gave feedback to Erica: "You are such a rockstar and excellent story teller!" Michelle suggested to continue sharing the stories of the people she is serving via video and audio. Michelle said she is personally more impacted by listening to Erica speak about the program than if she were to read about it.

Erica shared that something she is most proud of is that Bayaud BE-HOME has received referrals from clients, stating that she takes it as a sign that they are building trust and doing good things.

Lindsay asked about the Bayaud BE-HOME marketing strategy. Erica stated that they have reached out to community partners, who have in turn referred them to reach out to other community partners.

Jessica asked if individuals need to be in imminent risk of losing their housing to be eligible for services through BE-HOME. Erica responded that that was not a requirement and that BE-HOME is able to assist with any housing need even if it isn't related to the risk of losing housing.

Jordan stated that we know that there are a lot of folks living with aging caregivers without a plan for where to live after their caregivers are no longer able to support them. Jordan asked the IAC if they had suggestions for how Bayaud could reach out to those individuals living with aging caregivers and seeking support in developing residential plans when those caregivers can no longer support them. Michelle suggested that BE-HOME reach out to padco that has about 400 members for I/DD community members who are adults with parent advocates. Michelle said that most of the parents in that group are aging. Michelle offered to connect Erica if she wasn't already connected. Michelle said that they sometimes they offer presentations as well.

Lindsay asked, "With people coming to you at this point of instability, what would be some things that could have been done, sooner, if there were to be some outreach sooner



could that have avoided a crisis? Is there anything out there that you are seeing in terms of advanced education that would be helpful?” Erica said that knowledge of housing lotteries would be very helpful, especially since they are only open for such a short period of time (usually only about 48 hours) and then if they are chosen, it might take a year before they are chosen and then months before they have a voucher in hand to be able to try and find housing.

There are very long wait lists for lots of services, including transportation. Wait time for Access-a-Ride can be over 6 months.

Another struggle is most clients are in emergency situations and in survival mode and may not have the bandwidth to think of the next steps of tomorrow. These situations though are what BE HOME is there to help with.

VII. Public Comment

There were no submissions for public comment.

VIII. Agenda Item 3

Corey discussed plans for recruitment next year. We will need to fill 3 seats and the timeline is planned for February – April. We have about 5 Council districts that don't have representation which is a target for this round of recruitment. We also do not have foreign born, immigrant connections and representation on the Council. Corey has plans to build more relationships, such as going to community centers, events, groups, etc. to share information and pass out flyers. Goal is to make strong connections to new communities. Corey will send out a demographics and diversity survey to Councilmembers to better understand what their representation goals are for the new recruitment.

Michelle asked if Corey outreached Atlantis during recruitment. Corey shared they did not connect directly, but they are on our email list serve. Corey will consider stopping by their office and sharing more.

Lindsay asked for more details on the districts since the numbers themselves do not help people understand where these districts are located. Michaela shared District 1 is in the Northwest corner of Denver, District 3 is where the Denver Human Services building is located in the Sun Valley neighborhood, District 2 is in the far southwest corner of Denver (Harvey Park area and Sheridan), District 5 is in the Central East areas (Windsor Garden, East Alameda), District 9 includes Five Points neighborhood (North Central). These are important districts because they are within the inverted L, which is a concept of mapped areas in Denver whose residents have historically faced redlining. Redlining was a historical policy that prevented low-income people of color from accessing certain neighborhoods, which therefore forced them to segregate to these areas without equitable access to resources or economic growth.

Lindsay asked if we had two great candidates from district 3, how does that factor in? If there is too many in one district, how do we score that? Corey shared they are still working



on the scoring criteria, and they invite Councilmembers to provide their thoughts and feedback.

Brian shared not to play identity politics. He said he's noticed himself getting caught up in identity politics. He's shared experiences of this in his involvement in project management. People are people. People may say that they don't need more English speaking, White male identities in the room, however, we all bring important things to the Chair and it's about building community.

Corey thanked him for his thoughts and shared that it's important for us to know if the Denver community getting a fair representation and voices are being heard, or not. That is what we want to use this information for. We want to make sure that everybody who uses I/DD services have opportunity to have input on it. Corey reminded everyone that we will have more time to have these conversations in the coming meetings.

Corey noticed we received some Q&A's from the general public. They reminded the public that if they would like to engage, they will have to submit a formal public comment. Applications for the Council will be distributed out to the public at the time it becomes available.

Jessica offered that we should better outreach the aging as an underrepresented group when recruiting. Corey thanked her for that suggestion.

Michaela said instead of thinking about recruitment as identity politics, she thinks about it like how Brian has spoke on it before. Rather than thinking about if someone made it to the room okay, we should be thinking about who is not in the room and why. We recognize that we may not be doing a good job of reaching out to those who are not in the room, and therefore this is the kind of recruitment process we are hoping to accomplish so that we are reaching those who have not otherwise been able to share their voice.

Lindsay asked – with capturing data on where you're outreaching, is there any value in noting attendance at meetings? It's great to connect with people who are not aware, and at the same time, we may also have people may not have the ability to become a full councilmember but do attend our meetings and may just need more support. Some people may have accessibility or time concerns and we should make people aware that we try to support people as much as possible so they can consider joining the Council.

Corey spoke on finding ways to engage past Councilmembers to come and speak about their experiences to help people stay connected and engaged in community.

Corey asked if you have any ideas in terms of recruitment, please reach out.

IX. Forecasting next meeting



The January meeting is not scheduled, but Corey shared they are planning for the same day and time, the last Tuesday in January from 1-3pm.

Corey also shared that IDDEAS will be presenting to HRCP's Division of Disability Rights Town Hall on December 4th at 4:15. They invited Councilmembers to attend and participate in the presentation to share more about the work they do.

Lastly, Corey reminded everyone of the Council get-together on **December 14th** at 1pm at Brewability, with no official business to occur and mostly just to have fun.

Beth wanted to thank everyone for the support she received throughout her time as a Councilmember. She went through a lot of transitions while in her role and she always felt supported and welcomed during the meetings.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 pm by a vote of 6 out 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 by emailing IDDEAS@Denvergov.org. Recordings and other information can be found at the [IDDEAS webpage](#).