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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 Jacob Pyle, Norman Gina Richardson, Okla. City Susan Rutledge, Broken Arrow Beth Scrutchins, Okla. City Melissa Sublett, Tulsa Kodey Toney, Panama Lori Wieder. Stillwater Devin Williams, Lawton 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

#### **Quarterly Board Meeting**

Friday, October 24, 2025, 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

2400 N. Lincoln Blvd., Rm. C-48, Okla City

Board Member(s) attending via Teleconference

Gina Richardson, 17509 Brass Dr., Edmond, OK 73012

#### Join our meeting online

Meeting ID: 289 616 818 113 Passcode: Po2xW2qM



I.\_\_ Call to Order: Mr. Kodey Toney, Council Chair

Roll Call and Recognition of Quorum: Mr. Kodey Toney, Chair and Staff

Welcome Recognition of New Members and Guests: Mr. Kodey Toney,

IV. Presentation: Council Public Input / Listening Sessions – Ms. Wendy

Morton and Tosha Robinson

V.\_\_ Review July 2025 Meeting Minutes\*: Mr. Kodey Toney, Chair

/I.\_\_ Council Committee Reports\*

Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Updates: Ms. Janie Fugitt

o.\_\_ State Plan Updates:

Finance Updates: Ms. Lori Wieder

d. Executive Updates: Mr. Kodey Toney



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.



Advisory Committee on Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities: VACANT, Council Representative to Committee



DD Network: Center for Learning & Leadership: Ms. Wanda

Felty, Assistant Director & Designee



b.

d.

DD Network: Oklahoma Disability Law Center: Ms. RoseAnn Duplan, Policy & Communications Specialist & Designee



Human Services

Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS): Ms. Beth Scrutchins,

Director, or Designee



Community Living, Aging, and Protective Services (CAP): Mr.

Jeromy Buchanan, Director, or Designee



Special Education Services (SDS/SES): Ms. Sherri Coats, Program

Director, or Designee



Oklahoma Rehabilitation Services (DRS): Ms. Janie Fugitt, Programs

Field Representative, or Designee



Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH): Ms. Gina Richardson,

Early Intervention Manager, or Designee

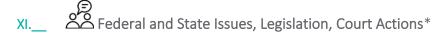
Director's Report: Ms. Jenifer Randle, Director



New Business\*



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.





- Committee Sign Ups: ATO, State Plan, Nominating, Finance, Executive
- 2026 Council Calendar
- Next Council Committee Meetings! Join us!
  - Tuesday, November 4, 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. State Plan Committee
  - Friday, November 7, 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. State Plan Committee
  - Friday, November 7, 12:15-1:15 p.m. A.T.O. Committee
  - Friday, November 7, 1:30-2:00 p.m. Executive Committee

XIII.\_\_ Adjournment

# Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma Quarterly Meeting Minutes

DATE: Friday, July 18, 2025

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: 2400 N. Lincoln Blvd., Rm. C-48, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Friday, July 18, 2025, at 1:00 pm, the Developmental Disabilities Council met at 2400 N. Lincoln Blvd., Rm. C-48, Oklahoma City, OK in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

NOTICE of the schedule for all regular and special meetings of the DDCO for the calendar year 2025 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, July 17, 2025, in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act, 25 O.S. Section 311.

. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Garrity called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.



Present: David Blose, Maggie Bond (1:02 PM), Mindee Brown, Jeromy Buchanan

(1:52 PM), Brett Cunningham (1:02 PM), Janie Fugitt (1:10 PM), Sharon Garrity, Shelly Greenhaw, Michelle Kelley, Kodey Toney, Mark Lewis,

Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty

Guests: Dee Blose, Miranda Hutchison, Lisa Kelly

Online: Blaine Murdock (1:34 PM)

Absent: Sherri Coats, Gina Richardson, Melissa Sublett, Lori Wieder, Devin Williams
Staff: Jennifer Robinson, Morgan Davis, Bradley Mays, Alissa Patterson, Jenifer

Randle

By roll call having determined there were sufficient members for a quorum and business was conducted.



# WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:

#### Guests:

Ms. Garrity welcomed guests to meeting: Miranda Hutchison, Programs Administrator for Innovation & Training, OKDHS/DDS; Lisa Kelly, CEO, The Arc of Oklahoma.

Council Presentation: "Enabling Technology and Remote Supports"

Presenter: Miranda Hutchison (OKDHS/DDS)

#### **Discussion:**

• Ms. Hutchison discussed DDS Technology-First solutions. DDS prioritizes technology solutions. She defined a few phrases for the Council:

- o <u>enabling technology</u> high/low-tech tools that increase independence at home, in the community, or at work.
- o <u>remote supports</u> off-site assistance using tech (sensors, smart doorbells, tablets) instead of on-site staff presence. Example: A powered smart lock and app restored independent, safe door access from a wheelchair.
- Ms. Hutchison shared a video that highlighted wearables for health/seizure alerts; smart-home safety (stove shut-offs, fall sensors, voice-activated devices); cognitive-access software (Scissortail Companion); and therapeutic animatronic pets.
- Ms. Hutchison discussed pilot studies DDS is involved, which includes the Scissortail Companion (2022), Wearables for Wellness (2023–25; results due Sept 2025), FutureReady (2025–27) for transition-age youth; and expanded demo smart homes at Bethany Children's Health Center and Oklahoma ABLE Tech sites. Early outcomes of demo smart homes include: 700+ visitors have toured demos; average knowledge scores rose from 2.9 → 4.5 (on a 1–5 scale); 96% reported needs met; 62% planned near-term adoption; DDS waiver requests for enabling tech have increased.

# IV. Ameeting Minutes of April 25, 2025, Sharron Garrity, Chair

DISCUSSION: The minutes from April 25, 2025 were reviewed and corrections were made.

**ACTION:** Motion to approve minutes with corrections was made by Mr. Toney and seconded by Ms. Brown.

AYES: David Blose, Maggie Bond, Mindee Brown, Jeromy Buchanan, Brett Cunningham, Janie Fugitt, Sharon Garrity, Shelly Greenhaw, Michelle Kelley, Kodey Toney, Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty

NAYS:

**ABSTAIN:** Mark Lewis

**MOTION CARRIES:** Minutes approved with corrections.



# A. Advocacy, Training & Outreach Committee:

Dr. Mays reported that preparations for YLF 2025 are in progress. YLF will be June 10–14, at USAO. He then reported that interviews for Partners in Policymaking 2025–26 are underway, as he works to interview over 30 applicants. PIP will begin in September. Ms. Davis reported that she presented at this year's Inclusive Communications Conference in July, discussing the effectiveness of one-page profiles to support self-advocacy and workplace communication.

# B. State Plan Committee:

Reminded members that the State Plan Aug 15 meeting on August 15 will be used to meet with the OKDHS Research team to share preliminary trends from 2025 public listening sessions and outline next-step analyses.

# C. Finance Committee:

Mr. Lewis and Ms. Weider discussed the FY 25 YTD expenditures at 92% of budget; FY 26 allocation modeling expected in October, pending federal guidance.

# D. Executive Committee:

Ms. Garrity encouraged members to maintain communications with policymakers regarding reconciliation proposals affecting ACL and disability programs.

# VI. Reports from Outside Committees / Organization:

- A. Advisory Committee on Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Nothing to report.
- B. Center for Learning and Leadership

  Challeronia is University Center for Experience in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDO) DD Network Partner CLL/UCEDD: Called for consistent, non-lobbying education of policymakers to protect ACL supports.
- C. DD Network Partner ODLC: Reported settlement terms setting a 21-day cap for jail competency wait times and piloting community-based restoration.
- D. Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS): Mr. Lewis had no additional updates beyond the enabling-tech presentation.



#### Community Living, Aging and Protective Services (CAP):

Transition of medical-fragile waiver members into OKDHS administration is proceeding on schedule.



Special Education Services (SDE/SES): New MTSS guidance released; fall behavior-support trainings being scheduled.



Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS): Summer secondary transition camps underway: 31 BestSTEP sites, 6 STEM camps, monthly Customized Employment TA with VCU.



of Health Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH): Mobile wellness units continue; hiring-freeze realignments ongoing.

# VI. Directors Report:

#### Discussion:

Ms. Randle reported on Council social media growth, having 14,000+ video views and 3,400 Facebook reach in the last month. She shared AutismOklahoma's DUETS Art Booklet. She also reminded Members that Dreamnight at the Oklahoma City Zoo will take place September 19.

## VII. Other Old/New Business:

#### A. Tulsa State Fair funding request

**Discussion:** The Council discussed a funding request from the Tulsa State Fair to help support Momentum Refresh to this year's Tulsa State Fair. Momentum Refresh is a universal and accessible restroom. It is being supported at the Oklahoma State Fair for the second year by the Council. This year's unit will have the universal and accessible restroom on one side and a calming room / nursing room on the other. This would be the same unit that would go to the Tulsa State Fair, as confirmed with discussions with Mr. Lusk of Momentum Refresh.

**ACTION:** Ms. Greenhaw moved to approve the Tulsa State Fair funding request to help support the Momentum Refresh unit. This was seconded by Ms. Fugitt.

AYES: David Blose, Maggie Bond, Mindee Brown, Jeromy Buchanan, Brett Cunningham, Janie Fugitt, Sharon Garrity, Shelly Greenhaw, Michelle Kelley, Kodey Toney, Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty, Mark Lewis.

NAYS:

#### **ABSTAIN:**

**MOTION CARRIES:** Yes. The Council approves the Tulsa State Fair funding request.

#### **B. Nominating Committee**

**Discussion:** Ms. Garrity asked for Council Members who would be willing to serve on the Council's Nominating Committee. Thank you to Kodey Toney and RoseAnn Duplan. If others are interested in this or any other committee, please let Ms. Randle, Ms. Duplan, or Mr. Toney know.



IX. Federal and State Issues, Legislation, Court Actions: Nothing was reported.



Ms. Randle reminded members of upcoming committee meetings and events:

- State Plan Committee: Fri, Aug 15, 10:00 a.m. at the Sequoyah Bldg. in Rm. C-48
- ATO Committee: Fri, Aug 15, 11:45 a.m. at the Sequoyah Bldg., in Rm. C-48
- Executive Committee: Fri, Aug 15, 1:00 p.m., at the Sequoyah Bldg., in Rm. C-48
- Dreamnight at the OKC Zoo, Fri, Sept 19, 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- 4th Quarterly Council Meeting, Fri, Oct 24, 1:00 p.m., at the Sequoyah Bldg., in Rm. C-48



XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

# Advocacy, Training, and Outreach Committee (ATO)

## PIP and YLF Advocacy Update

#### Partners in Policymaking (PIP)

- Number of PIP students: 31
  - o Family members: 18
  - o 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, criticalthinking 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.



■ 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



# FY25 State Plan Project Progress July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Quarter 4 Project Summaries And Final Reports

# AutismOklahoma LookOut Art Program

## FY25 Quarter 4 Project Summary

#### AutismOklahoma, LookOut Art Programming

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	10	10	30	46
# of family members who participated in council activity	10	20	20	30
# of others who participated in council activity	25	50	100	300

In the fourth quarter of the LookOut program, April stood out with the highly successful *Duets* art show in the Paseo, showcasing 19 art teams and introducing five new LookOut artists. Approximately 300 guests attended the First Friday reception, and the artwork remained on display throughout the month. During this time, LookOut also offered an art class focused on the study of "light," and hosted a specialized training for cultural institution professionals on how to make their environments more accessible and sensory-friendly for neurodiverse individuals. These efforts helped increase awareness and promote inclusive practices in the arts community.

May and June were filled with engaging sensory-friendly art activities and classes. In Tulsa, a sensory-friendly event at the Philbrook welcomed 25 participants, and additional outreach activities were held at 7725Connect, including a Mother's Day card-making station that reached around 25 community members. Art prizes, candy, and merchandise were given out to raise awareness about AO's programming. June featured a full slate of eight art classes serving all age groups—from elementary students to young adults—as well as ongoing video production classes that prepared participants for an upcoming July film workshop and red-carpet screening. In total, approximately 75 hours of training were provided this quarter.

The LookOut program also saw strong community support and collaboration this quarter. Partnerships with organizations such as 7725Connect, Life Church, Square Holes, and the Oklahoma Arts Council helped expand programming and outreach. Popup art tables and events generated around \$300 in sales and donations, supporting match funding and ongoing program sustainability. The launch of *SpectrumMarket.org* provided an online space to sell art and collect donations. Notably, the program fostered meaningful social connections—two teen girls who met in class became friends and attended a social event together, with their moms also forming a supportive bond. These human moments, alongside the artistic accomplishments, reflect the deep impact of LookOut on the individuals and families it serves.



# **LookOut Art Program**

Annual Report Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

## **Our Mission**

The LookOut Art Program exists to increase and expand access to meaningful art programming for neurodiverse individuals in Oklahoma. Through mentorship, skill development, creative expression, and public exhibitions, we aim to foster joy, confidence, and hope for participants and their families.

# **Our Impact This Year**

## **Creative Events & Community Engagement**

- Duets Art Show at the Paseo
   Our flagship event welcomed approximately 300 community members to experience collaborative art between LookOut artists and mentors.
- Gallery Feature April Exhibit
   Displayed the work of 5 new LookOut artists during Autism Acceptance Month.
- Art Shows & Outreach
  - Art Show at 7725 Connect featuring 10 LookOut artists
  - o Outreach displays at the Philharmonic and Remington Park
  - LookOut postcards distributed at all AutismOklahoma events

#### **Education & Artistic Growth**

- 20 in-person visual art classes offered for all ages
- 40 video-based art classes accessible year-round
- 2 original videos produced to showcase LookOut's work and mission
- 1 art class focused on the study of "light"
- 4 commissioned artworks completed and delivered

#### **Training & Inclusion**

- Hosted 2 sensory-friendly art activities at the Philbrook Museum in Tulsa
- Led 3 outreach art activities at 7725 Connect's Food Court
- Provided a professional development training for cultural institutions on how to engage neurodiverse participants and create sensory-friendly spaces
- Presented at a national webinar in collaboration with the Oklahoma Arts Council

## **Partnerships & Collaborations**

Our work would not be possible without our valued partners:

- **7725 Connect** Venue host for multiple pop-up events
- Vantage Point Support with event setup and logistics
- LifeChurch Provided gallery display opportunities across multiple campuses
- Squareholes Facilitated training events on inclusion and neurodiversity in the arts
- Oklahoma Arts Council Provided two \$2,500 grants to support LookOut programming

## **Additional Highlights**

- Maintained our art submission webpage for LookOut participants
- Continued to manage the LookOut art store webpage, showcasing and selling participant artwork
- Recruited **1 intern** to support art classes and events

## **Looking Ahead**

We are energized by the success of this past year and the creative momentum we've built. Our artists continue to inspire us with their passion and dedication. Each class, exhibition, and collaboration fuels our belief that when neurodiverse individuals are given space to explore their creativity, they thrive—and so does our community.

We can't wait to grow further in the coming year, reach more families, and celebrate even more incredible art.

#### Thank You!

To our artists, families, partners, and supporters—thank you. You make this joyful, creative work possible.

"When our artists are working on something that interests them, they go all in."
We are so proud to go all in with them.

# **Budget Summary**

#### Fiscal Year 2024-2025

The LookOut Art Program operated with a total **Developmental Disabilities Council funding of \$24,000** and secured an additional **\$10,000** in **matching funds**, supporting a full year of creative programming, exhibitions, and outreach.

Month	Billing	Match
July	\$2,800	\$850
August	\$1,840	\$850
Sept	\$2,356	\$850
October	\$2,789	\$850
November	\$2,886	\$850

Total	\$24,000	\$10,000
June	_	\$550
May	\$150	\$900
April	\$2,062	\$900
March	\$700	\$850
February	\$2,183	\$850
January	\$950	\$850
December	\$5,284	\$850

These funds were used to support:

- Teaching artist stipendsArt supplies and materials

- Art supplies and materials
  Gallery rental and display costs
  Video production and editing
  Sensory-friendly modifications and training events
  Outreach materials, signage, and promotion
  Administrative and coordination support

We are deeply grateful to our funders and partners—including the **Developmental Disabilities** Council of Oklahoma—for their continued belief in the power of art to transform lives.

# Autism Foundation of Oklahoma

L.E.A.D. Training Learn - Earn - Advance - Develop

# FY 25 Quarter 4 Project Summary

#### Autism Foundation of Oklahoma, LEAD Trainings

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	9	8	5	2
# of family members who participated in council activity	16	26	9	3
# of others who participated in council activity	125	204	158	101
# of organizations trained	5	5	3	20

In Quarter 4 of FY'25, AFO significantly expanded its outreach through group trainings across Oklahoma, engaging employers in both urban and rural communities. These sessions brought together diverse participants from organizations such as COWIB, Oklahoma State University, SHRM, the Oklahoma Military Department, and Guymon Public Schools. In addition to group trainings, AFO also provided individualized LEAD sessions to entities like the City of Oklahoma City HR Department and Oklahoma State University's College of Education and Human Services. AFO's presence at the Success Across the Spectrum Conference and upcoming Ready, Set, Hire Job Fair with OKDRS further illustrate its statewide engagement. The group training format proved to be a cost-efficient and effective strategy for expanding access to inclusive workplace practices.

AFO continued to enhance and promote the Autism Job Board during this period, implementing features like direct links to employers' job boards to streamline processes for recruiters. A groundbreaking partnership with Mercy Hospital led to the development of a direct-connection recruitment portal—a model where job seekers can submit resumes and skills to be matched directly with potential roles, bypassing traditional application barriers. This initiative exemplifies AFO's innovative approach to inclusive hiring. AFO also remained active with regional coalitions and partner organizations, helping plan a Disability Summit and supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Training outcomes for Quarter 4 highlighted strong impact and growing awareness among participants. Survey data showed 92% of attendees rated the training a "5" out of 5, with high likelihood to increase advocacy in the workplace. Many participants shared personal connections to autism and neurodiversity, infusing the feedback with sincerity and urgency. Common feedback themes included empathy, inclusive language, and the importance of workplace accommodations. Some challenges were noted in collecting post-training survey data from group sessions. As the program looks ahead, AFO plans to implement training fees while continuing to pursue grant support to maintain accessibility and sustainability.

Project Name: LEAD, Neurodiversity in the Workplace

Organization: Autism Foundation of Oklahoma

Name of person writing report: Kyle Britt

Email: kbritt@autismfoundationok.org

#### People who did the work

Please include the first and last name and title for everyone who worked on this project for your organization (not including volunteers).

- Kyle Britt, Program Officer
- Taylor Knooihuizen, Director of Programs
- Emily Scott, Executive Director
- Carley Dummitt, Engagement Manager
- Matt DeCicco, Resource Coordinator

#### II. Project Final Results (no more than 3 pages)

#### **Executive Summary**

In paragraphs or bullet points, please provide the following information:

• How did your project benefit the targeted population (be sure to define the targeted population)? Describe the general results of the project, including where the project results were achieved as expected, where they were not, and the reasons for both. In addition, please describe any unexpected results and their significance. How will the results accomplished in the short term affect your efforts toward the long-term goals? What other things – perhaps beyond your control – must take place to achieve a broader impact on targeted populations you want to reach?

If your grant proposal contained quantifiable goals (for example, "to offer computer training to 150 students"), please address whether the program yielded the desired results. If you didn't meet your initial goals, offer an honest assessment about what you think went wrong or what led to your miscalculation. You will not be penalized for identifying setbacks and challenges.

This report should speak to a project's overall impact, highlight measurable, positive outcomes. Numbers help the Council understand exactly how many people the project and funding has helped.

In some cases, however, it might be difficult or impossible to accurately gauge a program's results. In such cases, highlight any and all intermediate findings, such as what people have learned and how their attitudes may have changed.

Similarly, some organizations might have trouble accurately conveying a program's successes because they are not necessarily trying to solve a specific problem. You can help address this issue by including information, for example, how many people attended a concert and whether it received any positive reviews.

- The goal of our project was to increase employment opportunities for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in Oklahoma by providing neurodiversity in the workplace training directly to employers. In Year 4, the project experienced its most impactful year to date, significantly surpassing all performance benchmarks and expanding our reach across the state and beyond. AFO provided LEAD, Neurodiversity in the Workplace training to 33 distinct employers, marking a 65% increase over the initial goal of 20 employers. In total, 688 individuals received training through the LEAD initiative during Year 4, representing a more than 60% increase in the number of individuals trained compared to Year 3. This dramatic growth reflects both heightened demand for inclusive workforce development and the effectiveness of our refined training approach, which now emphasizes group sessions to enhance our impact and statewide reach into more rural communities.
- In Year 4, AFO focused on expanding our efforts and bringing forth innovative approaches to bridge the employment gap for individuals with autism and I/DD. Most notably, AFO developed and launched the Autism Job Board, an online platform that connects neurodivergent job seekers with inclusive employers. Within the first six months of launch, 9 employers signed on to post jobs, including major organizations such as The Gathering Place, Goodwill Industries, Science Museum Oklahoma, Mercy Health Care, and others. The platform featured 17 unique job postings, which collectively received over 2,000 views and impressions, demonstrating strong early engagement from both employers and job seekers. One particularly innovative approach was developed in partnership with Mercy Health Care, which is our direct-connection portal that removes many of the barriers that exist within the typical application process by connecting directly with recruiters at Mercy and emphasizing the many unique strengths and skills neurodiverse job seekers bring to the workforce.
- In addition to delivering training sessions to employers, AFO actively promoted LEAD, Neurodiversity in the Workplace through participation in several key

- conferences and professional events throughout the year such as Oklahoma Works and Success Across the Spectrum. These opportunities allowed AFO to share best practices, raise awareness, and build partnerships with organizations committed to advancing workplace inclusion for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.
- A major highlight of the year was AFO's invitation to present at the Neurodiversity at
  Work Conference in Washington, DC. This national platform brought together
  thought leaders, employers, government agencies, researchers, and advocates from
  across the country to discuss strategies and programs for supporting neurodivergent
  talent in the workforce. AFO was honored to showcase LEAD as a model for
  employer engagement and inclusive workforce development in Oklahoma.
- While AFO has always collected post-training survey data, Year 4 marked the first year AFO begin to collect follow-up post-training data at 3-month, 6-month, and year-end intervals. The follow-up data collected indicates that the LEAD training has made a significant impact on increasing advocacy and awareness in the workplace. 95% of survey respondents indicate they believe advocacy and awareness within their respective workplaces have increased as a result of LEAD training. 100% of survey respondents found the training beneficial with an average rating of 4.5 out of 5. This rating reflects high levels of satisfaction and perceived impact of the training. Over 60% of organizations report implementing or planning to implement changes to their hiring processes to be more inclusive of diverse needs. Examples provided include reducing the number of interviewers, altering lighting, enhanced communication strategies, and updates to language in job descriptions and postings.
- At each interval of follow-up data collection, employers reported hiring individuals with autism and I/DD. While measuring employment outcomes remains complex as majority of employers do not and legally cannot require an applicant to disclose their disability status, we have been able to collect data showing 8 individuals with an intellectual and/or developmental disability were hired by organizations who completed LEAD training. It should be emphasized several survey respondents indicated they "weren't sure" when asked if they had hired individuals with autism or I/DD. This highlights a common limitation of tracking inclusive hires as we are only able to track those who decide to self-disclose their disability to their employer. Due to the complexity of measuring employment outcomes, it is worth noting the number of confirmed hires only represents a small portion of those positively impacted. Whether through direct hiring or the implementation of inclusive workplace practices, the lasting effects of LEAD, Neurodiversity in the Workplace training extend beyond what we can capture with headcounts of confirmed hires.

- Several organizations pledged to adopt inclusive practices moving forward, signaling long-term organizational culture change beyond LEAD training.
- AFO is proud of the measurable progress made toward creating a more inclusive workforce for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities in Oklahoma. By surpassing training goals, launching the Autism Job Board, and building strategic partnerships with employers and community organizations, the LEAD project continues to drive systemic change in how employers understand, recruit, and support neurodiverse talent. Looking ahead, AFO remains committed to expanding the scope of this work by enhancing employer training and developing new supports for job seekers.
- **Challenges**: Discuss how you addressed both anticipated and unanticipated challenges over the course of the project.
  - By Year 4 of this project, AFO staff had developed a strong understanding of the typical challenges that come with operating our LEAD, Neurodiversity in the Workplace project. Through the years, we have refined our strategies and approach and feel confident in our ability to overcome challenges and exceed program expectations. However, this year presented several unanticipated challenges that required adaptability and perseverance.
  - Notably, we experienced a significant slowdown in employer interest in the
    third quarter. It was among our lowest levels of engagement since the early
    stages of the project. We believe this decline may be partially attributed to
    the broader political and cultural climate, which may have contributed to
    increased hesitation among some employers to engage in diversity-related
    training initiatives. Despite these setbacks, we remained committed to our
    mission and employed targeted outreach and refined our messaging to
    rebuild momentum.
  - As a result, we saw a strong recovery in the final quarter, ultimately surpassing overall training goals for the year.
- **Lessons Learned**: What lessons have you learned that will help your organization and other organizations that may be involved in similar work
  - Throughout Year 4 and across the entire duration of the project, AFO has learned that adaptability and innovation are essential to advancing inclusive employment effectively. The landscape of workforce development continues to change, and creating meaningful opportunities for individuals with autism

- and other developmental disabilities requires a flexible and responsive approach.
- One of the most impactful and instructive innovations this year has been the development and launch of the Autism Job Board. The site marked a major advancement in connecting neurodiverse job seekers with inclusive employers and it also became one of our most valuable learning experiences. From refining the user experience to better understanding of how employers engage with the platform and what their needs are for the site to function effectively, the entire process was a valuable learning experience on the importance of feedback from our community and stakeholders, the need to continue finding innovative approaches, and the evolving landscape of employment for people with disabilities.

#### Testimonials

"By actively hiring neurodiverse employees, we are not only fostering an inclusive workplace, we are also enriching our culture by tapping into each person's unique strengths bringing new ideas and perspectives." -Ashley Chatman, Operations Manager at Sisu.

"the training was very thought provoking and made me (and hopefully all the staff) more aware of the simple things we can do to recognize and accommodate individual's needs" - Post-Training Survey Feedback

"We've changed our interviewing process from a panel interview to just two interviewers. We've also updated our language on job posts to be more inclusive." - Post-Training Survey Feedback

"We have decreased the number of interviewers at interviews, slowed our rate of speech, increased our wait time for processing questions, and changed the lighting in our interview spaces." - Post-Training Survey Feedback

- Sustainability Plans: Provide plans for sustaining the work.
  - To ensure the long-term sustainability of LEAD, Neurodiversity in the Workplace beyond Council funding, AFO is refining its program delivery model to maximize both impact and efficiency. The updated approach will emphasize group training sessions tailored to specific industries or sectors,

- allowing multiple employers to participate at once. This format enhances cost-effectiveness while significantly expanding the program's reach.
- To help fund this revised model, AFO will introduce a training fee for participating employers. However, in line with our commitment to equity and accessibility, AFO will also continue seeking grant support to subsidize or fully cover training costs when possible.
- In addition to employer training, AFO is actively pursuing new funding sources to broaden the scope of employment-focused programs by developing training resources for job seekers. This approach will focus on critical employment-readiness skills such as understanding employee rights and protections, building resumes, developing confidence, and interview prep, ensuring a more inclusive and supportive employment environment for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities in our state.
- **Project Visibility and Outreach:** Discuss how you communicated your project and the type of outlets (email, social media placements, internet placements, newspaper, radio spots, television spots) you used.
  - AFO promoted LEAD, Neurodiversity in the Workplace through social media, conferences, events, online advertising, email lists, television appearances, and flyers. Throughout the project, AFO staff have noticed word of mouth and in-person events/conferences have perhaps been the most successful avenue for promoting the training throughout the state. Our data also shows our online advertisements were successful in generating interest in our project.

#### III. Final Budget Report

#### **Budget Summary**

Please provide a final project budget, showing all costs of the project, including all match funding. Remember, match funding includes volunteers. If volunteers were used, please explain. Documentation is needed for volunteer time to count towards match. Please ask us what is needed. If there were significant changes to the proposed project budget, please explain.

Category	Budget	Current	Cumulative	Remaining	Current Match	YTD Match
Salary	73,720	6,431.02	73,597.41	122.59	•	16,179.61
Fringe	19,705	1,929.30	19,719.49	(14.49)	-	4,096.90
Contractual	4,820	1,092.50	7,212.50	(2,392.50)	-	3,915.00
Supplies	1,500	-	1,603.86	(103.86)	-	894.00
Other	7,392	949.00	4,163.34	3,228.66	-	8,089.46
Travel	6,500	729.10	7,338.92	(838.92)	-	578.14
In-Kind Match	-	-	-	-	-	10,000.00
Total Direct Costs	113,637	11,130.92	113,635.52	1.48	-	43,471.72
Indirect Costs (10%)	11,363	1,113.09	11,363.55	(0.55)	-	4,347.17
Total	125,000	\$ 12,244.01	\$ 124,999.07	\$ 0.93	\$ -	\$ 47,818.89

# Best Buddies Best Buddies Oklahoma

## FY25 Quarter 4 Project Summary

### Best Buddies, Expansion

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	1	11	42	42
# of family members who participated in council activity	0	0	0	0
# of others who participated in council activity	25	42	107	86

During the fourth quarter, Best Buddies made significant progress by strengthening five school-based chapters across the Tulsa area: Bixby Middle School, Bixby 9th Grade Center, Bixby High School, Clyde Boyd Middle School, and Union High School. The onboarding of new advisors at Bixby 9th Grade Center and Bixby High helped reinforce leadership, while planning discussions with Clyde Boyd Middle School and Charles Page High School are setting the stage for fall expansion. Union High School stood out for its enthusiastic engagement and selection of a delegation for the upcoming Best Buddies International Leadership Conference. Across the five schools, nearly 200 new members joined, reaching over 1,500 students, educators, and community members, and contributing to greater awareness and inclusion throughout the Tulsa region.

A major focus this quarter was bridging the gap between school-based programs and Best Buddies' adult-focused offerings. The team integrated information about Citizens and Ambassadors programs—focused on adult friendships and leadership skills—into parent nights and IEP transition meetings to support long-term involvement. These efforts are helping families view Best Buddies as more than just a school-based club, but as a continuous source of support, connection, and inclusion for individuals with IDD throughout their lives. This cross-program collaboration is proving critical to easing transition planning and minimizing post-graduation social isolation.

One of the most effective strategies this quarter was strengthening relationships with school staff and families by attending back-to-school nights, family engagement events, and distributing paper membership applications to improve data collection and overcome tech barriers. Although student participation remains high, delays in capturing engagement through the online system persist, prompting increased reliance on paper forms and manual data entry. Newer chapters like Clyde Boyd Middle School are building momentum, and Best Buddies anticipates stronger engagement as partnerships grow. Looking ahead, financial sustainability efforts are underway, including planning for the 2025 Champion of the Year Gala. Lessons learned from past district-sponsored events have reinforced the value of direct, personal outreach to families and educators, and plans are in motion to replicate this model in additional school districts like Bixby.

## FY 2025 Best Buddies in Oklahoma Developmental Disability Council of Oklahoma (DDCO) Annual Report

#### Section I - Project Summary Information

Agency/Organization: Best Buddies International, Inc.

**Agency Contact:** Emily Hunt

Email: Emilyhunt@bestbuddies.org

Staff working on project:

Emily Hunt- Senior Director, Expansion

Grant McCarty- Director, Mission Advancement, Oklahoma

Melanie Pleasant- Lead Program Manager

Contract Period: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

#### II. Project Final Results (no more than 3 pages)

#### **Project Summary**

The Best Buddies Inclusion Project created social opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by expanding Best Buddies chapters in Oklahoma schools, enhancing both student and community involvement. Staff collaborated with educators and local organizations to launch new chapters, engage students and families, and provide volunteers with training and educational resources to create welcoming school environments for students with IDD.

#### **Key Activities by Quarter**

Quarter	Highlights
Q1 (Jul-Sep 2024)	Staff established strategic partnerships with local schools in Tulsa. Conducted training sessions for school staff members. Successfully launched four new chapters
Q2 (Oct–Dec 2024)	Staff implemented programs at a fifth school, totaling five new schools in the greater Tulsa area. They trained teachers and student leaders on foundational steps for establishing a Best Buddies Chapter at their respective schools. Organized and held a Local Leadership Training Day for all chapters in Oklahoma.
Q3 (Jan–Mar 2025)	Staff conducted <i>Back to Best Buddies</i> training in February, increased student

	participation, and ensured the accuracy of documentation.
Q4 (Apr–Jun 2025)	Staff organized Best Buddies International Leadership Conference parent nights and end-of-year chapter activities. They also strengthened family engagement through special events, reaching 1,250+ stakeholders in the Tulsa area.

#### **Key Outcomes**

Deliverables/Goals:

- Establish five new school-based chapters- Achieved
- Recruit and engage 100 student volunteer members Achieved, 128
- Deliver 20 group activities- Achieved, 32
- Train five students and five faculty leaders Achieved, 7
- Engage a minimum of 25 students with IDD, at least five of whom will serve in a leadership role in their chapter. Achieved, 42

Outcome	Number
Total Individuals with IDD	42
Number of 'other individuals'	86
Student Leaders Trained	7
Total Participants	128
Schools Impacted	5

#### **Project Overview**

Over the past year, Best Buddies expanded programming across the Tulsa region. The staff formed strategic partnerships with administrators, special education professionals, and general education teachers for five chapters in both middle and high schools:

- **Bixby Middle School** Bixby, OK
- Clyde Boyd Middle School Sand Springs, OK
- Bixby 9th Grade Center Bixby, OK
- **Bixby High School** Bixby, OK
- Union High School Tulsa, OK

Our staff began efforts by conducting outreach and recruitment across these schools and districts. As interest grew, they facilitated regular meetings with students and advisors to build strong chapter foundations. Our staff placed special focus on boosting engagement at Union High School, where weekly student meetings helped strengthen involvement and led to the selection of a student delegation for the upcoming *Best Buddies International Leadership Conference*.

In addition to launching new chapters, staff laid the groundwork for future growth. They initiated pilot program discussions with Tulsa Public Schools, engaged with leaders at Jenks High School, and held planning sessions with Charles Page High School and Clyde Boyd Middle School to ensure successful continuity into the next academic year.

To support chapter sustainability, staff trained new faculty advisors at the Bixby 9th Grade Center and Bixby High School, reinforcing chapter leadership and operational consistency.

These efforts helped Best Buddies strengthen its presence in Oklahoma schools and fostered meaningful educational, social, and leadership opportunities among students with and without disabilities.

#### Collaboration

Throughout FFY 2024, collaboration played a key role in advancing Best Buddies' mission across Oklahoma. Our team actively worked alongside local organizations, school districts, and internal program teams to ensure a unified approach to supporting individuals with IDD.

#### Partnership Highlights:

- Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa:
   Best Buddies hosted a resource table at a community event, shared program information, and built connections with families and professionals in the disabilities field.
- School District Partnerships:
   Best Buddies built strong relationships with Tulsa-area schools, including Bixby and Union Public Schools. Activities included:
  - Participating in transition meetings and family engagement nights
  - Promoting program opportunities beyond graduation
  - Hosting tables at district-sponsored events to raise awareness and drive family involvement

These collaborative strategies ensured that Best Buddies in Oklahoma was seen not just as a school program, but as a long-term support system for individuals with IDD and their families.

#### Successes

Best Buddies in Oklahoma established five new chapters during the grant period. Through these efforts, our staff engaged with over 1,250 community members. In addition, our staff significantly increased visibility and awareness of the program through a series of events and outreach.

#### Challenges

During the reporting period, we encountered several challenges that impacted overall engagement metrics. Difficulty collecting data made it harder to accurately track participation and outcomes. Additionally, school calendar conflicts and illness-related absences among students and staff affected consistent attendance and participation across chapters.

#### Sustainability

The continued success of key fundraising events, such as the Champion of the Year Gala and the Friendship Walk, remains vital in ensuring both the financial and programmatic sustainability of Best Buddies in Oklahoma. These events generate essential funding to support chapter operations and expansion while increasing community engagement and long-term investment in the mission of inclusion.

#### **Testimonials**

Rebekah Boysel Advisor from Union High School

"My Best Buddies chapter had the honor of attending the Best Buddies Leadership Conference in Bloomington, Indiana with all 50 states, and 17 different countries this past weekend. For those of you who aren't familiar with Best Buddies International, it is a global organization that helps create opportunities for individuals with IDD through friendships, employment, and inclusive living. I started a chapter at UHS this past school year with the help of the wonderful Melanie Pleasant. With that help, we achieved winning Outstanding Chapter for the 24-25 school year!!!

Everyone knows how much I love Make Promises Happen, and I am so glad I found something that helped me bring that same energy to my high school. We had the chance to bring my incoming president and vice president, and my previous president came to get some ideas for starting a chapter at her university this fall! During this conference, we participated in opening ceremonies, incredible workshops that helped us get ideas for building our chapter, listened to amazing speakers (like Tanner from Love on the Spectrum!) had a Friendship Walk, Friendship Bash, and dance!"

#### **Project Visibility and Outreach**

Staff promoted the project through targeted email communication, flyers, and updates on our organizational website. They also collaborated with local partners and shared information through community newsletters and online networks. These efforts ensured broad outreach to individuals with IDD, families, and community stakeholders across Oklahoma.

#### **Lessons Learned**

This year reinforced the effectiveness of smaller, targeted family engagement events in fostering stronger connections within school communities. As a result, we plan to implement parent nights during the 2025-2026 school year to support further family involvement. Additionally, we recognized the ongoing need for innovation in our data collection methods to better track participation, outcomes, and areas of improvement.

#### III. Final Budget Report

(Please see page five)

# Best Buddies Oklahoma New Friendship Chapter Project - OK DD Council

Summary of Expenses		OKDDC Request		<i>A</i>	OKDDC Actual Other Expense funding				Total Project costs
Staff/Volunteer Time	(400/ #:								
Director, Mission	(12% time	Φ	0.004	φ.	0.004	φ.		ф	0.075
Advancement	on project)	\$	8,034	\$	8,034	\$	-	\$	8,275
Drogram Managar	(20% time	\$	9,000	\$	9,000	\$		\$	0.270
Program Manager	on project)		9,000		9,000				9,270
Benefits @ 15%		\$	-	\$	-	\$	2,555	\$	2,632
Subtotal		\$	17,034	\$	17,034	\$	2,555	\$	20,177
Program Operations									
Site Visits/Travel		\$	1,152	\$	1,152			\$	1,152
Volunteer Training & Ma	nagement	\$	3,494	\$	3,494	\$	2,944	\$	6,242
Community Engagement	t	\$	250	\$	112			\$	250
Office Operations		\$	320	\$	262			\$	320
Chapter Grants		\$	2,500	\$	2,500			\$	2,500
Supplies & Materials		\$	250	\$	249			\$	250
Subtotal		\$	7,966	\$	7,770	\$	2,748	\$	10,714
			·		·		•		·
Indirect Costs (10% of									
total program costs)		\$	-	\$	-	\$	9243	\$	9243
Total Expenses		\$	25,000	\$	24,804	\$ 14,7	'42	\$	40,134

University of Kansas
Center on Disability
State of the States in Intellectual and
Developmental Disabilities
Project of National Significance

Black Feathers Podcast Season 2, Episodes 1-6



# Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

# FY25 Quarter 4 Project Summary

# University of Kansas Center for Research, Black Feathers podcast

The numbers represent all-time downloads as of that quarter.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	July
# of podcast listeners for episode #1	110	126	138	138	141
# of podcast listeners for episode #2	0	79	131	132	134
# of podcast listeners for episode #3	0	0	67	80	82
# of podcast listeners for episode #4	0	0	0	47	55
# of podcast listeners for episode #5	0	0	0	29	46
# of podcast listeners for episode #6	0	0	0	0	42

In the final quarter of the Black Feathers podcast project, the team focused on releasing the final episodes, conducting outreach, and encouraging engagement with the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council's 5-year planning efforts. Delays in episode release were due to scheduling conflicts and the extended approval process required by some Tribal Nations. Despite these challenges, six episodes were successfully produced, offering stories and resources designed specifically for and by Tribal communities in Oklahoma. The podcast served as a new and effective outreach tool, helping build trust and open dialogue with Tribal citizens and establishing new relationships rooted in respect, reciprocity, and patience.

The podcast, hosted on Buzzsprout and distributed across multiple streaming platforms, garnered 695 total downloads with listeners tuning in from 19 U.S. states and 12 countries. Most U.S. listeners were from Kansas and Oklahoma. While Apple Podcasts was the most used platform, outreach via web browsers and Spotify was also significant. Although website traffic was relatively strong—with over 600 views to the homepage and nearly 200 to the episodes page—listener engagement with the podcast survey was minimal, with only two responses submitted. The project highlighted the challenges of collecting meaningful data through podcasts and underscored the importance of employing trusted Tribal citizen liaisons in future data collection efforts.

The State of the States project initially aimed to create a replicable model of the Black Feathers podcast in collaboration with DD Councils across different states and Tribal Nations. Due to funding uncertainties, the team is now pursuing new partnerships, including with the AUCD Indigenous Workgroup, to sustain and expand the podcast nationally through UCEDD collaborations. A key challenge moving forward is maintaining access to existing content, as continued hosting on Buzzsprout will require the Council to assume hosting costs once the grant ends. Lessons learned emphasized the importance of building trust with Tribal Nations, actively listening to their needs, and tailoring content to diverse audiences—including both Tribal members and those seeking to learn about Indigenous issues. The podcast acted as a springboard for long-term relationship-building and systems change, particularly by including Tribal voices in the Council's broader planning and advocacy work.

https://stateofthestates.ku.edu/black-feathers-podcast

# State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

# OKLAHOMA BLACK FEATHERS PODCAST



Prepared by Shea Tanis, Ph.D.

University of Kansas

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The University of Kansas Center on Disability State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Project of National Significance partnered with the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council to support people with ID/DD and their families on Tribal lands to obtain information on ID/DD related issues from peers and access valued and vetted resources on culturally-responsive services and supports. The following report outlines the activities and outputs from the Council's \$25,000 investment.

# Objective 1.1 Communications strategy and podcast content planning

The project team met within the first two months of the award to develop a branding and communications strategy to implement alongside the release of the podcast episodes. The Oklahoma Black Feathers logo was



created along with an advertising postcard (Appendix A). In addition to the postcard and logo, a new website and social media handles were created to disseminate information. It was essential to distinguish the Oklahoma Black Feathers episodes from the previous national Black Feathers podcast to demonstrate the DD Council's investment while also maintaining contact with established listeners. To achieve this goal, the team developed new branding and language to highlight the content focus in Oklahoma for the second season of the Black Feathers Podcast.

The communications strategy included a series of touchpoints for sharing podcast content with listeners. The program created audiograms for each episode as a teaser to engage potential listeners, which were posted on social media. After each episode, resources were posted on the website reflecting best practices and culturally competent information related to the content.

To support dissemination and build partnerships, the project team curated a contact list of Tribal Nations' media personnel and sources and used this list to disseminate information about podcast episodes and flyers. Appendix B provides the contact list used for dissemination.

Finally, the podcast host and members of the project team initiated outreach to tribal citizens across the lifespan to identify potential podcast guests and stories of lived experience.

# Objective 2.1 Data collection and analysis

**Podcast Hosting**: The Oklahoma Black Feathers Podcast was hosted on Buzzsprout, a podcast hosting platform that supports distribution to various podcast libraries, including <u>Black Feathers</u>. This allowed listeners to follow the podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, Podcast Index, Overcast, iHeartRadio, Podcast Addict, Castro, Castbox, Podchaser, Pocket Casts, Deezer, Listen Notes, Player FM,

Goodpods, and TruFans. and allowed the project to collect unique data. Apple Podcasts was the most frequently used channel for the audience to download episodes (57%-75% for each episode). Web browsers and Spotify were also frequently used.

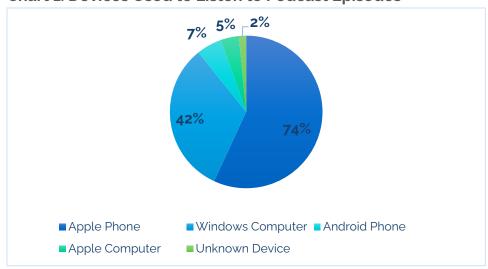
**Podcast Listeners:** The total number of podcast downloads for the series was 615. Podcast listeners tuned in from the United States, Canada, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Latvia, Mexico, Ireland, Australia, Russia, the Philippines, and Slovakia. The subcategory of listeners from the United States represented 19 states: AZ, CA, CO, IL, IN, KS, MA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MT, NE, NY, OK, TX, WA, WI, and VA, Not surprising, most listeners in the United States were from Kansas and Oklahoma. Table 1 represents the number of downloads across Oklahoma.

Table 1. Oklahoma Black Feathers Downloads in Oklahoma by City

Listeners in OK by City	Total Number of Downloads
Oklahoma City	29
Yukon	6
El Reno	4
Tulsa	18
Broken Arrow	4
Tahlequah	2
Edmond	11
Claremore	2
Total	76

A variety of devices were used to download and listen to the podcast episodes. Chart 1. Shows the breakdown of devices used.

Chart 1. Devices Used to Listen to Podcast Episodes



In addition to capturing data on the episode downloads via Buzzsprout, the project also attempted to capture more detailed information on listeners through a Qualtrics survey posted on the project webpage: Black Feathers Survey | State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The survey questions were aligned with the required data collection categories directed by the Council, and requests for completion were made at the end of each podcast episode. Unfortunately, of the 96 page views, only two people completed the full survey. The two respondents were each American Indian females who did not disclose their relationship to disability. Table 2 lists their survey responses:

**Table 2. Listener Survey Responses** 

Question	Respondent 1 Answer	Respondent 2 Answer
Did the Black Feathers podcast and/or supplemental resources help you to increase your knowledge of how to take part in decisions that affect your life, those of others, and systems?	Yes	Yes
Are you currently engaged in advocacy activities?	Yes	Yes
Did the Black Feathers podcast and/or supplemental resources help you in advancing your advocacy efforts?	Yes	Yes
As a result of the Black Feathers podcast and/or supplemental resources, are you interested in participating in disability coalitions, policy boards, advisory boards, governing bodies, and/or serving in leadership positions?	No Response	Yes
Did the Black Feathers podcast and/or supplemental resources support you in identifying what supports and services you need, want, or are important to you?	Yes	No Response
Black Feathers Content - Were you satisfied with the Black Feathers content?	Strongly Agree	Agree

In the future, the project would like to integrate the listener survey with Buzzsprout; however, the current platform does not allow for data collection questions to be included on the hosting page. Data collection is a challenging task when hosting a podcast without a consistent and engaged audience that is also viewing webrelated content. However, the benefits are reaching new communities and sharing information on an accessible platform.

**Website Data:** The project collected website traffic data via Google Analytics to understand user interest in the content. The episodes page had the most traffic with 190 views. The Black Feathers home page had 616 views, while the survey page had 96 views.

# **Objective 3.1 Podcast episode production**

There were four stages to the podcast episode production: 1) episode scheduling and speaker preparation; 2) episode recording; 3) episode editing; and 4) episode posting. Each step required detailed instructions and procedures. In Stage 1. before each episode, members of the production team would coordinate schedules with guests, gather relevant information and biographies, discuss content and script, and discuss/test technological needs for production. In Stage 2, the 45-minute-long podcast was recorded using Riverside recording services, which could take anywhere from one to two hours. During this time, the host and guest would review the interview script with the production team and record multiple takes of questions based on the interaction. In Stage 3, the production team would add the podcast intro/outro and clip the content for seamless production. The host and the project team would review the edited episode for clarity. Finally, in Stage 4, the production team launched the episode on Buzzsprout and embedded content on the Black Feathers website pages.

The following is a list of the produced Podcast Episodes, guests, and listeners. It is essential to note that, although the grant included built-in stipends for podcast guests, fewer than half of the guests expressed interest in receiving compensation.

Episode 1: Child Care in Cheyenne and Arapahoe Nations in Oklahoma

Episode Link: <a href="https://www.buzzsprout.com/1991536/episodes/15827197">https://www.buzzsprout.com/1991536/episodes/15827197</a>

Guests: Mary Davenport, Carrie F. Whitlow, and Megan Hart

Lead Guest Bio: Mary Davenport is a Licensed Masters Social Worker under supervision for a Licensed Clinical Social Worker designation. She has devoted over 30 years of her professional career to children, youth and families in Indian Country in her home state of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. She is a member of the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma and of Kiowa and Navajo descent. She has a wide range of experience in the fields of mental health, social services and education. Her experience includes practice, research, planning, administrative and tribal leadership roles. Her goal is to help strengthen the coordination of services that Native American families receive during their educational journey. She believes that successfully supporting students means coming together as a community to provide wrap around services that look beyond individual grant deliverables and

program or department objectives. Currently, she is a School Social Worker with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma and has served the C&A communities for approximately ten years - five years in Social Services Department and five years in the Department of Education. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Azusa Pacific University and her Master's in Social Work at the University of Oklahoma.

Number of Downloads: 138

Audiogram Link: https://www.facebook.com/share/v/19Hj5MmZ8F/

Episode 2: Transitional Services for Individuals with IDD at Gatesway Foundation

Episode Link: <a href="https://www.buzzsprout.com/1991536/episodes/16402516">https://www.buzzsprout.com/1991536/episodes/16402516</a>

Guests: Stephani Ninke and Dawn Newrider

Guest Bio: None provided

Number of Downloads: 132

Audiogram Link: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/v/16RTZhY68P/">https://www.facebook.com/share/v/16RTZhY68P/</a>

Episode 3: From the Start: Newborn Screenings Lead to Improved Life

Episode Link: https://www.buzzsprout.com/1991536/episodes/16829651

Guest: Shari Arceneaux

Guest Bio: I have been a registered nurse for over 35 years, practicing in a variety of settings in 6 different states in the US. Pediatrics was my first and frequent focus, and it makes sense that I have landed in the field of Newborn Screening for this stage of my career. I joined the State of Oklahoma Newborn Screening team in November of 2021 with a voracious appetite to learn. As I became proficient in the nurse follow up role, I desired to expand my sphere of influence. As an NBS Educator, I have the unique opportunity to affect the future for our Oklahoma babies and their families. It has been stimulating and rewarding to immerse myself in the world of Newborn Screening as I seek to provide education to the community at large as well as to our professional partners in a variety of settings.

Number of Downloads: 80

Audiogram Link: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/r/15bKA6kYzv/">https://www.facebook.com/share/r/15bKA6kYzv/</a>

Episode 4: Cherokee Health Services

Episode Link: https://www.buzzsprout.com/1991536/episodes/17296476

Guest: Dr. Amber Tiehen

Guest Bio: Dr. Amber Tiehen is the Cherokee Nation Health Services Senior Director of Rehabilitation Services. She received her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from the University of Arkansas in 2010 and her Doctor of Physical Therapy in 2014. She is a Certified Stroke and Rehabilitation Specialist and a Board-Certified Orthopedic Specialist. Dr. Tiehen has worked for Cherokee Nation Health Services for nine years and feels at home serving her community and advocating for patients.

Number of Downloads: 47

Audiogram Link: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19ZMpaXLHY/">https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19ZMpaXLHY/</a>

Episode 5: Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Episode Link: <a href="https://www.buzzsprout.com/1991536/episodes/17371452">https://www.buzzsprout.com/1991536/episodes/17371452</a>

Guest: Jenifer Randle

Guest Bio: Jenifer (you can call her Jen) is passionate about teaching, reading, writing, watching sports, and all things Star Trek. She holds degrees in Special Education from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the University of Kansas, and a certificate in Competitive Integrated Employment from Utah State University. With 14 years of experience teaching students with disabilities, Jen is a dedicated educator and a credentialed trainer for Person-Centered Thinking, a Charting the LifeCourse Ambassador, and Aging Our Way Ambassador.

Number of Downloads: 29

Audiogram Link: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1FiQbZDgGV/">https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1FiQbZDgGV/</a>

Episode 6: Honoring Wisdom: Elder Services in the Choctaw Nation

Episode Link: <a href="https://www.buzzsprout.com/1991536/episodes/17405284">https://www.buzzsprout.com/1991536/episodes/17405284</a>

Guest: Betty Wharton

Guest Bio: Betty Wharton is the Director of the Choctaw Nation Healthy Aging working to keep elders at optimum health and independent. She holds a Master of

Science: Clinical Nurse Specialist from the University of Oklahoma. She has worked in many facets of nursing with the last 25 years primarily in tribal health services. She is committed to the education of nursing students as a clinical instructor and licensure specialist for the future of health care. Mrs. Wharton serves on numerous boards and task forces to improve health promotion and care on a multi-state level. She has a strong work ethic and dedication to improve the state and access to health care across the continuum.

Number of Downloads: [Released at the end of the grant period, so no data collected]

Audiogram Link: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CA4GG4Z2b/">https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CA4GG4Z2b/</a>

# Objective 4.1 Resource and information sharing

The final objective of the project was to cultivate relevant and vetted resources to accompany each episode. As part of the guest introduction, the project would request resources from the guests' based on their subject-matter expertise. In addition to the recommendations of the speakers, the project team would identify additional best-practice resources on topics covered within each episode. Resources were posted alongside the podcast episode on the website.

Below is the list of curated resources by episode.

# Episode 1

- FFY 2026-2028 Tribal CCDF Plan Trainings | Child Care Technical Assistance Network
  - Targeting training materials and guidance—including submission guides, instructional videos, and templates—to assist Tribal Lead Agencies in preparing and submitting their FFY 2026–2028 Tribal CCDF (Child Care and Development Fund) Plans.
- Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) | Quapaw Tribe, OK Official Website
  The Quapaw Nation's Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) program
  provides low-income Native American families in its multi-state service area
  (OK, MO, KS, AR) with financial support for child care, resources like provider
  training, facility grants, and parent referrals; it operates two tribally licensed
  centers (O-Gah-Pah and Downstream), hosts enrichment activities (like camp
  and regalia initiatives), and outlines eligibility, applications, and recertification
  guidelines for children from infancy to age 12 (or 13 with special needs).

• <u>Tribal Consultation Report: Meeting the Child Care Needs in Tribal Nations:</u> Request for Information: Albuquerque, New Mexico

The report, "Meeting the Child Care Needs in Tribal Nations: Request for Information—Albuquerque, New Mexico (February 23, 2024)," summarizes insights from in-person consultation sessions held November 29–30, 2023 with 18 Tribal Lead Agencies. It highlights key themes such as local childcare priorities, infrastructure challenges, culturally responsive training, coordination across programs, workforce capacity, funding flexibility, and tribal sovereignty in program design and administration.

# Episode 2

# National Alliance on Mental Illness Oklahoma

NAMI Oklahoma is a statewide affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness that offers free community-based mental health support, advocacy, education programs, and crisis resources to individuals and families affected by mental illness across Oklahoma.

# Mental Health Association Oklahoma

Mental Health Association Oklahoma is a statewide nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to promoting mental health, preventing suicide, ending homelessness, and transforming the justice system through advocacy, education, housing, and comprehensive support services.

# • Center for Learning & Autism Support Services, Inc.

Center for Learning and Autism Support Services (CLASS) is a nationally recognized provider of individualized Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services—offering in-home and telehealth programs tailored to each child's needs across multiple U.S. states—with a mission to enhance social, communication, play, and independence skills for individuals on the autism spectrum.

# Oklahoma Human Services

Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS) is a state agency dedicated to promoting the safety, independence, and well-being of Oklahomans by providing essential services such as food and health assistance, child welfare, support for individuals with disabilities and seniors, child care, and family protection programs—helping over one million residents annually.

# Oklahoma Rehabilitation Services

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is a state agency that empowers Oklahomans with disabilities by helping them achieve employment, independent living, and self-sufficiency through individualized vocational training, assistive services, and educational programs—including support for the blind, deaf, and disability determinations.

# Episode 3

 Community Perspectives on Developmental Screening of American Indian and Alaska Native Children - PMC

The article explores how American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) families and early childhood professionals perceive the developmental screening process—identifying trust-building, cultural context, communication of results, and access to services as key areas for improving early detection in AIAN communities.

National Indian Head Start Directors Association NIHSDA
 The National Indian Head Start Directors Association (NIHSDA) is the leading national organization representing American Indian and Alaska Native Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Its mission is to "stand strong and preserve the identity of AIAN children and families," achieved through advocacy, leadership development, and culturally responsive training to support Tribal-run early childhood education.

# Episode 4

IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian LTSS Programs | CMS

The CMS "IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian LTSS Programs" page outlines how long-term services and supports (LTSS) initiatives—operated by Indian Health Service, tribal governments, and Urban Indian organizations—help elders and individuals with disabilities live independently in their communities by offering services like personal care, transportation, and case management, with program details and service availability accessible via an interactive state-by-state map.

Patients' Rights and Responsibilities IHS <u>Patients' Rights & Responsibilities | for Patients</u>

The Indian Health Service's "Patients' Rights & Responsibilities" page outlines that patients at IHS facilities are entitled to respectful, confidential care; informed decision-making (including advance directives); access to their medical records (PHI) under HIPAA and the Privacy Act; mechanisms for

grievance and complaints; and protections for safety, privacy, and self-determination in line with federal law.

# Episode 5

 National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities https://nacdd.org/

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) is the national membership organization representing the 56 State and Territorial Councils on Developmental Disabilities, working to empower individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and allies to build inclusive communities and live self-directed lives through policy, advocacy, technical assistance, and leadership development.

Effectively Addressing the Intersections
 64bac1f603e16f50971a1c2e\_Effectively Addressing the Intersections Report
 7.2023.pdf

The Addressing the Intersections Report addresses the intersections of race, nationality, immigration status, tribal nationality, sexual orientation, and gender identity within the intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) service delivery system. This report summarizes the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council's (DDC) contracted work with the Equity in Education Coalition (EEC) and the Northwest Center (NWC).

American Indian Disability Summit <u>American Indian Disability Summit - Ability360 | Phoenix, AZ</u>

The American Indian Disability Summit hosted by Ability360 is a hybrid event that brings together American Indian individuals—especially youth—with disabilities, along with their families and community members, to share perspectives, access resources, and celebrate culture, history, and empowerment through advocacy, education, and networking opportunities.

# Episode 6

# Choctaw Nation Healthy Aging Program

The Choctaw Nation's Healthy Aging program offers a comprehensive, multidisciplinary suite of wellness, behavioral health, social services, nursing care, case management, and caregiver support tailored specifically for tribal elders (55+), aimed at enhancing quality of life, independence, and overall, well-being.

# • Facebook: Older Indians Page

The Older Indians Facebook page, managed by the Administration for Community Living's Office for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs, shares updates on Title VI initiatives under the Older Americans Act—such as nutrition, supportive services, and caregiver support—for federally recognized tribes.

# • <u>Biskinik | Choctaw Nation Healthy Aging Program is there to help elders live</u> their best life

A news article about the Choctaw Nation's Healthy Aging Program support for over 10,000 elders in 2024 by initially ensuring they attended appointments, took medications, had food, and stayed safe at home, and has since expanded to provide wellness activities, social services, behavioral health support, case management, caregiver assistance, home modifications, and adult protective services to help elders live independently and thrive.

# Lessons learned

**Trust.** Building trust with tribal citizens and Nations is key to success in any partnership. Trust is not given easily to government-funded agencies and researchers. Reciprocity, respect, and patience are needed when initiating any new program or service. Trust is built on long-term investments from agencies and practitioners. While the Black Feathers episodes served as the entry point for building relationships, it is only the first step with many of the OK Tribal Nations. It is the hope that this project has established new relationships for the Council to sustain and build upon.

**Active Listening.** For too long, Tribal Nations and their citizens have been instructed, guided, and mistakenly educated under the pretense of culturally inappropriate initiatives. Listening first to what citizens need versus what is currently available and provided can transform the approaches and development of culturally responsive programs. It was clear early on in the podcast production that there were actually two separate audiences engaged with the OK Black Feathers podcast: tribal members who heard stories and resources from members of their own community, and non-tribal members interested in learning from guests and our host about the concerns, issues, and strengths of the Tribal Nations in Oklahoma. It would be beneficial for future initiatives to tailor the narrative around each topic to address the key points relevant to different audience members.

**Data Collection.** Data collection with Tribal Nations has historically been difficult due to a lack of trust and transparency of outside organizations and individuals. Compound this challenge was the utilization of a communications platform that was not intentionally designed to collect data. This created a data collection conundrum. To address this challenge in the future, we recommend hiring citizen liaisons from each of the Tribal Nations to support data collection and inclusive research design.

# **Sustainability**

Upon receipt of the award the State of the State of the States project had hoped to build a replication model to be used in partnership with DD Councils to fund customized Black Feather podcast episodes to represent different states and Nations. However, given the challenges and uncertainty of funding, we have begun to seek new partnerships to sustain the podcast. One such collaboration is with the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD) Indigenous Workgroup. The workgroup is comprised of UCEDD Directors and staff interested in understanding indigenous issues and work. The UCEDDs engaged in the workgroup represent centers in NY, KS, OK, AZ, NM, MN, and SD and meet quarterly. We are seeking funding to create a national partnership with our partner UCEDDs where Black Feathers could continue as a preferred dissemination tool to reach indigenous communities.





# **Black Feathers Podcast is back!**

New Episodes coming soon.



**Host** Crystal Hernandez Cherokee Citizen Psy.D., MBA





A Partnership between the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma and State of the States.





# Appendix B

## Oklahoma Media Contact List

# ALABAMA-QUASSARTE TRIBAL TOWN

Leadership: Wilson Yargee (Chief)

NCIA Contact: (405) 452-3987

Email: info@alabama-quassarte.org

Website: https://www.alabama-quassarte.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/alabamaquassartetribaltown/

# APACHE TRIBE OF OK

Leadership: Durell Cooper (Chairman)

NCIA Contact: (405)247-9493

Email: info@apachetribe.org

Website: https://apachetribe.org/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064870530701

# CADDO NATION

Leadership: Bobby Gonzalez (Chairman)

NCIA Contact: 405.656.2344

Email: lhalfmoon@mycaddonation.com

Website: https://mycaddonation.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/807053426004155

X: https://www.x.com/CaddoNation

# CAOMANCHE NATION

# CHEROKEE NATION

Leadership: Chuck Hoskin Jr. (Principal Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 453-5000

Email: cco@cherokee.org

Website: https://www.cherokee.org/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TheCherokeeNation

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/thecherokeenation/

X: https://twitter.com/CherokeeNation

Other Social Media: https://www.youtube.com/user/CherokeeTV

# CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES

Leadership: Reggie Wassana (Governor)

NCIA Contact: (405) 262-0345

Email: info@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

Newspaper: https://www.cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov/public-affairs/news

Website: https://www.cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CheyenneandArapahoTribes

X: https://twitter.com/catribaltribune?lang=en

# CHICKASAW NATION

Leadership: Bill Anoatubby (Governor)

NCIA Contact: (580) 436-2603

Email: Tony.Choate@Chickasaw.net

Newspaper: Home | Chickasaw Times

Website: Home | Chickasaw Nation

Facebook: Facebook.com/TheChickasawNation

Instagram: Instagram.com/ChickasawNation

X: Twitter.com/ChickasawNation

LinkedIn: Linkedin.com/company/Chickasaw-Nation

Television News: CNTV News | Chickasaw.tv

Radio Stations: Home | KCNP Radio

# **CHOCTAW NATION**

Leadership: Gary Batton (Chief)

NCIA Contact: (580) 924-8280

Email: khumenesky@choctawnation.com

Newspaper: https://www.choctawnation.com/news/

Website: https://www.choctawnation.com/

Facebook: http://bit.ly/cno-fb

Instagram: http://bit.ly/cno-insta

X: http://bit.ly/cno-tweet

LinkedIn: http://bit.ly/cno-linkedin

Other Social Media: http://bit.ly/cno-yt

# CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION

Leadership: John "Rocky" Barrett (chairman)

NCIA Contact: (405)275-3121

Newspaper:

https://cpnresearch.potawatomi.org/groups/Hownikan\_Collection/results

Website: https://www.potawatomi.org/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/citizenpotawatomination/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/hownikan/

X: https://twitter.com/c\_p\_n

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/citizen-potawatomi-nation

Other Social Media: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw8D\_-45RXrLes2AXJ0Xpvg

# COMANCHE NATION

Leadership: Forrest Tahdooahnippah

NCIA Contact: (580) 492-3240

Email: https://www.comanchenation.com/directory-listing/sarae-ticeahkie

Website: https://comanchenation.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/people/Comanche-Nation-of-

Oklahoma/100064473801586/

# **DELAWARE NATION**

Leadership: Deborah Dotson (President)

NCIA Contact: (405) 247-2448

Email: prit@delawarenation-nsn.gov

Website: https://www.delawarenation-nsn.gov/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/delawarenation/

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/delawarenationlennilenape/?fbclid=lwARoNmRBgSZyvedhl8lDmFrRBsePqUA7tXCAl1BekhVd5Bo5bmqk7HtuWo54

Other Social Media: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfx6-FCSXkBsXQyh1h\_iqEA

# DELAWARE TRIBE OF INDIANS

Leadership: Brad KillsCrow (Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 337-6590

Email: tribe@delawaretribe.org

# EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OK

Leadership: Glenna Wallace (Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 666-2435

Email: https://www.estoo-nsn.gov/email-contact/node/1481/field\_email

Website: https://estoo-nsn.gov/

# **EUCHEE TRIBE OF INDIANS**

Email: gtaiacinfo@gmail.com

# FORT SILL APACHE TRIBE

Leadership: Lori Gooday Ware (Chairwoman)

NCIA Contact: 877-826-0726

Email: fsat@fortsillapache-nsn.gov

Website: https://fortsillapache-nsn.gov/

# IOWA TRIBE OF OK

Leadership: Edgar Kent (Chairman)

NCIA Contact: 405-547-2402

Website: https://iowanation.org/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/iowatribeofok

Other Social Media:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8TG22DTwmqqDhJOr6Dk8Mw

# **KAW NATION**

# KIALEGEE TRIBAL TOWN

Leadership: Jeremiah Hobia (Town King)

NCIA Contact: (405) 452-3262

Email: Ardeena.Angela@kialegeetribe.net

# KICKAPOO TRIBE OF OK

Leadership: Darwin Kaskaske (Chairman)

NCIA Contact: 405-9644227

Email: info@okkt.net

Website: https://www.kickapootribeofoklahoma.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/KickapooTribeOK

# KIOWA INDIAN TRIBE OF OK

Leadership: Lawrence SpottedBird (Chairman)

NCIA Contact: (580) 654-2300

Website: https://www.kiowatribe.org/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/thekiowatribe/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/kiowatribe

Other Social Media:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZgCProczDHGjYBAqokQDPw

# MIAMI TRIBE OF OK

Leadership: Douglas G. Lankford (Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 541-1300

Email: jolds@miamination.com

Newspaper: https://miamination.com/aatotankiki-myaamiaki-newspaper-archive/

Website: https://miamination.com/

# MODOC NATION

Leadership: Bill Follis (Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 542-1190

Email: https://modocnation.com/contact/

Website: https://modocnation.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ModocTribe

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/modocnation

# MUSCOGEE NATION

Leadership: David W. Hill (Principal Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 732-7600

Email: bonthehill@muscogeenation.com

Website: https://www.muscogeenation.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/TheMuscogeeNation

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/visitmuscogeenation/

X: https://twitter.com/MuscogeeNation

Other Social Media: https://www.youtube.com/@themuscogeenation7247

# **OSAGE NATION**

Leadership: Geoffrey Standingbear (Principal Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 287-5555

Email: communications@osagenation-nsn.gov

Website: https://www.osagenation-nsn.gov/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/osagenation/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/osagenation/

X: https://twitter.com/osagenation

LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com/company/osage-nation

Other Social Media: https://www.youtube.com/osagenationnsngovmedia

# **OTOE-MISSOURIA TIBE**

Leadership: John R. Shotton (Chairman)

NCIA Contact: 877.692.6863

Email: publicinfo@omtribe.org

Website: https://www.omtribe.org/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Otoe-Missouria-Tribe-of-Indians-

296102534585/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/otoe\_missouria\_tribe/

X: https://twitter.com/OMT\_of\_Indians

Other Social Media:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCegEbFdonyH4oqo6LcEKFA

# OTTAWA TRIBE OF OK

Leadership: Ethel Cook (Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 540-1536

Email: adawe.oto@gmail.com

Website: https://www.ottawatribe.org/

# PAWNEE NATION OF OK

NCIA Contact: 918-762-3621

Email: communications@pawneenation.org

Website: https://pawneenation.org/

# PEORIA TRIBE OF OK

Leadership: Craig Harper (Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 540-2535

Email: creative@peoriatribe.com

Website: https://peoriatribe.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PeoriaTribe

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/thepeoriatribe/

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/peoria-tribe-of-indians-of-

oklahoma

# PONCA TRIBE OF OK

Leadership: Oliver Little Cook (Chairman)

NCIA Contact: (580) 762-8104

Email: Beth.graves@ponca-nsn.gov

Website: https://www.ponca-nsn.gov/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/poncatribeofoklahoma/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/poncatribeofindiansofok/

Other Social Media: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWfMAAM-

GroUVzVJgkjeJng

# PRAIRIE BAND OF POTAWATOMI NATION

Leadership: Joseph "Zeke" Rupnick (Chairman)

NCIA Contact: 877.715.6789

Email: media@pbpnation.org

Website: https://www.pbpindiantribe.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Prairie-Band-Potawatomi-Nation-

294678187223262/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/pbpnation/

X: https://twitter.com/PBPNation

# QUAPAW NATION

Leadership: John Berrey (Chairman)

NCIA Contact: (918) 542-1853

Email: PublicRelations@quapawnation.com

Website: https://www.quapawtribe.com/

Facebook: https://www.quapawtribe.com/facebook

X: https://twitter.com/quapaw\_nation

Other Social Media: https://www.quapawtribe.com/youtube

# SAC AND FOX NATION

Leadership: Justin Freeland Wood (Principal Chief)

Email: tribaladministrator@sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov

Tribal PR Contact Phone: 918-968-3526

Website: https://www.sacandfoxnation-nsn.gov/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SacFoxNation/

# SEMINOLE NATION

Leadership: Greg P. Chilcoat (Principal Chief)

NCIA Contact: (405) 257-7200

Email: Seminolemedia@gmail.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SeminoleNation/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/semnatoklahoma/

X: https://twitter.com/SeminoleNation\_

Other Social Media: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTyv-

A47erxDWkAMCkkE84g

# SENECA-CAYUGA TRIBE OF OK

Leadership: Charlie Diebold (Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 787-5452

Email: submissions@scntribe.com

Website: https://sctribe.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/OfficialSenecaCayugaNation/

X: https://mobile.twitter.com/senecacayuga

# SHAWNEE TRIBE

Leadership: Benjamin Barnes (Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 542-2441

Email: media@shawnee-tribe.com

Website: https://shawnee-nsn.gov/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/saawanooki

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/saawanooki

LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com/company/saawanooki

Other Social Media: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\_wmyYoJ8bQ-HuS-

04BLhDw

# THIOPTHIOCCO TRIBAL TOWN

Leadership: Ryan Morrow (Town King)

NCIA Contact: (918) 560-6198

Email: yfixico@tttown.org

Website: https://www.tttown.org/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/thlopthloccotribaltown

X: https://twitter.com/hashtag/thlopthloccotribaltown?src=hash

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/thlopthlocco-tribal-town

# TONKAWA TRIBE

Leadership: Russel Martin (president)

Email: https://tonkawatribe.com/contact/

Website: https://tonkawatribe.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Tonkawa.Tribe/

# UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS IN OK

Leadership: Joe Bunch (Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 431-1818

Email: info@ukb-nsn.gov.

Newspaper: https://www.ukb-nsn.gov/general-6

Website: https://www.ukb-nsn.gov/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/UnitedKeetoowahBand/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ukbmedia/?hl=en

Other Social Media:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7HUG1a53MWamJmTvhyLw5Q?view\_as=s

ubscriber

# WICHITA AND AFFILIATED TRIBES

Leadership: Amber Silverhorn-Wolfe (president)

NCIA Contact: (405) 247-2425

Email: https://wichitatribe.com/contact/

Website: https://wichitatribe.com/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086288354969

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/wichitaandaffiliatedtribes/

X: https://twitter.com/WichitaTribes

Other Social Media: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCflgGPUDKW-

**VNMukEiggXaQ** 

# WYANDOTTE NATION

Leadership: Billy Friend (Chief)

NCIA Contact: (918) 678-2297

Email: wswaim@wyandotte-nation.org

Website: https://wyandotte-nation.org/

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/wyandottenation/

X: http://twitter.com/WyandotteNation

Other Social Media: https:/

# Oklahoma Autism Center Early Access

# FY25 Quarter 4 Project Summary

# Oklahoma Autism Center, Early Access Screenings & ADOS2 Qualified Examiner

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	0	0	0	0
# of family members who participated in council activity	156	97	76	100
# of others who participated in council activity	24	13	19	14
# of professionals trained	131	163	114	52

During the fourth quarter, the Early Access team expanded outreach and training efforts across Oklahoma, focusing on early childhood providers, families, and tribal communities. In April, the team shared updates during Autism Advocacy Day at the State Capitol and conducted a specialized training on autism and developmental monitoring for 16 early care providers. While attendance was modest, participants provided positive feedback, and future trainings may shift to virtual or Saturday morning formats to increase accessibility. Additional training in April focused on autism screening for eight professionals working with children with fetal substance exposure. In May, the team contributed to a Chickasaw Nation training on interdisciplinary evaluation teams and engaged in legislative collaboration with a Partners in Policymaking graduate to support developmental screening policy proposals.

Engagement continued in June through participation in the Oklahoma Early Childhood Transition Summit, where 15 Head Start providers received training, and information was shared with 42 more professionals. The team also collaborated with Cherokee Nation leadership on a proposal to NIH, aiming to expand autism evaluation capacity. A separate training was conducted in Tulsa for six home visiting professionals, and new family outreach efforts included developmental monitoring sessions for 25 family members through Parent Promise OKC, as well as parent presentations at six local libraries. Planning was completed for a bilingual training on July 14 for Sooner Success staff, and a family guide was translated and printed in Spanish as part of ongoing support for Spanish-speaking communities.

Throughout the quarter, Early Access provided direct support to families by offering screening services to 18 families, answering screening-related questions for 33 families, and supplying resources and referrals to an additional 49 families and 14 community members. The team maintained strong partnerships with key collaborators such as the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma, Chickasaw Nation, Cherokee Nation, Sooner Success, and Oklahoma State Department of Health. Progress aligned with the team's five-year sustainability plan, which leverages ongoing training contracts and Preschool Development Grant partnerships to sustain and grow activities. Key takeaways from this period included increased understanding of effective training formats and the successful use of bilingual translation services for broader community engagement.



# Annual Report for the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma July 1, 2024 – June 31, 2025

# I. Project Summary Information

Project Name: Early Access Oklahoma

Organization Name: Oklahoma Autism Center

Name of Persons Writing Report: Kathryn Moore and Seth Kastner

Email: kathryn-moore@ouhsc.edu; seth-kastner@ouhsc.edu

### **Early Access Team Members:**

Kathryn Moore, PI/Project Director and Psychologist Bonnie McBride, CDC Act Early Ambassador Seth Kastner, Outreach and Project Evaluation Coordinator Jeanne Buchanan, Clinic Operations and Family Coordinator Gina Bryan, Financial and Contract Support Coordinator Margaret Bergant, Project Facilitator

### **II. Project Final Results**

# **Executive Summary**

During this contract period, we not only continued our trainings in developmental monitoring, screening, and assessment with existing partners, but we also expanded our efforts to new audiences. This included developing new partnerships and adapting training contents and materials for specialized audiences including childcare providers and Spanish-language providers.

#### BY THE NUMBERS...

During this contract year, our project provided

- screenings or related resources and referrals to 429 families,
- resources and assistance to more than 70 community professionals, and
- training on autism, developmental monitoring, and screening for 493 professionals.
- 22 diagnostic evaluations for Spanish-speaking families (using Spanish ADOS-2 kit purchased with DDCO funding)

Participants in our introduction to Autism and Developmental Monitoring trainings reported increases in knowledge across all measured areas:

Knowledge Area	Rating BEFORE Training (X/5)	Rating AFTER Training (X/5)
Characteristics of autism	3.2	4.4
Indicators of autism	3.2	4.4
Developmental Monitoring	3.0	4.2
"Learn the Signs. Act Early."	2.6	4.1
Addressing concerns with	3.0	4.3
families		
Supports for children with autism	2.7	4.1

Additionally, 80% of participants rated the training as Very Relevant or Extremely Relevant to their current work, and 80% also said that they "definitely will" use what they learned from our training.

#### KEY PARTNERSHIPS...

Collaboration with other stakeholders and professionals in early childhood and related areas has continue to be the heart of our project.

# **Partners and Collaborators**

Oklahoma Department of Health

Oklahoma City Public Schools

Safecare

HeadStart/Early Head Start administrators

Oklahoma Association of Communication Action Agencies

**Chickasaw Nation** 

LIFT Community Action Agency

Child Care Resource and Referral

Muscogee Nation Head Start

Oklahoma Autism Network

Sooner Success bilingual county coordinators

Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness

A Better Chance Clinic

Partners in Policymaking

Oklahoma Early Childhood Transition Summit

Cherokee Nation

**Parent Promise** 

Metropolitan Library System

**OU Health** 

Autism Foundation of Oklahoma

#### Challenges

- a. Given the broad target audiences and partnerships for our project, the majority of the challenges we faced during the contract year were related to logistical issues in coordinating schedules, establishing and maintaining communication with new partners, and optimizing our services to strike a balance between providing narrowly tailored tools and content vs. appealing to a broader audience with a more generalized approach.
- b. We are still awaiting selection from the waitlist to complete the necessary final training steps toward having a certified trainer in the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2) within Oklahoma. We will continue to bring in an outside certified trainer to fulfill some level of the needs and have been able to less-formally coach and train some providers in diagnostic assessment (see the summary above). Our capacity to train providers at a larger scale and more formally is still on hold until selected from the waitlist to attend the nationally-based training which has not yet been scheduled.
- c. The most common barrier cited by training participants was that they still felt they needed additional training in order to fully address the topics covered and how they relate to their work. Other participants mentioned a lack of time/resources or a lack of support/buy-in from administrators as keeping them from utilizing what they learned from our trainings. This feedback serves to remind us to continue striving to improve our training and resources, in particular, to streamline them to be easier to implement at a larger scale.

#### Lessons Learned

- a. Through additional training and networking at a national level, we have learned that long waitlists for evaluations are a pervasive issue. This is motivating us to consider a two-pronged approach where we continue to work on building capacity to increase awareness of early indicators of autism and decrease wait times for autism screenings and evaluations, while also increasing our focus on identifying sustainable strategies for increasing communication with waiting families to connect them with resources while they await a formal diagnostic evaluation.
- b. We connected with an English-Spanish translator who efficiently translated a document for us and we are looking forward to future opportunities to increase accessibility to resources for Spanish-speaking families.
- c. We learned more about scheduling considerations to better reach early care audiences.

# Sustainability Plans

a. We have continued to follow the model set out by our 2021-2026 sustainability plan, which emphasizes the leveraging of existing partnerships to increase the number of organizations utilizing our professional development services in an ongoing, fee-for-service model, while utilizing DDCO funds to provide initial training and build partnerships with new collaborators.

#### Project Visibility and Outreach

- a. We highlighted developmental monitoring for the general public through "Milestones Monday" posts on our social media (Facebook and Instagram) throughout the year.
- b. We shared information and conducted networking at professional and community events throughout the year, including Autism Advocacy Day at

- the Oklahoma State Capitol, at several events in partnership with the Metropolitan Library System, and at the Early Childhood Transition Summit.
- c. We were connected with a participant of Partners in Policymaking to provide our knowledge and experience related to their potential legislative advocacy efforts focused on developmental screening.

# III. Final Budget Report

Due to the University's Grants and Contracts accounting process, we do not currently have finalized project costs. We anticipate that we will have the data for a final budget report by the end of August and will provide the DDCO with this information as soon as it is available.

# Sooner SUCCESS

**Caregiver Retreats** 



# FY25 Quarter 4 Project Summary

# Sooner SUCCESS, Family Respite Retreats and Sibling Overnight & Day Camps

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
# individuals with DD who participated in respite retreat	16	17	0	3
# of family members who participated in respite retreat	46	20	0	66
# of others who participated in respite retreat	0	0	0	1
# of retreats held	1	1	0	2
# individuals with DD who participated in sibling overnight camp	0	0	0	11
# of siblings who participated in sibling overnight camp	0	0	0	12
# of caregivers who received respite due to sibling overnight camp	0	0	0	21
# of others who participated in sibling overnight camp	0	0	0	36
# individuals with DD who participated in sibling day camp	0	0	0	46
# of siblings who participated in sibling day camp	0	0	0	66
# of caregivers who received respite due to sibling day camp	0	0	0	92
# of others who participated in sibling day camp	0	0	0	67
# of sibling day camps held	0	0	0	5

Sooner SUCCESS hosted two regional Caregiver Retreats in Tulsa and Oklahoma City during spring 2025, offering transformative experiences for 66 caregivers. Both retreats provided thoughtfully planned activities focused on self-care, relaxation, and connection. Caregivers received welcome baskets, participated in massages, wellness workshops, art activities, and meaningful group discussions. Meals and accommodations were fully arranged, including off-site dining in Tulsa and in-hotel catering in OKC. The retreats were successful in fostering a sense of rejuvenation and community, with several caregivers expressing deep gratitude for the rare opportunity to rest, connect with others, and feel seen and supported. Demand for these retreats remains high, with over 270 submissions through a new interest form since its launch in December 2024. Rising hotel and food costs, along with caregiver challenges in securing respite, remain ongoing barriers.

In addition to caregiver support, Sooner SUCCESS implemented six sibling-focused camps in 2025: one overnight camp and five regional day camps. These camps engaged over 135 siblings and provided 92 caregivers with meaningful respite. The Sibling Camp at JD McCarty Center welcomed both siblings with and without developmental disabilities, creating an inclusive environment where participants connected through group discussions, games, arts and crafts, outdoor activities, and special events like a dance party and talent show. Families received follow-up resources, and parents were invited to reflection sessions to hear what their children had learned. Feedback consistently highlighted how valuable it was for siblings to feel



# Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

understood and heard, with many children expressing that it was their first time meeting someone who shared their experience.

The day camps offered an accessible alternative to overnight programming and were especially effective for younger siblings or those new to group experiences. Activities were tailored to local communities and included CPR training, equine therapy, storytelling, crafts, and peer discussions. Tulsa, Guthrie, Piedmont, Poteau, and Enid all hosted camps with the help of local partners and volunteers. In total, 46 individuals with disabilities received support while their siblings attended camp, and 67 additional volunteers, partners, and agency staff helped ensure success. These programs helped strengthen sibling bonds, build confidence, and introduce self-advocacy in a supportive and age-appropriate way.

Collaboration was key to the success of these efforts. Sooner SUCCESS worked with dozens of local partners—including hotels, massage therapists, photographers, food vendors, and behavioral support agencies—to ensure each event was tailored and well-executed. Planning began months in advance to secure speakers, reserve accommodations, and confirm logistics. Volunteer training focused on behavioral support and safety was also implemented, ensuring a positive and secure experience for all children. By centering programming around siblings' emotional and developmental needs, the camps are modeling best practices in inclusive, family-centered support.

Despite these successes, challenges persist. Limited funding, volunteer capacity, and space constraints make it difficult to serve every interested family. Rising costs also continue to threaten sustainability, and some families are unable to attend due to lack of respite care options. Sooner SUCCESS is actively working to address these barriers by exploring new partnerships, raising awareness about the importance of respite, and refining program models to ensure long-term impact. Efforts such as creating a waiting list system and offering both overnight and day camp formats have helped improve accessibility and adaptability.

Ultimately, the sibling and caregiver retreats are filling a major gap in family support services. They help caregivers recharge, allow siblings to feel understood, and offer all participants access to meaningful connection, resources, and community. As one child shared during camp, "I thought I was the only one... I'm happy I came and made new friends." These programs demonstrate that by investing in the well-being of the entire family, we create stronger, more inclusive support systems that extend beyond the individual with a disability.

### I. Project Summary Information

### **Grant Information**

Project	
Name	Caregiver Retreats and Sibling Camps

Organization	
Name	Sooner SUCCESS

Name of Person writing	
report	Lori Wathen
Email	Lori-wathen@ouhsc.edu

### People who did the work

Please include the first and last name and title for everyone who worked on this project for your organization (not including volunteers).

Deana Wilson, Region 1 Coordinator, Garfield/Kay County Coordinator Jona Arthur, Blaine/Kingfisher/Major County Coordinator Heather Collins, Woods/Woodward County Coordinator

Lisa Debolt, Region 2 Coordinator
Rona Tracy, Creek/Payne County Coordinator
Beth Soderfelt, Delaware/Mayes/Rogers County Coordinator
Andee Cooper, Tulsa County Coordinator
Yesenia Cook, Tulsa County Bilingual Coordinator

Lori Wathen, Region 3 Coordinator
Mayra Rocha, OK County Bilingual Coordinator
Michelle Rico, OK County Bilingual Family Support Coordinator
Janet Wilson, Canadian/Grady County Coordinator
Brandy Parks, Logan/Lincoln County Coordinator

Eva Smith, Region 4 Coordinator, McClain County Coordinator
Sara Pensoneau, Cleveland County Coordinator
Stephanie Redelk, Lifespan Respite Voucher Coordinator, Stephens/Comanche County Coordinator

Aietah Stephens, Executive Director
Mayra Castaneda, Lead Grant/Contract Coordinator, Bilingual Respite Coordinator
Samantha Basave, Statewide Sibling Support Coordinator
Teairra Jackson, TEFRA Family Support Coordinator, Jumpstart Family Partner
Tammy Rayos, Intern

# II. Project Final Results (no more than 3 pages) Executive Summary

The Sooner SUCCESS retreats provided critical support and relief to family caregivers of individuals with disabilities through a well-planned, enriching, and accessible experience. the programs offered 107 caregivers a break from their responsibilities in a rejuvenating environment that prioritized self-care, social connection, and education.

### Caregivers benefited from:

- **Respite and Relief**: Respite vouchers enabled families to arrange substitute care, giving caregivers uninterrupted time to rest and recharge.
- **Self-Care Activities**: Massage, meditation, art, and nature-based recreation helped participants reduce stress and focus on their own well-being.
- **Social Support**: Activities like bonfires and bingo fostered community and connection among caregivers facing similar challenges.
- **Resources and Education**: Each participant received materials on self-care, participated in sessions about the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (DDCO), and learned about the effects of chronic stress.
- **Personalized Support**: All retreat attendees and those on the waitlist received one-onone service navigation to connect them with vital resources and the appropriate respite programs.

The retreat experience gave caregivers not only rest but also tangible tools and lasting connections to help sustain them in their caregiving roles. By combining fun, education, and support, the project strengthened families and built a more resilient caregiver community.

The Fourth Annual Sibling Camp and Sibling Day Camps created unique and inclusive spaces where siblings of children with disabilities—and those with disabilities themselves—could come together to connect, grow, and have fun. Held at JD McCarty Center and various sites across Oklahoma, the camps supported **135 children** (57 with disabilities, 78 neurotypical) ranging from ages 8 to 25.

### Families and siblings benefited through:

- **Strengthened Sibling Bonds**: Shared activities encouraged relationship-building between siblings while helping them appreciate and support one another in new ways.
- **Peer Connection and Support**: Neurotypical and disabled siblings were able to connect with others who share similar life experiences, reducing isolation and fostering empathy.
- **Personal Growth**: Through expressive workshops, age-appropriate discussions about disability, and creative outlets like crafts and improv, siblings built confidence, learned self-expression, and felt validated in their experiences.
- **Inclusive Fun**: Events like the dance party and talent show gave each camper a chance to shine and be celebrated, regardless of ability.
- Parental Insight and Involvement: A closing family reflection session allowed parents to witness their children's growth, celebrate their experiences, and receive resources for continued support.
- **Follow-Up and Impact Measurement**: Family surveys helped evaluate the program's effectiveness and support future planning and funding.

The camp gave siblings a rare opportunity to step into a supportive, understanding environment where they could be themselves, make new friends, and deepen their sibling relationships. At the same time, families were equipped with insights and tools to continue fostering those connections at home.

### **Challenges and How We Addressed Them**

### 1. Reaching New Caregivers

- *Challenge:* Initial retreat promotion strategies were not effectively reaching new caregivers.
- *Solution:* A new year-round **online interest form** was launched on December 16, 2024. This has significantly improved outreach, with **273 caregiver submissions** received statewide, creating a sustainable pipeline of interested families.

### 2. Limited Retreat Capacity

- *Challenge:* High caregiver interest far exceeds the number of families we can accommodate (273 submissions vs. 53 available spots).
- Impact: Many families remain on waitlists or miss out entirely.
- *Response:* Staff continue to track interest to support future planning and funding efforts, and provide 1:1 service navigation to ensure families still receive some level of support even if they cannot attend.

### 3. Last-Minute Caregiver Cancellations

- *Challenge:* Life events such as medical emergencies or logistical issues (e.g., vehicle trouble, family illness) caused some families to cancel retreat attendance last minute.
- *Response*: Staff remain flexible and supportive, offering resources and future opportunities to those affected.

### 4. Rising Costs

- Challenge: Increasing **hotel and food costs** have limited how many caregivers we can serve.
- Response: The team continues to seek **cost-effective venues and partnerships**, and uses data from interest forms to advocate for increased funding.

### 5. Respite Provider Availability

- *Challenge:* Some caregivers, especially single parents, struggle to find reliable respite care to attend retreats.
- *Response*: Staff are working to strengthen **respite provider networks** and assist families in accessing existing voucher programs.

### 6. Volunteer Shortage for Sibling Camp

- *Challenge:* A lack of **male volunteers** limited our ability to serve the number of male campers who applied.
- *Response*: Programming was adjusted to serve more female participants. Recruitment efforts are ongoing to diversify the volunteer base.

### 7. Limited Capacity for Sibling Camps

- *Challenge*: Due to space, staffing, and funding limits, not all families interested in sibling camps can be accommodated.
- Response: Staff are exploring expanded formats like **day camps**, and collecting family feedback to guide improvements and advocate for resources.

### **Lessons Learned:**

### **Retreats:**

Prices have continued to rise across the state, especially for food, supplies, and lodging, though some state lodging rates remain stable. To manage attendance effectively, an interest form was implemented, creating a waiting list of caregivers. This allowed the team to quickly fill cancellations and engage with more caregivers about services and respite voucher opportunities.

### Camp Support & Accessibility:

Sibling camp aimed to be inclusive, but due to behavioral and developmental needs, it became clear that having a behavioral specialist on-site was essential. A trained volunteer filled this role, enabling better support for high-needs campers.

### **Event Logistics & Adjustments:**

Region 2 (Tulsa) hosted a Saturday dinner offsite to reduce costs. However, some guests lacked transportation or chose to stay at the hotel, highlighting the need for better planning in the future. With rising hotel and food costs, alternative retreat locations will be considered going forward.

### **Volunteer Training & Family Engagement:**

Training volunteers on behavioral support and interviewing families in advance helped better prepare for campers' needs. However, not all families completed the post-event surveys. In the future, offering lunch as an incentive for survey completion may improve response rates.

### **Testimonials:**

A caregiver expressed deep appreciation for the retreat, describing it as rejuvenating, relaxing, and thoughtfully planned. They felt genuinely cared for and were reminded of the importance of self-care while supporting a loved one with disabilities.

Thank you, Eva and Stephanie with Sooner SUCCESS, for the retreat invitation for Al and I to relax and get away. So needed and such a blessing. Beautiful facility, food and having fun.

During the OKC Caregiver Retreat, one military family learned about the DDS waiver and the new Legally Responsible Individual (LRI) policy, which could allow the mother to become a paid caregiver for her son—an option they were previously unaware of. This information was especially valuable, as the mother plans to leave her job due to the demands of caring for two children with disabilities.

At Sibling Camp, a sibling shared that he had to switch to online school due to bullying related to his brother's disabilities. Despite the challenges, he deeply loves his brother, who has cerebral palsy and high support needs, and is concerned about their family's future. The family, from a rural area with limited access to resources like this camp, expressed immense gratitude for the opportunity. It was the sibling's first-time meeting others in similar situations, and he looked forward to feeling less isolated. Their caregiver, who has provided continuous care for 14 years without a break, also shared her appreciation. She hopes the camp will help her son feel understood and supported, and lessen the emotional burden he carries.

The Tulsa Retreat had a profound impact on families, with one social worker sharing that a couple felt more supported and rejuvenated than they had since taking custody of their nieces. Another couple expressed deep gratitude after winning Leon Bridges concert tickets, which gave them an unexpected extra night away.

In OKC, two parents with disabilities attended the retreat. One mother, referred by a pediatrician, experienced her first night away from her two sons with severe autism. She shared how well she slept and how much she enjoyed the hotel and activities, highlighting the importance of caregiver respite.

At Sibling Camp, many children expressed that it was their first time meeting others in similar family situations. One 11-year-old shared how they had always felt guilty for their frustrations at home but found relief and connection after hearing peers express the same feelings. The experience helped them feel understood and less alone.

### **Sustainability Plans:**

Sooner SUCCESS remains deeply committed to caregiver well-being, self-care, and access to respite. To ensure the long-term availability of these vital programs, we continue to advocate for respite awareness and collaborate with state agencies for support.

For Sibling Camp and Sibling Day Camp, sustainability remains a key concern. Ongoing challenges include securing reliable funding and maintaining strong partnerships and volunteer involvement to uphold safety, meaningful engagement, and program quality. While the need for these camps is clear, expanding and sustaining them will require increased support and investment.

### **Project Visibility and Outreach:**

The DDCO logo is prominently featured on several retreat materials, including the Oklahoma Family Caregiver Respite Retreat Interest Form, the final registration form, the event flyer, and the Sibling Camp flyer and banner. During the retreat, DDCO will be recognized as the event funder multiple times, with either a live representative speaking or a video presentation created by Jen Randle. Additionally, the retreat has been promoted through the Sooner SUCCESS Facebook page, newsletter, and website, further acknowledging DDCO's sponsorship and support. Information about the retreats and sibling camps was widely distributed to various partners through email and social media platforms. Aietah Stephens and Samantha Basave were interviewed on Channel 9 (Front Porch) to discuss the sibling camp opportunities.

# III. Final Budget Report Budget Summary

Please provide a final project budget, showing all costs of the project, including all match funding. Remember, match funding includes volunteers. If volunteers were used, please explain. Documentation is needed for volunteer time to count towards match. Please ask us what is needed. If there were significant changes to the proposed project budget, please explain.

\$77,697.89 (this is through end of May, University still working on closing out final project) \*will send final numbers when we receive from University \$35,500.17 in match for volunteer hours for Sibling Camp and Sibling Day Camps:

- 30 volunteers (Sibling Camp) for 30hrs= 900hrs
- 37 volunteers (Sibling Day Camps) for 7hrs= 259hrs
- Oklahoma Volunteer Time Rate = \$30.63 per hour per Independent Sector <u>Value</u> of <u>Volunteer Time Independent Sector</u>

# Finance Report

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma - Federal Grant Reconciliation For the Period Ended June 30, 2025

\$ 914,702.00 \$ 914,702.00 \$ 1,829,4  1.829,4  3.3			FFY24	FFY25	Total
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32,675.25 36,505.13 36,505.13 39,697.50 31,788.38 32,697.51 32,697.51 33,693.75 34,697.51 34,697.51 37,434.26 31,705.38 31,705.38 31,705.38 31,705.38 31,705.38 31,705.38 31,400.00 31,400.00 31,400.00 31,400.00 31,400.00 31,400.00 31,400.00 31,400.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401.00 31,401	EOM August 2023		•	•	•
32,675.25  36,505.13  29,633.03  (0.01)  39,697.50	EOM September 2023		•	•	•
36,505.13       -       36,50         29,633.03       -       29,63         (0.01)       -       39,69         31,788.38       -       31,7         42,242.81       -       42,2         28,826.62       -       28,8         24,897.51       -       24,8         27,502.14       -       27,5         42,127.75       -       27,5         42,127.75       -       37,4         42,127.75       -       37,4         42,127.75       -       37,4         42,127.00       26,597.50       77,8         89,188.00       26,597.50       64,4         34,491.00       29,976.00       64,4         28,400.00       27,072.00       55,4         41,163.00       30,479.63       71,6         57,144.00       34,823.38       91,9         57,144.00       34,823.38       91,978.8	EOM October 2023		32,675.25	•	32,675.25
29,633.03       -       29,63         (0.01)       -       -       39,69         31,788.38       -       -       42,24         42,242.81       -       -       42,2         33,693.75       -       -       42,2         28,826.62       -       -       24,8         24,897.51       -       -       24,8         27,502.14       -       -       27,5         42,127.75       -       -       42,1         37,434.26       -       -       42,1         42,127.75       -       -       42,1         89,188.00       -       45,880.25       135,0         51,287.00       -       45,880.25       135,0         34,491.00       28,400.00       27,072.00       64,4         28,400.00       31,258.75       64,5         41,163.00       30,479.63       71,6         57,144.00       34,823.38       91,9         57,144.00       34,823.38       91,9         57,148.00       34,823.38       1,078.83	EOM November 2023		36,505.13	•	36,505.13
39,697.50       -       39,697.50         31,788.38       -       42,242.81         42,242.81       -       42,242.81         28,826.62       -       28,88         24,897.51       -       24,8         27,502.14       -       27,5         42,127.75       -       42,1         37,434.26       -       31,705.38         42,127.70       45,880.25       135,0         51,287.00       26,597.50       77,8         33,40.00       29,976.00       64,4         28,400.00       27,072.00       55,4         33,340.00       31,258.75       64,5         57,144.00       34,823.38       1,078.8         57,144.00       34,823.38       1,078.8	EOM December 2023		29,633.03	•	29,633.03
39,697.50 31,788.38 42,242.81 33,693.75 28,826.62 24,897.51 27,502.14 42,127.75 37,434.26 31,705.38 89,188.00 61,287.00 28,400.00 28,400.00 28,400.00 28,400.00 28,400.00 28,400.00 28,400.00 28,400.00 28,400.00 31,258.75 41,163.00 34,823.38 57,144.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,340.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,41.00 \$3,4	Adjust for Reconciliation		(0.01)	•	(0.01)
31,788.38  42,242.81  33,693.75  28,826.62  24,897.51  27,502.14  42,127.75  37,434.26  -  89,188.00  51,287.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.0	EOM January 2024		39,697.50	•	39,697.50
42,242.81 33,693.75 28,826.62 24,897.51 27,502.14 42,127.75 37,434.26 31,705.38 89,188.00 51,287.00 35,122.00 35,122.00 34,491.00 28,400.00 28,400.00 28,400.00 28,400.00 33,340.00 33,340.00 34,423.38 57,144.00 \$ 30,479.63 \$ 1,0	EOM February 2024		31,788.38	•	31,788.38
33,693.75  28,826.62  24,897.51  27,502.14  42,127.75  - 37,434.26  - 31,705.38  89,188.00  51,287.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  33,340.00  33,340.00  33,479.63  57,774.00  \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$ \$\$	EOM March 2024		42,242.81	•	42,242.81
28,826.62 - 24,897.51 - 27,502.14 - 42,127.75 - 37,434.26 - 31,705.38 - 45,880.25 - 51,287.00 - 26,597.50 - 34,491.00 - 29,976.00 - 28,400.00 - 27,072.00 - 33,340.00 - 31,258.75 - 41,163.00 - 34,823.38 - 1,00 - 57,144.00 - 34,823.38 - 1,00 - 34,823.38 - 1,00 - 34,823.38 - 1,00 - 34,823.38 - 301,678.63 - 8 - 1,00 - 34,823.38 - 1,00 - 34,823.38 - 1,00 - 34,823.38 - 301,678.63 - 8 - 1,00 - 34,823.38 - 301,678.63 - 1,00 - 34,823.38 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 - 301,678.63 -	EOM April 2024		33,693.75	•	33,693.75
24,897.51 - 27,502.14 - 42,127.75 - 37,434.26 - 31,705.38 - 45,880.25 - 51,287.00 - 26,597.50 - 28,400.00 - 27,072.00 - 33,340.00 - 31,258.75 - 41,163.00 - 34,823.38 - 1,00 - 27,77,159.12 \$ 301,678.63 \$ 1,00	EOM May 2024		28,826.62	•	28,826.62
27,502.14  42,127.75  37,434.26  -  89,188.00  51,287.00  35,122.00  35,122.00  34,491.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  28,400.00  27,072.00  33,340.00  31,258.75  41,163.00  34,823.38  57,77,159.12  \$ 301,678.63  \$ 1,0	EOM June 2024		24,897.51	•	24,897.51
42,127.75 - 37,434.26 - 31,705.38 - 31,705.38 - 35,122.00	EOM July 2024		27,502.14	•	27,502.14
37,434.26       -       31,705.38         89,188.00       45,880.25       1         51,287.00       26,597.50       1         35,122.00       43,885.75       2         34,491.00       29,976.00       2         28,400.00       27,072.00       31,258.75         41,163.00       30,479.63         57,144.00       34,823.38         \$       777,159.12       \$ 301,678.63       \$ 1,0	EOM August 2024		42,127.75	•	42,127.75
- 31,705.38  89,188.00 45,880.25 1 51,287.00 26,597.50 34,491.00 28,400.00 28,400.00 27,072.00 33,340.00 31,258.75 41,163.00 31,258.75 41,163.00 34,823.38 \$ 777,159.12 \$ 301,678.63 \$ 1,0	EOM September 2024		37,434.26	•	37,434.26
89,188.00     45,880.25     1       51,287.00     26,597.50       35,122.00     43,885.75       34,491.00     29,976.00       28,400.00     27,072.00       33,340.00     31,258.75       41,163.00     30,479.63       57,144.00     34,823.38       \$ 777,159.12     \$ 301,678.63	EOM October 2024		•	31,705.38	31,705.38
51,287.00       26,597.50         35,122.00       43,885.75         34,491.00       29,976.00         28,400.00       27,072.00         33,340.00       31,258.75         41,163.00       30,479.63         57,144.00       34,823.38         \$ 777,159.12       \$ 301,678.63       \$ 1,0	EOM November 2024		89,188.00	45,880.25	135,068.25
35,122.00 43,885.75 34,491.00 29,976.00 28,400.00 27,072.00 33,340.00 31,258.75 41,163.00 30,479.63 57,77,159.12 \$ 301,678.63 \$ 1,0	EOM December 2024		51,287.00	26,597.50	77,884.50
34,491.00 29,976.00 28,400.00 27,072.00 33,340.00 31,258.75 41,163.00 30,479.63 57,77,159.12 \$ 301,678.63 \$ 1,0	EOM January 2025		35,122.00	43,885.75	79,007.75
28,400.00 27,072.00 33,340.00 31,258.75 41,163.00 30,479.63 57,144.00 34,823.38 \$ 777,159.12 \$ 301,678.63 \$ 1,0	EOM February 2025		34,491.00	29,976.00	64,467.00
33,340.00 31,258.75 41,163.00 30,479.63 57,144.00 34,823.38 s 777,159.12 \$ 301,678.63 \$ 1,0	EOM March 2025		28,400.00	27,072.00	55,472.00
41,163.00     30,479.63       57,144.00     34,823.38       \$ 777,159.12     \$ 301,678.63     \$ 1,0	EOM April 2025		33,340.00	31,258.75	64,598.75
57,144.00 34,823.38 \$ 777,159.12 \$ 301,678.63 \$ 1,0	EOM May 2025		41,163.00	30,479.63	71,642.63
\$ 777,159.12 \$ 301,678.63 \$	EOM June 2025		57,144.00	34,823.38	91,967.38
	Total Expenditures	€			\$ 1,078,837.75

<sup>\* ®</sup> Denotes Reconciled with OKDHS Finance CARE UNIT

**Grant Balance** 

613,023.37 \$

# Possible 2026 Council meeting calendar

De	evelopmental Disabil	ities Council of Oklahoma
	2026 Committee	e & Council Meetings
Date	Time	Committee
JANUARY		
Fri., Jan. 23	11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Finance Cmte
Fri., Jan. 23	12:15 - 12:45 PM	Executive Cmte
Fri., Jan. 23	1:00 - 3:30 PM	DD Council Board Mtg
MARCH		
Thurs., Mar 26	10:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
Thurs., Mar 26	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
Thurs., Mar 26	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Cmte
APRIL		
Fri., Apr 24	11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Finance Cmte
Fri., Apr 24	12:15 - 12:45 PM	Executive Cmte
Fri., Apr 24	1:00 - 3:30 PM	DD Council Board Mtg: Budget Mtg
HINE		
JUNE	10.00.00 11.20 414	Chata Plan Crata
Fri., June 26	10:00:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
Fri., June 26	11:45 AM - 12:45 AM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte  Executive Cmte
Fri., June 26	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Citie
JULY		
Fri., July 24	11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Finance Cmte
Fri., July 24	12:15 - 12:45 PM	Executive Cmte
Fri., July 24	1:00 - 3:30 PM	DD Council Board Mtg
SEPTEMBER		
Fri., Sept. 25	10:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
Fri., Sept. 25	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
Fri., Sept. 25	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Cmte
OCTOBER		
Fri., Oct 30	11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Finance Cmte
Fri., Oct 30	12:15 - 12:45 PM	Executive Cmte
Fri., Oct 30	1:00 - 3:30 PM	DD Council Board Mtg
NOVEMBER		
Fri., Nov. 6	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	State Plan Cmte
Fri., Nov. 13	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	State Plan Cmte
Fri., Nov. 6	12:15-1:15 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
Fri., Nov 13	12:15-1:15 PM	Executive Cmte

FEBRUARY	ONLY IF NEEDED	
Fri., Feb. 27	10:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
Fri., Feb. 27	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
Fri., Feb. 27	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Cmte

MAY	ONLY IF NEEDED	
Fri., May 15	10:00:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
Fri., May 15	11:45 AM - 12:45 AM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
Fri., May 15	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Cmte

AUGUST	ONLY IF NEEDED	
Fri., Aug. 28	10:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
Fri., Aug. 28	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
Fri., Aug. 28	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Cmte

DECEMBER	ONLY IF NEEDED	
Fri., Dec. 11	10:00 - 11:30 AM	State Plan Cmte
Fri., Dec. 11	11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Advocacy, Training, & Outreach Cmte
Fri., Dec. 11	1:00 - 1:30 PM	Executive Cmte

# Committee Sign Ups

# **Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma Committees**

The Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma's (DDCO) governance structure assigns significant work responsibilities to self-directed committees composed of Council members and, on occasion, non-Council members. These committees work with Council staff to assure goals, objectives and activities of the Council's State Plan are addressed and achieved.



Council committees generally meet quarterly during the year. It is the responsibility of each committee to study policy and funding issues related to their assigned tasks and State Plan goals, objectives, and activities, and prepare them for Council discussion.

While committee participation is not mandatory during service to the Council, it allows you to be part of the discussions involved in creating and implementing the State Plan.

### **ADVOCACY, TRAINING, AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE (ATO):**

The ATO Committee is responsible for oversight of the Council's planned public relations and outreach efforts, including brochures, videos, and media releases about Council activities related to the Five-Year State Plan. The Committee plans and implements public policy activities of the Council and discusses development of any public policy position statements. The committee reviews and monitors internal Council programs, including the Justin A. McCurry Resource Library, Consumer and Professional Involvement Funds, Information and Referral Activities, Council website, Governor's Conference on Developmental Disabilities, Youth Leadership Forum, and Partners in Policymaking. The Committee also reviews proposals regarding advocacy, training, and outreach efforts that are over \$5000.

The ATO Committee meets quarterly, however, can meet more frequently or as needed.

### **STATE PLAN COMMITTEE:**

The State Plan committee is responsible for developing and monitoring the implementation of the Council's Five-Year State Plan. The Committee specifically oversees activities under the federal areas of emphasis: Child Care, Early Intervention, Education, Employment, Formal and Informal Community Supports, Health, Housing, Quality Assurance, Recreation and Transportation. This committee is responsible for the non-solicited proposal process and any grants/grant applications over \$5000. The Committee also reviews and monitors external grant/contract operations of the Council.



The State Plan Committee meets quarterly, however, can meet more frequently or as needed.



# **Developmental Disabilities** Council of Oklahoma

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

The Finance Committee works with the Council Director and Staff to review and temporarily approve fiscal policies and guidelines for subsequent approval of the full Council and to develop and monitor the annual budget prior to the start of the state fiscal year. The Committee recommends the annual budget to the Executive Committee and full Board for final approval. The Committee monitors the budget throughout the year and preliminarily approves monthly financial reports and periodic changes to the



annual budget for subsequent approval of the full Council. The Committee serves as Board Representative to internal and external auditors. The Council may assign or delegate other duties to the Finance Committee as needed.

The Finance Committee meets at least every 6 weeks prior to the Executive Committee meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be as follows: approve requests for Consumer Involvement Fund, Professional Development Fund, and Conference Cosponsorship funding; review and make recommendations to the full Board for professional service contracts; provide day-to-day assistance to the Director and staff as requested; review and approve the Administrative Directions and Instructions to Staff; make decisions on behalf of the Council when deadlines prevent a meeting of the full



Council; review the performance of the Executive Director; and other duties as assigned or delegated to the Executive Committee by the Council.

The Executive Committee meets at least every 6 weeks prior to the Executive Committee meeting.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

The Nominating Committee will nominate one person each for the offices of Vice Chair and Secretary. This slate will be presented to the Council Chair provided that the nominee's consent has been given. If the Chair accepts the slate, no voting of the Council is necessary. If the Chair rejects the slate, nominations from the floor for the offices of Vice Chair and Secretary will be taken at the subsequent Council meeting, and voting will take place consistently with the Open Meetings Act.

The Nominating Committee meets as needed.

## Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma Committee Assignment Selection

Your Name:
Please check the Council roster included in your packet and confirm the best mailing address and email address to send committee materials. If there are any changes to cell phone, email address, etc., please let us know here:
Please check below all committees on which you choose to serve.
$\square$ Advocacy, Training and Outreach Committee
☐ State Plan Committee
☐ Nominating Committee
☐ Finance Committee
☐ Executive Committee
☐ I decline to serve on a committee for the coming year. Please rethink this option - We need you!!
Would you be willing to serve as Chair or Vice Chair of a Committee? Committee Chairs also serve on the Council's Finance and Executive Committee.
☐ Advocacy, Training and Outreach Committee: Yes No
☐ State Plan Committee: Yes No
☐ Finance Committee: Yes No
Please note any positions for which you'd like to be considered by the Nominating Committee.  Council Vice Chair Council Secretary Council Parliamentarian
The Council holds a permanent seat on the Advisory Committee for Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities. This committee is staffed by OKDHS Developmental Disabilities Services. Please indicate if you are interested in serving on this committee.  Yes  No