

State Plan Committee Meeting Minutes July 22, 2025

Committee Members: Casey Wilkinson, Wendy Andersen, George Thompson, Charlene Wyatt Sauer, Kevin Harris

Council Staff: Brooke Lovelace, Carlyn Crowe, Lindsay Hommer

Committee Members Absent: Caitlin Owens

Meeting:

- **Strengths:**
 - Listening sessions that are point in time and address current issues.
 - Quality of events.
 - Relationships with legislators. Having time for council members and community members to develop relationships with legislators with Council support. Washington DC trip was helpful. Face to face interactions.
 - Getting the word out about what time people have to be at the Capitol for events, action alerts for events.
 - Partnering with other organizations.
 - MYM! conference. Community was brought about. Opportunity to “sell” the DD Council and get involvement.
 - Leadership and support that is provided by Council staff by attending events and reaching out to legislators.
 - Support and partnership with Allies in Advocacy.
 - There are several committees that people can volunteer to be a part of. Opportunities for Council members to be engaged.
 - Use of plain language.
 - Changes made to capitol chats have been positive. There is constructive dialogue and qualitative results. InfoNET is a useful resource.
 - Personal storytelling and how to distribute.
 - Having Dave Price at the MYM! conference adds legitimacy to the conversation while he moderates the discussion panel.
- **Weaknesses:**
 - Personal storytelling and how to distribute.
 - Capacity building efforts. For example, what happens with the students after YLA.
 - Seek out people with different socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds to join the Council to increase the diversity of the Council.
 - Potential council members cannot attend meetings due to location and/or

Creating change with and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in the community of their choosing.

time of meetings. One suggestion was to have virtual meetings. Due to state agencies being on the Council, meetings need to stay during the week during working hours.

- Targeted disparity goal.
- MYM! is not geared towards family members.
- Capitol days and availability of people to attend. Barriers need to be reduced such as transportation, childcare, funding, and accessibility.
- Disconnect between people in the communities and the Council member priorities. Survey respondents stated that what mattered most to them was health, housing, and community living. Council members said it was health, education, and employment.
- Key political analysts across the state.
- The Council's lack of ability to take a stand due to being a governmental agency.
- **Opportunities:**
 - Creating opportunities to have Council members get training so they can reach out to their legislators. Perhaps set a goal of how many times Council members reach out to their legislators.
 - Use of plain language.
 - Rebranding of InfoNET.
 - Personal storytelling and how to distribute.
 - Capitolize on YLA graduate on the Council.
 - Make town halls more accessible.
 - Meeting people where they are.
 - Listening post to review the survey data. Discuss the difference of council priorities and survey respondents' priorities. Discuss specific items.
 - Listening posts for trending topics.
 - How to identify touchpoints for the talent pool. People that the DD Council could partner with more often to collect their personal stories and use them in the DD Council's storytelling. How to get information into schools, provide reading materials to people providing initial diagnosis', tabling with community colleges and adult education.
 - Asking In The Bag to put a DD Council postcard in the lunches.
 - Participate in a podcast with Dave Price. Also, build relationships with political analysts across the state.
 - Tapping into parents who are the voices for their children. Having the children in the room while speaking with legislators.
 - Past Council focus has been at the state level. Now, there will be more coverage of federal issues.
 - Increase team building of the Council members. Familiarize the Council

Creating change with and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in the community of their choosing.

members with personal stories. Two council members could share their story at every Council meeting.

- Figuring out how to capture personal stories. Interview people at the MYM! conference. Utilize marketing students, journalism students, interns, and special education students. The MYM! conference would be an opportunity for students going into the healthcare or human services field to hear first-hand stories and learn from the attendees of the conference.
- **Threats:**
 - Not being able to reach some legislators due to political affiliation.
 - People being ambivalent to advocacy. People don't want to invest.
 - Funding instability.
 - Re-institutionalization. Lack of community services. Apathy of people that don't understand and don't care.

Other:

- At the next meeting, the group will discuss activities that could be done based on these results.

Next meeting:

August 18th at 1 PM

Action Items:

- Share State Plan checklist.
- Share Whiteboard