



Developmental Disabilities  
Council of Oklahoma

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## Board Members

David Blose, Yukon  
Margaret Bond, Broken Arrow  
Jeromy Buchanan, Okla. City  
Sherri Coats, Oklahoma City  
Brett Cunningham, Okla. City  
Janie Fugitt, Oklahoma City  
Shelly Greenhaw, Edmond  
Laura Haney, Tulsa  
Jacob Pyle, Norman  
Gina Richardson, Okla. City  
Susan Rutledge, Broken Arrow  
Beth Scrutchins, Okla. City  
Melissa Sublett, Tulsa  
Kodey Toney, Panama  
Lori Wieder, Stillwater  
Cynthia Wilkett, Tulsa  
Valerie Williams, Okla. City  
Bryce Wooten, Edmond

## Council Staff

**Planning & Grants Director**  
Jennifer Robinson

**Council Administrator**  
Alissa Patterson

**Advocacy Training Coordinator**  
Dr. Bradley Mays

**Self-Advocacy Training  
Coordinator**  
Morgan Davis

**Executive Director**  
Jenifer Randle

## Advocacy, Training, & Outreach (ATO) Committee Meeting Agenda








Friday, November 7, 12:15 p.m.  
2400 N. Lincoln Ave., Rm. C-48, OK City, OK 73125

Join ZoomGov Meeting:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1603375568?pwd=NuayxwyuHrrdfz3CuZRJdmbUIC8nC6.1>  
Meeting ID: 160 337 5568 Passcode: 8675309

Members attending online:

Laura Haney, 10858 S. 95<sup>th</sup> East Ave., Tulsa, OK 74133  
David Blose, 724 Ranchoak Dr., Yukon, OK 73099

- I.  Call to Order: Ms. Janie Fugitt, ATO Chair
- II.  Roll call and recognition of quorum: Ms. Janie Fugitt and Staff
- III.  Review of Aug 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Janie Fugitt
- IV.  Old Business & Possible Voting: Project Updates & Discussions:
  - a) PIP and YLF Updates: Bradley Mays
  - b) Self-Advocacy Training Updates: Morgan Davis
  - c) Council Marketing / Outreach Updates: Alissa Patterson
  - d) OK ABLE updates: RoseAnn Duplan
  - e) Candidate Questions & Answers
- V.  New Business & Possible Voting\*
- VI.  Announcements
- VII.  Adjournment

*ATO Committee Members: Janie Fugitt ATO Chair, David Blose, Margaret Bond, Brett Cunningham, RoseAnn Duplan, Laura Haney, Bryce Wooten*

*The mission of the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma is to advance communities where everyone has the opportunity to live, learn, work, and play where they choose. The Council builds partnerships to change systems to improve services, resources, and supports for Oklahomans with developmental disabilities and their families.*



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma  
Advocacy, Training & Outreach Committee Minutes

**DATE:** Friday, August 15, 2025


**TIME:** 11:45 am

**PLACE:** 2400 N. Lincoln Blvd, Room C-48, Oklahoma, OK 73125

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*BE IT REMEMBERED THAT on Friday, August 15, 2025, at 11:45 a.m., the Advocacy Training & Outreach Committee met 2400 N. Lincoln Blvd, Sequoyah Building, Room C-48, Oklahoma City, OK 73125 in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.*

*NOTICE of the schedule for all regular and special meetings of the DDCO Advocacy Training & Outreach Committee for the calendar year 2024 have been given in writing to the Oklahoma Secretary of State and public notice and agenda having been posted on the Council's website at or before 12:00 pm on Thursday, August 14, 2025, in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act, 25 O.S. Section 311.*

- I.  **CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Bond called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

- II.  **ROLL CALL:**

Present: David Blose, RoseAnn Duplan, for Melissa Sublett, Margaret Bond, Sharon Garrity

Members Online:

Members Absent: Janie Fugitt, Brett Cunningham

Guests:

Staff: Jennifer Robinson, Morgan Davis, Bradley Mays, Alissa Patterson (online), Jenifer Randle

Guests: Dee Blose


*By roll call, it was determined there was a quorum of members and business was conducted.*

- III.  **MINUTES REVIEW**

 **Discussion:** The committee reviewed the May 9, 2025 minutes.

**Action:** Ms. Garrity moved to approve the ATO May 9, 2025 minutes, seconded by Ms. Duplan.

 **AYES:** David Blose, RoseAnn Duplan, Margaret Bond, Sharon Garrity

 **NAYS:** None

**ABSTAIN:**

**MOTION:** Carried 

IV.



#### **Old Business & Possible Voting\*: Project Updates & Discussions.**



##### **DISCUSSION:**

##### **Partners in Policymaking & Youth Leadership Forum**

Dr. Mays reported that Partners in Policymaking would be starting next month with 31 applicants who have been selected. We're working on selecting a date for PIP Graduate Academy later this year, which will be a one-day session. Dates for YLF has been selected, June 9-13. Dr. Mays reported he had presented to around 25 people at a session during the Inclusive Communications Conference.

Ms. Duplan mentioned that LEND does a survey every year for their alumni and that maybe we could implement something like that. Other ideas from Ms. Bond include having graduates make short video reels about what they've done.

##### **Self-Advocacy Trainings**

Ms. Davis reported the contract with Galt hasn't been finished yet. One training course for Project SEARCH students in Norman is scheduled and working on scheduling a training course with Alicia Murie (past Council Member). Ms. Davis reported she spoke at the Inclusive Communications Conference, presenting her LEND studies on the effectiveness of one-page profiles.

##### **Council Marketing/Outreach:**

Ms. Randle presented social media outreach information. Engagement on social media pages (Council, YLF, PIP, Self-Advocacy) has been good with more people clicking on links and engaging. This shows posts are reaching the right audience and sparking their interest.

Ms. Bond asked if each of the pages shares each other's content. Ms. Patterson answered yes, we do.

##### **a) OK STABLE updates:**



Ms. Duplan reported that from May to July 21, there were 63 new ABLE accounts opened.

Ms. Duplan mentioned that during the month of August, there is a special promotion to encourage people to open ABLE accounts. If someone opens an account and starts it with the required \$25, that account will receive \$25. She also mentioned she and Ms. Wanda Felty will be having a virtual ABLE account training on Saturday, August 23.

## VII. New Business:

### **Candidate Questionnaire:**

The committee discussed Questions and Answers over several topics to send to Oklahoma Gubernatorial and possibly State Legislative Candidates. Questions are sorted into Charing the LifeCourse Life Domains and include questions about Medicaid, education, voting access, civil rights.

Guest Ms. Blose about adding a comment to connect candidates to someone who could help them with more information. Ms. Duplan agreed this would be a good idea, for those who may not have advisors.

Guest Ms. Blose suggested maybe providing some resources and best practices for candidates to help them learn more, maybe a website. Ms. Duplan mentioned that maybe we connect them to the UCEDDs.

The committee discussed using the word 'ensure' in some parts of the document as it could slant position. Staff will review the usage of this word. Questions to review include underneath the healthy living domain and the last question. Ideas to use to replace ensure include 'What ideas do you have?'

There was discussion about the question about disability history studies in all grade levels, should remove the word 'all'. The committee thought to remove the question in entirety, given the current climate.

Ms. Duplan suggested this wording for the question with ensure under healthy living: What is your plan to help Oklahomans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) remain in their communities and out of costly Medicaid funded institutions such as nursing homes and intermediate care facilities (ICFs).

## VIII. Announcements:

Ms. Blose announced that AutismOklahoma is hosting a virtual training about SSI, with SSI, targeting parents who are reaching retirement age in the fall.

## IX. **Adjournment:** Ms. Garrity moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Blose. All members approved. Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.



# Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

## PIP and YLF Advocacy Update

### **Partners in Policymaking (PIP)**

- Number of PIP students: 31
  - Family members: 18
  - Professionals: 9
  - Person with a lived experience: 4
- 2025-2026 PIP location/dates:
  - Connect Auditorium
  - Weekend 1 – Sept 26-27, 2025
  - Weekend 2 – Oct 17-18, 2025
  - Weekend 3 – Nov 7-8, 2025
  - Weekend 4 – Jan 9-10, 2026
  - Weekend 5 – Feb 6-7, 2026
  - Weekend 6 – Mar 6-7, 2026 – Mock Legislative Hearing
  - Weekend 7 – Apr 17-18, 2026 – Graduation

### **Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)**

- Preparations for the 23rd Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum are underway and tentatively scheduled for June 9-13

#### YLF June 2025 Recap:

- The 22<sup>nd</sup> Oklahoma YLF occurred at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) in Chickasha from June 10-14, 2025
  - Highlights:
    - Delegates participated in leadership, teambuilding, critical-thinking and listening activities throughout the week, including a trip to the State Capitol where they participated in a mock debate in the House of Representatives Chamber about SB 139, no cell phones at school. Delegates voted to pass the bill, 7-5
    - House Leader Munson spoke to the delegates about the importance of leadership. Representative Jacob Rosecrants served as House Speaker. Representative Mike Kelley attended the delegates during the debate
    - Etiquette dinner, talent show, dance, and Thunder watch party on the last evening.



## Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

- 16 delegates completed the week, finishing the week with a graduation ceremony, honoring their hard work and commitment to continue developing as leaders and self-advocates

### **Other Advocacy updates:**

- **Recent events:**

- Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy Fall Forum Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on October 15, 2025
- Recent events Governor's Disability Employment Awards of Excellence on October 14, 2025
- Presented at the 2025 Inclusive Communications Conference, July 16-17
- Presented at the 2025 Oklahoma APSE Employment Conference to 10 professionals and self-advocates titled: "Beyond Accommodations: Fostering Success in the Community and Workplace" on April 1, 2025 at Springlake MetroTech

- **Upcoming events:**

- Presenting at the 2025 Oklahoma Transition Institute (OTI) presentation entitled: "Future Forward: Advocacy and Self-Advocacy Tools for a Better Life"



## Self-Advocacy Trainings Report, 10/20/2025

### Fy 25 Training Numbers at a glance:

- 389 People with a developmental disability trained
- 7 Family members trained
- 151 Professionals trained

### Fy26 Trainings

- Number of work sessions FY 26: 2
- Number of training courses completed: **1**
- Number of Self-Advocates trained: **6**
- Number of professionals and family members trained:**0**
- Highlight quotes from training courses:

"This event has made me feel like I am better able to tell others what is important to me."

"Helped me build my skills"

"This event will help me advocate more."

- Upcoming training courses:
  - Oklahoma Transition Institute





According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in 4 adults in the U.S. has a disability. This includes impairments with vision, hearing, mobility, and cognition. Many people with disabilities rely on programs and services funded by the state to support them in maintaining their health, access to education and employment, and participate in their communities.

To put this into perspective, Oklahoma has over 62,500 Oklahomans who have an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD). These Oklahomans, along with their families and caregivers, represent a significant and vital portion of the Oklahoma electorate. Their success in achieving independence, access to employment, quality education, and full community inclusion is directly tied to the overall health and prosperity of our state. This number is based on the prevalence rate which is 1.58% of the population, per the Health and Human Services National Health Interview Survey (NHIS-D).

The Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (DDCO) requests your position(s) on the questions below. All candidate responses will be provided in one document for Oklahomans. Questions are organized by the Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) Life Domains. Life domains are the different aspects and life experiences that we consider as we age and grow. We lead whole lives made of specific, connected and integrated life domains that are important to a good quality of life. Life domains help us think about the current reality in our lives as well as the life experiences we'd like to have, which can lead us to the good life we want.

We understand these questions are specific to issues facing Oklahomans with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. If you would like to gain deeper insight or discuss these topics further including learning more about Charting the LifeCourse, staff and members of the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (DDCO) (people with developmental disabilities, family members, and key state agency representatives) are available as a resource. We welcome the opportunity to connect you with them and/or other Oklahoma disability advocates to inform your positions and plans for our state's disability community. Please email us at [exe.DD.Council@okdhs.org](mailto:exe.DD.Council@okdhs.org)!



## DAILY LIFE & EMPLOYMENT

What a person does as part of everyday life (school, employment, volunteering, communication, routines, life skills, etc.).

**Question:** College and University tuition continues to rise. While Oklahoma has increased inclusive college opportunities for students with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD), the cost of these programs can be twice that of a typical college student. What are your plans to support students with I/DD with these cost increases?

**Question:** What are your plans to help people with disabilities receive the necessary support to find and maintain jobs in the community that offer equal wages to those without disabilities, which will help to address the high unemployment rates for people with disabilities?



## COMMUNITY LIVING

*Where and how someone lives (housing and living options, community access, transportation, home adaptations and modifications).*

**Question:** What is your plan to improve Oklahoma's transportation systems to meet the needs of all Oklahomans, including people with I/DD who are non-drivers?

**Question:** What is your plan to increase access to available, accessible, and affordable housing for people with disabilities who are seeking housing or who are experiencing homelessness?



## HEALTHY LIVING

*Managing and accessing health care and staying well (medical, mental health, behavioral health, developmental, wellness and nutrition).*

**Question:** What is your plan to address potential federal reductions to the current level of Medicaid funding so Oklahomans with I/DD and their families can have the support and services they currently receive to maintain their health and independence?

**Question:** What is your plan to help people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) remain in their communities and out of costly Medicaid-funded institutions such as nursing homes or intermediate care facilities (ICFs)?



## SAFETY & SECURITY

*Staying safe and secure (emergencies, well-being, guardianship options, legal rights and issues).*

**Question:** What plans do you have to address Oklahoma's community-based direct care workforce crisis, the pressure it puts upon family caregivers and provider agencies, and the barriers it creates to ensuring people with disabilities have access to a qualified essential workforce?

**Question:** What plans do you have to address Oklahoma's teacher workforce crisis, including the need for special educators and paraprofessionals to ensure students with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) have access and ensure students are prepared for the workforce or a postsecondary opportunity after completing high school?



## SOCIAL & SPIRITUALITY

*Building friendships and relationships, leisure activities, personal networks, and faith community.*

**Question:** Isolation and loneliness are significant public health concerns with widespread impacts on mental and physical well-being for everyone and have plagued people with I/DD for too long. What plans do you have to promote policies that promote social inclusion to increase positive relationships and improve the mental and physical well-being for everyone?



## ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT

*Building valued roles, making choices, setting goals, assuming responsibility and driving how one's own life is lived.*

*Oklahomans with I/DD deserve to understand and exercise their personal and civil rights to lead safe and successful lives as independently as possible, and they deserve equal protection when their rights are infringed upon.*

**Question:** What will you do to increase the protection for the personal and civil rights of Oklahomans with I/DD?

**Question:** What is your plan to appoint people with lived experience (people with disabilities or their family members) to policy making positions which includes agencies, boards, and commissions, throughout your administration?