



IDDEAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

Date: 10/28/2025

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Location: Hybrid: 1200 Federal Blvd Denver, CO 80204 or Virtual (Go to the [IDDEAS Advisory Council website](#) to see meeting recordings)

Summary:

- Councilmembers met and engaged with DHS Executive Director, Anne-Marie Braga.
- DHS went over a proposed subcommittee protocol. Councilmembers voted to approve the protocol with the revision that participation must include a minimum of 2 (two) Councilmembers per each subcommittee created.
- Julissa proposed the creation of a Bridge Initiatives Subcommittee to inform DHS on experiences of Denver residents and families with I/DD who are immigrants, to inform DHS how to get information to these communities, and to foster connection and understanding. This subcommittee was formally approved and created by unanimous vote.
- 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:

- Council members will continue to discuss and create subcommittees.
- Sensory Friendly Denver will present to the IAC on services provided as a part of their contract requirements.



IDDEAS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date (10/29/2025) 1:00-3:00PM

Attendance:

1. Alexa Gagner
2. Brian Be (partial)
3. Jessica Raichle
4. Molly Mason (partial)
5. Stefanie Gross (partial)
6. Julissa Soto (partial)
7. Alicia Cooper
8. Seth Grove
9. Adriana Delatorre
10. Kizzly Blue (non-voting member)

Guests:

7

Absent:

1. Chris Patton
2. Michelle Dumay

DHS Staff:

- Michaela Hennig
- Jordan Mulholland
- Lynn Kutner
- Bob Wolf
- Rob Baker
- Anne-Marie Braga (partial)

I. Call to Order

Meeting began at 1:15pm. Brian had to leave early and Michelle was absent, therefore the Council nominated and voted for temporary co-chairs for this meeting. Alexa volunteered to be co-chair and was voted in by a vote of 6 Councilmembers. Alicia also volunteered and was voted in by a vote of 5 Councilmembers.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Stefanie voted to approve the minutes. Jessica seconded. 6 members voted yes and 1 abstained. Minutes were approved.

III. Breathing in Uncertainty

Alexa and Alicia shared uncertainty and worry around the federal shutdown preventing SNAP from being administered to individuals in November.



IV. Introductions with DHS Anne-Marie Braga, DHS Executive Director

DHS Executive Director joined the meeting in-person to introduce herself to the Councilmembers. Councilmembers introduced themselves as well.

V. Council Updates

Jessica asked the group if anyone knew what decision was made for the RTD Access-on-Demand changes. Erica Hostetler, guest and Mill Levy contracted partner, shared that recipients must re-enroll in Access-on-Demand starting November 3rd. Fares will now cost \$4.50, unless you qualify for RTD's LiVE program in which fares will cost \$2.25. Per-trip subsidy will be reduced from \$25 to \$20 and service hours were reduced so that there will now be no service between 1:30am and 3:30am. These changes are to take effect starting January 1, 2026.

Alicia announced that the Denver Commission for People with Disabilities (DCPD) is drafting revisions to the RTD Board's Bylaws that will require Board members to use RTD services for at least a week to get them to better understand user experiences with RTD.

Brian attended a developmental disabilities conference in Wyoming. He shared that many people with I/DD were there and had so much to say. He was grateful that Denver created many opportunities for people with I/DD to share their voices.

Stefanie shared an event called Yoga Wave that will be happening November 11th for all DPS schools. This is a mill levy funded event on adaptive wellness and yoga for over 500+ students. There will also be a resource fair. If anyone is interested in volunteering or attending, reach out to Stefanie to sign up in advance.

Jordan shared a new IDDEAS funded RFP that was published on October 15th. This RFP is for continued housing navigation services due to the BE HOME contract coming to an end. One change includes a partnership with the City and County of Denver's Department of Housing Stability (HOST) to leverage dollars and better support Denver residents experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness. The RFP, and future contact(s) are being run and managed by HOST. DHS will support with subject-matter expertise and building bridges between both housing and I/DD systems. There will be a pre-bid meeting on October 29th for organizations interested in applying to learn more. Please direct any questions about this RFP to HOSTProcurements@denvergov.org.

Molly provided updates on last month's CAC meeting. School Savvy presented to the CAC on their Community Initiatives programming. Additionally, during the meeting, RMHS shared that they are changing the way they are doing their funding for the next iteration of the Community Initiatives Program. This includes moving away from their annual RFP and making some strategies changes.

VI. Break

VII. Subcommittee Protocol

Michaela walked the Council through a drafted Subcommittee protocol that was provided to Councilmember prior to and during the meeting. The protocol outlined expectations around creating a subcommittee, its duration, duties, and process. There was a discussion on whether there should be a minimum number of Councilmembers participating in a subcommittee. The drafted protocol did not set a minimum. Jessica suggested that the protocol be revised to include a minimum of 2 (two) Councilmembers per subcommittee and Councilmembers agreed.

Seth asked how often subcommittees would meet. Michaela advised that the protocol was written to allow for flexibility of each subcommittee to determine the needed frequency and time commitment of the meetings. She mentioned that DHS was considering moving regular IAC meetings to every other month to allow for subcommittees to meet on the off-months, but that is not required per this protocol.

Adriana asked how long subcommittee members would have to do their work. Michaela explained that per the revised bylaws, they would have up to 6 months to complete the work, with an option to extend the subcommittee by another 6 months.

Jessica motioned to approve the subcommittee protocol with the revision that each subcommittee consists of a minimum of 2 (two) Councilmembers. Seth seconded. The subcommittee protocol, with the requested revision, was approved by a vote of 6 out of 7 Councilmembers.

VIII. Creation of Subcommittees

Julissa suggested creating a Policy, Advocacy, and Immigration Subcommittee to learn more about how we can help immigrant families, what is affecting that community and their access to care, and what is important to them.

Michaela expressed pause about including 'Policy' and 'Advocacy' in the subcommittee name, as policy and advocacy work generally falls outside of the scope of the IDDEAS program and advisory council. Michaela noted that the purpose of the subcommittee would be to gather additional information about lived experience of those with I/DD to help DHS understand how to use our funds to fill gaps in services or improve existing services. Michaela reflected on comments made by Julissa and Adrianna in past meetings, about 1) the importance of understanding the experience of immigrant families with I/DD or developmental delay and 2) that immigrant families, and families with mixed documentation status, don't know what resources are available to them, or how to access them. Michaela proposed a subcommittee that would investigate the experience of immigrant families with I/DD or developmental delay in accessing services and how to better share information about available services and support.

Julissa expressed agreement.



Adrianna clarified (as interpreted): “I mean the I/DD community in general, regardless of whether they are immigrants or whether they speak Spanish, I believe the I/DD community has information and knows there are resources, but they need more information, we need more outreach, and they need to know how to access the resources.”

Adriana also stated (as interpreted): “I would love for you guys to make sure the organizations that claim they are doing this work or focusing on this community are actually doing the work. Sometimes I think because of the name, it is assumed that they are doing the work, and it isn’t always the case.”

Julissa proposed calling the subcommittee “‘Bridge Initiatives Subcommittee’ with an immigration and outreach focus and we can include refugees and everyone else. We are going to be the bridge between those with disabilities and government programs or state programs, we are going to help them navigate those systems too. Focus on mix status families and organizations that serve this type of population. It’s not as inclusive but we understand what our focus is. The subcommittee would last at least six months and may be expanded if needed and voted on. The goals of the subcommittee would be to inform DHS on experiences of Denver residents and families with I/DD who are immigrants, to inform DHS how to get information to these communities, and to foster connection and understanding.

Michaela suggested the following objective: “To inform DHS on the experience of Denver families with I/DD and developmental who are immigrants or speak another language in accessing service and to inform DHS on how to best share information on resources and services to these communities.”

Julissa agreed and said to add that “the bridge seeks to foster connection and understanding and equitable support between the I/DD community and immigrant communities and the broader public because we going after, we are also going to work with non-profit agencies and government. The objective should be to develop and promote outreach programs and policy recommendations (if we don’t want policy that’s okay) and community partnerships .

To inform and foster connection and understanding and equitable support between I/DD immigrant communities and the broader public. That way we include others.

Adriana stated (as translated): I put in the chat: “Bridging the Information Gaps in the I/DD area.” It’s more generic and we’re not focusing on any particular community within the I/DD community.”

Alicia noted the following proposal for a subcommittee as suggested by Julissa in the chat:

- Name: Bridge Initiative Subcommittee



- Objective: Building connections to promote inclusion, strengthen community engagement with I/DD and their families.
- Duties: Bridge gaps between I/DD community service providers and the broader public through outreach, advocacy, and education

Michaela asked the council to think about what specific information, relevant to IDDEAS funded programs, the subcommittee would share with DHS and disseminate to the community.

Julissa noted that she was thinking of: “ ‘Charlas’ or focus groups in an informal way; going to a church and speaking to a captive audience about what their needs are. What are their stories? Julissa said she is meeting with moms of children with disabilities. Julissa said she is organizing a mental health conference with immigrant women – they are going to speak at the conference. What would they like to know, what do they need from us, do they even know we exist, talk to us about the programs that have worked and what hasn’t. We’ll bring that information to you guys, channel that information, create best practice to those who are receiving funding from us. Julissa stated, we need to hear the voice of immigrants. They are the caretakers of people with disabilities. We need to hear their voice. Their voices are not loud enough.”

Seth motioned to approve the subcommittee. Julissa seconded. 6 of the 6 of the advisory council members who were still in the meeting (Brian, Molly, and Stefanie left early) vote to approve.

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment submitted for this meeting.

X. Forecasting next meeting

Alicia requested that the group continue to discuss subcommittees at the next meeting, as there are more Councilmembers with subcommittee ideas needing discussed. Michaela agreed to hold time for that and also acknowledged that they will be saving at least 30 minutes for a contracted partner program, Sensory Friendly Denver, to present as a part of their contract requirements during that meeting.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04pm by a motioned by Jessica and second by Julissa.

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](#).