

May 8, 2025 Executive Committee Minutes

Attendee Council Members: Brady Werger, Hugh Kelly, George Thompson, Rob Roozeboom

Council Staff: Brooke Lovelace, Carlyn Crowe, Lindsay Hommer

Other Council Members: Kevin Harris, Wendy Andersen, Charlene Wyatt-Sauer

A meeting of the Iowa Developmental Disability Council (DD Council) Executive Committee (EC) was held on May 8, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Werger.

Contingency Plan for the DD Council:

- It is uncertain whether the DD Council will receive funding for 2026.
- The DD Council has only received about half of the 2025 award which is \$349,094.
- Scenario #1 is the best scenario, and it states that if we get all of the funding for 2025 and 2026, the Council can continue as is.
- Scenario #2, if the Council does not receive the remaining funding for 2025, our obligations would be \$100,000 over our funding if we continue as is.
 - If by June 10th the Council has still not received our Notice of Award (NOA) for the remaining 2025 funds, the Council would need to have serious conversations about cancelling all contracts and the MYM! conference.
 - The Council office would most likely close by September 30, 2025.
- Scenario #3, the Council receives 10% less funding for 2026.
 - This would mean the Council has less funding for projects and contracts, but we would not have to cut contracts.
- Scenario #4, the Council receives 25% less funding for 2026.
 - The Council would have less money for projects and contracts, but the Council would be okay.
- Scenario #5, the Council receives 50% less funding for 2026.
 - The Council would not be able to cover all the administrative costs.
 - There is a stipulation in the grant funding that states we can only spend 30% of the funds on administrative costs.
 - The Council could use \$53,138 of 2025 funds to cover our administrative costs of \$425,413 and not go over the 30% administrative cap. The Council would need only \$39,388 to cover administrative costs.

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- \$277,902 would remain for contracts and projects. We would need to decrease or eliminate contract spending.
 - Harris pointed out that office rent is \$32,000. Lovelace stated that if we decide to cancel this contract, we would need to talk to our fiscal staff about how or if we could do this.
 - HHS stated we could ask to have the \$32,000 waived that we pay if our funding decreases.
- Scenario #6 is worst case scenario.
 - We would have \$323,168 left from our 2025 funds. 30% of this can be spent on administrative costs. The Council would close in November 2025.
 - If we received approval to spend the remaining \$323,168 on administrative costs, the Council would remain open until May 2026.
- Most of the MYM! conference is funded through the funds allocated for the contract with Capture Management. Most of the sponsorships funds that are received for this conference are used to pay for things that cannot be funded with federal funds, such as the prizes that are given away, swag, and meals.
- Thompson asked if Congress usually follows the President's proposed budget plan. Lovelace stated that Congress usually chooses on their own what to fund no matter what the President's administration suggests.
 - Disability Rights Iowa (DRI), University Centers for Excellence in Development Disabilities (UCEDD), and the DD Council sent a joint letter to all members of Congress outlining what we do and how devastating not funding these programs could be to the state of Iowa. People will go back to institutions eventually.
- Andersen asked if there are other ways to receive funding besides the federal government. Lovelace stated the leaked Office of Management and Budget budget states that funds will be given to the Centers for Independent Living and then that money will be given back to the state to apply for grants. The Council could then apply for a grant through Health and Human Services (HHS).
- Lovelace stated that DRI, UCEDD, and the DD Council are mandated under federal law.
 - Federal law states that there must be an Executive Director of the DD Council.
 - Harris asked if Council staff could be shared across states. Lovelace stated that this is a possibility.

- Some possibilities to save money are to meet virtually for our July meeting and new member orientation in August.
- We are not approving any sponsorships right now.
- If we lose federal funding, we can end contracts legally.
- Roozeboom asked if there are any private entities that the DD Council could reach out to for funding.

Budget Review:

- The DD Council is cutting back on travel and sponsorships.
- It will need to be voted on if we want to make July's meeting virtual.
 - EC would like to have the July meeting in-person.
 - EC would like to make the September meeting virtual.
 - A decision was not made on in-person or virtual meeting for Orientation in August.
- It costs approximately \$1,800 for an in-person meeting.

ID Action Account:

- Open since 2012.
- Sponsorship funds and T-shirt sales go into this account.
 - This account pays for exhibitor fees.
- There should be a board of directors for this account because ID Action is a non-profit 501©3 organization.
 - The Council members on the EC are currently listed as the board of directors.
- ID Action funds will now be reviewed quarterly by the EC.
- Capture Management manages this non-profit now.
- Lovelace believes she is listed as the Chair of this board.
- Andersen stated that if the EC members are listed as board members, they need to understand their responsibilities if they need to give their information, consent, and sign.
- A meeting will be set up with Capture Management and the EC to get a better understanding of how this should be managed.
- Crowe mentioned that there are advantages for the DD Council to be connected to a 501©3 non-profit organization, such as lobbying.

Council Member Update:

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- There are five self-advocate and one family member positions open on the DD Council.
- Lovelace met with the Governor's office this week and they have identified seven candidates for self-advocates and three for the family member positions. We also still have the Medicaid representative position open.
- The Governor's office indicated that these appointments will probably happen in the next couple of days.
- Thompson asked if Lovelace was aware if any of the candidates would help increase the diversity of the Council members. Lovelace was not sure.
- The Talent Bank is not going to be used going forward. They may be moving council applications to NeoGov.
- Werger invited Governor Reynolds to the celebration today after the meeting but she is unable to attend. She said that she is going to present Werger with a plaque for his years of service on the Council.

Make Your Mark Update:

- The Arc of Iowa has donated \$10,000. \$5,000 is to be used for the meal on the entertainment night and \$5,000 is to be used to pay for hotel costs.
- Iowa Total Care is giving \$1,500.
- IAble is giving \$1,500.
- Molina Healthcare is giving something, but we have not heard the amount yet.
- Lovelace stated that if anyone has any ideas of places that could possibly be sponsors to please let her know.
 - Suggestions were Maverick, Brawn Mobility, Freedom Motors, Roll X, Microsoft, and Innovation in Motion.
- We are currently looking for speakers for the conference.
- Lovelace suggested members share the MYM! flyer with their networks and businesses.
- Easterseals is sponsoring the calming room. They are also doing a speaking presentation about electronic accessibility.
- Werger asked if non-council members who are volunteering will get their hotel costs covered. Lovelace stated that they will.
- If the conference is cancelled, all sponsorships funds would be returned.

Workplan Discussion:

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- The Alternatives to Guardianship handbook and one-pagers are complete. These are written in clear language and are for people with lived experience.
- Rack card that say what the DD Council does have also been produced.

Cultural Diversity Discussion:

- There is one candidate for the DD Council who identifies as being deaf.
- Werger stated that the Council may want to do more community outreach to improve the diversity of the Council.
- Wyatt Sauer suggested sending a press release about the DD Council to local newspapers. Lovelace stated it would be good to have a subcommittee to figure out how to better reach underserved populations.

Other Items:

None

Adjourn:

Kelly made a motion to adjourn, and Roozeboom seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Action Items:

- A meeting will be set up with Capture Management and the EC to get a better understanding of ID Action.
- Members share the MYM! flyer with their networks and businesses.