



# IDDEAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

**Date:** 02/25/2025

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 PM

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

## **Summary:**

- The group went over Conflict of Interests and the importance of completing these forms for DHS. DHS described what a conflict of interest was and what that would mean if a Councilmember had one they needed to disclose.
- DHS discussed recruitment work happening for 4 open seats on the Council. Applications are currently open until April 1 and posted on the IDDEAS webpage. The group discussed the target communities in which DHS is doing intentional recruitment with in order to have voices of currently underrepresented groups on the Council. DHS requested the IAC offer any support in connecting with relevant networks and going through the interview process with applicants.
- There were two public comments submitted for today's meeting.

## **Discussion topics for next meeting:**

- Future agenda items include an update on DHS's public relations and marketing work as well as planning for both a casual in-person meet up and an in-person business meeting.



# IDDEAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date (9/24/2024) Time

## Attendance:

1. Alexa Gagner
2. Brian Be
3. Chris Patton
4. Michelle Dumay
5. Molly Mason
6. Stefanie Gross
7. Kizzly Blue (non-voting member)

## Guests:

9

## Absent:

1. Jessica Raichle

## DHS Staff:

- Michaela Hennig
- Corey Boyle
- Jordan Mulholland
- Lynn Kutner
- Jordan Humphreys
- Anyone else visible and present

## I. Call to Order

Meeting began at 1:06pm. Co-chair Brian Be went over the agenda, introduced IDDEAS and meeting ground rules. Councilmembers introduced themselves.

## II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Alexa motioned to approve the minutes. Stefanie seconded. One member abstained, and four voted for approval.

## III. Council Updates

Molly shared the Special Olympics Colorado is hosting their annual fundraisers that include multiple 5ks and Polar Plunges throughout the State. You can run, walk, roll, stroll, or just come to support.

Brian shared he was at a community health resource fair and named several people he engaged with. It was for people with disabilities, people without insurance, and people with Medicaid to connect with each other and vendors that offer resources.



For the CAC update, Molly shared the group discussed by-laws and Council's purpose and scope and plans for next month. Kizzly added that the group also discussed their Community Initiatives awards, with a total of 16 awardees and 8 of them being returning awardees.

#### **IV. Form Review and Conflicts of Interests**

Corey discussed with the Council the expectation of members to complete a Conflict-of-Interest form, of which documents affiliations, relationships, and financial interests. These need to be filled out every year. If you have any changes to the form, you must fill out a new form with this information.

Corey discussed why this was important because the group is representing the needs of the community here in Denver and not to use your membership for individual gain. When a conflict of interest is possible, please declare it, recuse yourself, and abstain from official action and votes. Jordan Humphreys, the City Attorney advisor for the group, discussed that this group is used to advise DHS on recommending ways to spend the mill levy fund. Consider this when making decision, as to how your recommendations will benefit the I/DD community rather than how it will benefit you or someone you have a relationship with directly. Jordan Humphreys gave several examples, including a situation in which an organization applied for funding, and it turned out that member of their Board of Directors was also an IAC member, which was never disclosed. This was a major conflict of interest that had unfortunate implications in the funding decisions made. Brian added his own thoughts on the importance of these disclosures and encouraged the group to consider this more closely when filling out the form.

Corey walked through steps to go through when you discover you may have a conflict of interest. Please see the PowerPoint deck for a description of this process.

Alexxa asked if someone has a new conflict of interest to report, what do you do? Corey shared to reach out to Corey, and they will provide a new form for you to fill out.

Michaela asked if the conflict of interest form has to include any conflicts that immediate family members may have. Corey agreed, and Michaela shared this is important related to funding proposals and decisions. If we don't know about it, we may find out about it later, when it's too late, through a funding application and in which case, DHS could therefore not be able to make an award to that specific group.

Before break, Corey acknowledged Chris's question in the chat about if we could know the previous RMHS Community Initiatives awardees who were awarded again. Kizzly shared those awardees are: Access Gallery, Ability Connections RAMP, Colorado Cross Disability Coalition, El Grupo Vida, Jovial Gardens, TACT, Rise School of Denver

**V. Break.** Stefanie left the meeting at this time, however, there still was a quorum.

#### **VI. 2025 Recruitment Planning**



Before moving into recruitment, Michelle wanted to provide her update since she was unable to during Council Updates earlier due to commuting to her home office. Michelle shared concerns over 1 trillion worth of cuts proposed at the federal level, with a large portion of that money proposed to cut Medicaid significantly. She mentioned there is still time to act and this directly impacts our community. She shared in Colorado we have within our Constitution that we must fund Medicaid. However, for the 50,000 waiver recipients, this is not a federal mandate. Therefore, its up to the State to figure out how to fund these waiver services. CCDC will be having a town hall on this on Thursday 2/27 from 4-5:30pm in case anyone would like to join. She placed the link to join into the chat.

Corey discussed update to the recruitment process and shared that applications are posted on our website. The applications are also translated to Spanish and Vietnamese and asked to let them know if you need translated copies for anyone. DHS is looking to intentionally outreach to underrepresented communities including BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, children and 3-17, older adult populations, specific Council districts 1, 2,3,5 and 9, and folks who identify as Hispanic/Latino.

Corey has been doing intentional recruitment to attempt to engage with these groups to share these open positions. However, Corey wanted to ensure Councilmembers had a chance to weigh in on this process. They will also have a chance to further be involved in the interview process. They use equitable and accessible ways to interview people in attempt to best select these positions. Corey opened the floor to the Council for questions and suggestions.

Molly shared she has been engaging with her community about these opportunities and asked for a flyer that she could give out to help explain the role. Corey will send out the flyer and information to interested Council members.

Michelle asked if it was appropriate to acknowledge now that one may like to be involved in the interview process. Corey shared it is appropriate for anyone to share now if there's interest in this type of involvement. Additionally, Corey asked the Council how else folks could be involved more generally in this first part of the recruitment. What networks are you connected to, who might you know that Corey could reach out to? Or could you reach out to them with guidance on how to describe the role? Main request is to use your individual networks and draw on these relationships to elevate voices of our I/DD community.

Michelle offered to support in the interview process. Corey reminded the group they are recruiting 4 total new members.

Brian asked in the chat – can the flyer be sent to the organizations that Kizzly shared early that were awarded funds from RMHS Community Initiatives. Corey said we could work on getting these flyers to those organizations.

Brian offered to support in the interviews as well.



Corey asked new members to share any feedback they have on how the process was for them.

Alexxa shared that her recruitment process was great and DHS was very responsive and supportive during the interview. She offered that she would share along this opportunity to her network. She suggested sharing on social media, specifically LinkedIn.

Molly shared she thought the recruitment process was very professional for her. One thing that may have been helpful would be to offer to potential candidates the timeline and process they can expect after applying. Corey shared they are trying to get back to everyone who's applied that applications will close in April, however, it is difficult to provide information on when interview may happen given, they involve coordinating with multiple people.

Corey is happy to provide some graphics that folks can include in any social media posts they may want to share. They also asked if anyone on the Council has any direct connections to the target populations described earlier, please share with Corey these connections.

Brian suggested El Grupo Vida, specifically the ED, Jose Torrez-Vega who may be able to support in these connections.

Brian asked if there was space today to talk about next month's agenda. Corey shared, yes there will be 5 mins at the end.

Brian asked, for those who may be interested and applied but weren't selected, what can we do to continue to engage them? Brian wants to be doing some work with them this year and invited others to join in on this project. Corey reminded Brian that we can't conduct business outside of these spaces with more than 2 Councilmembers, however, we could always explore subcommittee groups.

Jordan H shared that volunteer groups are great, and if you've taken the time to volunteer and you're not putting yourself up for elections, consider challenging yourself in these other spaces, such as hosting a subcommittee. Showing up is important, and showing up and committing to new spaces is even better.

## **VII. Public Comment**

Corey reminded Councilmembers standard process: in order to make a public comment, you must submit it in writing by 1pm the day before the meeting to our [ideas@denvergov.org](mailto:ideas@denvergov.org). Staff will read the two public comments out loud. That comment will be memorialized into the meeting minutes. Any remaining time left after reading the comment, the commenters can expand upon their comment verbally. They must stay on topic with what they originally submitted.



For Councilmembers: please listen very intentionally and mindfully. Do not interrupt the commenters. Corey will be the only one able to interrupt, should it be necessary. If you would like to have time to discuss the public comment, we can include it in the next meeting.

Record public comment here by copying and pasting submitted responses. Include name and organization affiliation along with the comment and potential additional comments made in meeting.

Brian agreed to read the public comment but acknowledged that he is involved with the project vocalized in the second comment. Jordan Humphreys did not see a problem with him reading the second comment because of this.

The first public comment is by Elisa Aucancela: *Hi, my name is Elisa Aucancela, Co-Executive Director of El Grupo Vida, a non-profit organization supporting immigrants with disabilities and their families through training, resources (including basic needs), and connection with services. I would like to provide an update on the impact of new policies on the lives of immigrants with IDD and their families in Denver. These past weeks have brought the reality of collective fear due to ICE raids and the targeting of low-income apartments and shelters. A group of organizations, including EGV, has been advocating through various initiatives: "Know Your Rights" training Mental health support Distribution of flyers and information with tools to maintain calm in difficult situations One of the concerns we are facing is delivering this information effectively to our IDD population. We are working to provide the information in various formats and create opportunities for practical training exercises. Additionally, I would like to share that we continue receiving newcomers with IDD. Due to the closure of newcomer programs such as the Denver Asylum Seeker Program, Denver lacks shelter capacity to support them. The Salvation Army is currently the only organization supporting unhoused families, and their waiting list is so long that people must call daily and may wait weeks or months to enter the program. El Grupo Vida has been working with unhoused IDD newcomers and their families by providing: Case management; Support groups; Emergency support. The partnership with the Mill Levy Program and Mission support from Rocky Mountain Human Services has been life-changing for families, helping them transition from being unhoused to finding a place they can call home. Thank you for this opportunity. Additional verbal info provided by Elisa: We have a Know Your Rights meeting March 11, Tuesday, from 5-7pm. I have a flyer I can send to you to share with the Council.*

**VIII.** The second public comment is by Desiree Kameka Galloway from Neuro-Inclusive Housing Solutions: *Neuro-Inclusive Housing Solutions is seeking self-advocate and family member participants across the state to gather for in-person and/or virtual regional Focus Groups to help us understand:*

*a) why adults with I/DD and their families desire intentional communities as a housing option*



*b) what fears do people have about intentional communities*

*c) what policy or regulations can be used to protect intentional communities from becoming institutional in nature*

*Would you be able to assist in outreach by:*

*- Sending out an email to your constituents with I/DD? (we can provide the content)*

*- Sharing about the study in an upcoming newsletter? (we can provide the content)*

*Thank you for your time and all you do for adults with I/DD and their families.*

Additional verbal info: Thank you so much. I'm Desiree Kameka Galloway. Super excited about this research, funding by the Developmental Disabilities Council. The focus group in Denver has not yet been decided on in terms of the specific day, location, or time. It's important to go to the website [ihccolorado.org](http://ihccolorado.org) and go to the 'Get Involved' tab to find 'Intentional Communities Research'. We will have a focus group in Denver, I hope you all will be interested in participating and if you have any interest in getting the word out, please reach out to me.

Brian thanks those who signed up and thanked the Council members for following the process.

## **IX. Forecasting next meeting**

Corey asked for a call for any agenda items for next month. Alexxa shared she remembered some information about a public relations campaign last fall and would love an update on this work during next meeting to hear more and better understand ways we could get involved.

Michelle asked if we landed on which meetings we were going to attempt to hold in-person? Corey shared we never came up with specific dates for upcoming in-person meetings. They invited Councilmember to share what months they may want to get together for non-business meetings.

Jordan M thought there was a discussion about hosting one or two business meetings in-person that Michelle might have been talking about. Corey would have to look at the minutes to see what was discussed. Michelle then asked, would it be improper to have a hybrid social meeting and a hybrid business meeting? Corey said no, we could do that, and it would require more planning ahead of time to identify a location and who may be able to attend in-person. Alexxa shared she liked Michelle's idea of one casual meeting and one



business meeting, and suggested scheduling it out ahead time so people plan accordingly. Molly agreed to the idea of doing this and scheduling in advance.

Corey acknowledged this request and shared they would work on it, but that they could use some help. Corey asked Jordan Humphrey's if there's any concern with completing this request or staffing meetings, to which Jordan H said this was a good question and if there is 2 or fewer people working in this, there should be no problem, unless they wanted to hold a subcommittee.

Michelle moved for a subcommittee to help Corey schedule an in-person meeting. Molly seconded. 4 voted yes, therefore initiating a subcommittee.

#### **X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3 pm Michelle motioned, and Molly seconded, and a vote of yes for 3 of 4 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](#).*