

IDDEAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

Date: 09/30/2025

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

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

Summary:

- The Council voted on and approved By Laws revisions related to quorum and subcommittees.
- Passed through a vote, the Council's quorum will now be simple majority (meaning more than half).
- Passed through a vote, the Council can now create sub-committees to discuss priority areas identified by the Council or by DHS to support in reviewing a recommendation. Sub-committee gatherings must be less than a quorum. Members of the sub-committee must report out to the larger Council a summary of what was discussed at the next formal Advisory Council meeting.
- The Council spent time discussing the topics of August's meeting on supporting Spanish-speaking individuals with I/DD and their families.
- The Council voted on and formally adopted the following recommendations:
 - (1) *"Ensure Denver residents can access IDDEAS mill levy funds regardless of documentation status and/or preferred language and make funds available through IDDEAS-contracted partners to fill gaps in services for residents with I/DD who do not qualify for Medicaid."*
 - (2) *"Explore ways to increase awareness of, and access to, I/DD and early intervention services to individuals and families who speak languages other than English."*
- The meeting was interpreted into Spanish by Yamila Zayat with the Translation & Interpreting Center of Denver. All content originally presented in Spanish (and interpreted into English during the meeting) is not available in the audio recording posted on the IDDEAS website and is therefore described in detail within the meeting minutes.

Discussion topics for next meeting:

- October's meeting will include a presentation from the Autism Community Store per a requirement outlined in their contract with DHS IDDEAS.
- October's meeting will also include time to discuss and create sub-committees.
- The meeting will be hybrid format, meaning Councilmembers are welcome to attend in-person or virtually. The in-person setting will be at DHS's Castro building – 1200 Federal Blvd, Denver, CO 80204.



IDDEAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date (9/30/2025) 1:00-3:00PM

Attendance:

1. Alexxa Gagner
2. Jessica Raichle
3. Michelle Dumay
4. Molly Mason
5. Julissa Soto
6. Alicia Cooper
7. Seth Grove
8. Adriana Delatorre
9. Kizzly Blue (non-voting member)

Guests:

5

Absent:

1. Stefanie Gross
2. Brian Be
3. Chris Patton

DHS Staff:

- Michaela Hennig
- Jordan Mulholland
- Lynn Kutner
- Tom Gamache
- Richard Moore
- Whitney Nettleton

I. Call to Order

Meeting began at 1:05PM. Alicia motioned to begin, and Jessica seconded. Councilmembers introduced themselves.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Seth motioned to approve without revisions. Alicia seconded. 2 members abstained, 5 voted yes and 0 voted no. Minutes were approved.

III. Council Updates

Alica invited the group to the Denver Commission for People with Disabilities Community Forum on October 11th from 11am-2pm. It will be held at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library - 2401 Welton St, Denver, CO 80205 - and is a chance for people to share their voices and experiences. [Members of the public can register here.](#)

Jessica shared that there is an [RTD Board meeting tonight](#) to discuss proposals for changes to the Access-On-Demand program. These changes could include requiring people to pay a



fee, cutting the number of rides per person monthly, or cutting the amount allocated for rides from \$25 to \$20 per ride.

Michaela announced that IDDEAS has moved to a new division within Denver Human Services under the leadership of Whitney Nettleton. Whitney introduced herself to the group and acknowledged that DHS is going through some reorganization. Therefore, a new division was created to better streamline programming and services. The goal is to have adult, aging and disability populations under one umbrella to make changes that really center the communities being served.

Molly provided a report out from the CAC – they did not meet in September but will be meeting in person in October. For the August meeting, [RMHS shared information about the Mill Levy Forums](#) coming up that will focus on transition services for families and individuals. There will be one in-person on October 8th and one virtually on October 15th. Molly shared the August meeting also had a presentation from Gym Guys, a mill levy recipient, on their work with supporting people with I/DD in transportation to access nutrition services and working out.

IV. Breathing in Uncertainty

Jessica shared “don’t let the garbage pull you down because it definitely wins even more if it pulls you down with it.” Alicia shared that she agreed with Jessica in these trying times. She shared as she raises a little girl she thinks about others who are also raising children and those raising children with I/DD.

V. Revising By Laws for Quorum and Sub-Committees

Michaela shared proposed language changes to the by-laws on quorum and sub-committees.

For quorum:

Quorum means the minimum number of council members present to be able to hold a meeting and conduct business.

Now that the Council has 11 members, DHS proposed that the quorum get changed to ensure better representation when conducting business and voting. DHS proposed that the quorum got changed from 3 to “simple majority” which means “more than half” or more than 50% of the full Council in attendance. Since there are 11 members currently, simple majority would mean at least 6 members present at a meeting to call it to order. See the Powerpoint slide 14 or By Laws page 5 to read the proposed language change.

Michelle expressed concerns about acknowledging “at a meeting” in the language creates confusion and suggested changing the language for more clarity. Therefore, the suggested language change that was voted on was: “The presence of no less than a simple majority of all voting Council Members will constitute a quorum.”



Michelle asked the Council to vote on the quorum language as amended. Jessica motioned to approve the amended language for the quorum. Julissa seconded. 8 Councilmembers voted yes, 0 voted no.

For sub-committees:

DHS proposed new language in the By-Laws to allow the Council to create sub-committees. The intention of sub-committees would be to discuss priority areas identified by the Council or by DHS to support in reviewing a recommendation. Please see the powerpoint slide 15 or By-Laws page 5-6 for full proposed language.

The proposed language acknowledges that all sub-committees meeting must have less than a quorum in attendance. This is to ensure that the Council is not conducting official business outside of a public meeting.

The language also proposed that sub-committees will last no more than 6 months at a time and can be extended by vote with the larger Council for an additional 6 months. Additionally, all sub-committee meetings must be reported on in the next formal Council meeting. The current proposed language would not require developing meeting minutes, but rather, the sub-committee members would just be required to provide a brief summary at the next Council meeting.

Lastly, the proposed language included that sub-committees are an exception to the main rule on open meetings, which states that all meetings need to be publicly accessible. Sub-committee meetings are an exception to this rule, understanding that these meetings will not have a quorum. (Powerpoint slide pg. 16 or By laws Page 7)

Amendment on Rules and Regulations language:

Procedural changes to language on abiding by all applicable City and County regulations, ordinances, and policies rather than the current Human Rights and Community Partnership language. See powerpoint slide 17, or By Laws page 10 for the complete language.

Michelle asked for a motion to vote on the amended language for sub-committees, open meetings, and rules and regulations amendments. Jessica motioned to approve. Alicia seconded. 7 voted yes, 0 no's.

VI. Break

VII. Follow up Discussion from August Meeting

This time was held for a meaningful conversation on the presentations last month on supporting Spanish speaking individuals and families with I/DD.



Julissa acknowledged the presentations were great but she felt that the many organizations were explaining the work that they do in our community but had not seen their work with people with disabilities specifically. Julissa had concerns about these organizations sharing things in order to get funding. Michaela added that while we did hear from different individual service providers, the goal of this conversation is about what needs are out there that are not being filled that DHS should consider. She encouraged the group to, rather than discussing specific organizations, discuss the content of the meeting itself. Michelle reiterated Julissa's concerns and shared that whatever organization that comes to speak to the Council should first focus on how they are serving the I/DD community specifically. Michaela thanked Michelle for that feedback and acknowledged that she instructed the presenters to provide an overview of their work in the presentations just to showcase all of the services available to the I/DD community.

Jessica suggested that maybe these organizations needed more training to serve our I/DD community acknowledging how it could be difficult to speak to these things if they don't have this kind of expertise or competency.

Adriana presented in Spanish. Her presentation was interpreted into English by Yamila Zayat with Translation and Interpreting Center of Denver. Adriana said "I think it's important to take into account those comments because one thing is to be exclusive and another to say the organization is focused on serving the community with IDD. The I/DD world is huge and there is not a lot of information so it's hard to get the information that we need. I would like to see organizations that want to serve these communities to get all the information and the knowledge that they can because that will allow them to help us better. If that's what they are dedicated to, then they need to provide constant communication and information. This should not be a one-off or one time a year or one event a year. That's not what this is about. I think it's important that if you're providing a resource to follow up on that to see how the resources were used and kind of have a plan. And asked them okay, you served these people how did you make sure that the information was able to reach all of them? What did you do? How did you help them? That's my perspective because I have seen it. There are a lot of organizations say they work as organizations but I think the communication and information needs to be more constant and more clear. Speaking specifically on the Spanish-speaking communities, there are very few organizations that are dedicated to supporting this type of community and the ones that do, kind of do it halfway. That's it, thank you."

Julissa agreed that organizations don't provide the help all the way through. She is looking for an organization who can talk to us about how they can help families on mixed status or undocumented apply for services.

Jordan shared that it would be helpful for DHS to understand how best we can use our funds to support this community. She stated they DHS cannot know and meet all the organizations that exist and all of the work that they do, but they can provide funding to fill gaps in



services based on what the Council asks for, so that any organization can apply and attempt to fill these needs.

Julissa shared that the community needs navigators that understand exactly what the programs look like and how to get connect, immigration lawyers that we can contract with who can advise this community, etc. who can support them.

Julissa discussed how it's difficult to get a hold of people. She spoke on how important it is to have opportunities for people to call and get help in their own language and speak to someone without being put through an interpreter.

Michaela walked team through potential recommendations the council could vote on for DHS to consider:

“Ensure Denver residents can access IDDEAS mill levy funds regardless of documentation status and/or preferred language and make funds available through IDDEAS-contracted partners to fill gaps in services for residents with I/DD who do not qualify for Medicaid.”

“Explore ways to increase awareness of, and access to, I/DD and early intervention services to individuals and families who speak languages other than English.”

Alicia moved to adopt both recommendations as written. Jessica seconded. 6 voted yes. 0 voted no.

VIII. Public Comment

There were no public comment submissions for this meeting.

IX. Planning for Next Meeting

Next meeting will be Tuesday October 28th, from 1:00-3:00pm and in a hybrid setting (in-person or virtually). The group voted for the in-person setting to be at Castro. Autism Community Store will be presenting during the meeting as a part of their contracted obligations. Additionally, the Council will discuss sub-committee creations. Due to Holiday, November's will be rescheduled to December 9th.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm by a vote of 7 of 8 participating members. Julissa motioned. Alexxa seconded

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 [3](#). Recordings and other information can be found at the [IDDEAS webpage](#).