



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma

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Advocacy, Training, & Outreach (ATO)

Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday, August 15 11:45 a.m.

2400 N. Lincoln Ave., Rm. C-48, OK City, OK 73125



Board Members

David Blose, Yukon
Margaret Bond, Broken Arrow
Mindee Brown, Edmond
Jeromy Buchanan, Okla. City
Sherri Coats, Oklahoma City
Brett Cunningham, Okla. City
Janie Fugitt, Oklahoma City
Sharon Garrity, Guthrie, Chair
Shelly Greenhaw, Edmond
Michelle Kelley, Okla. City
Blaine Murdock, Meeker
Gina Richardson, Okla. City
Beth Scrutchins, Okla. City
Melissa Sublett, Tulsa
Kodey Toney, Panama
Lori Weider, Stillwater
Devin Williams, Lawton
Cynthia Wilkett, Tulsa
Valerie Williams, Okla. City

Council Staff

Advocacy Training Coordinator
Dr. Bradley Mays

**Self-Advocacy Training
Coordinator**
Morgan Davis

Council Administrator
Alissa Patterson








Planning & Grants Director
Jennifer Robinson

Executive Director
Jenifer Randle

Join our meeting online:

Teams Meeting ID: **234 754 944 507** Passcode: **EN9pz7tb**

Board Members attending virtually:

- I.  Call to Order: Ms. Janie Fugitt, ATO Chair
- II.  Roll call and recognition of quorum: Ms. Janie Fugitt and Staff
- III.  Review May 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Ms. Janie Fugitt
- IV.  Old Business & Possible Voting: Project Updates & Discussions:
 - a) Advocacy Updates (PIP, YLF, etc.): Bradley Mays
 - b) Self-Advocacy Updates: Morgan Davis
 - c) Council Marketing / Outreach Updates: Alissa Patterson
 - d) OK ABLE updates: RoseAnn Duplan
 - e) Candidate Q&A
- V.  New Business & Possible Voting*
- VI.  Announcements
- VII.  Adjournment

ATO Committee Members: Janie Fugitt ATO Chair, David Blose, Margaret Bond, Brett Cunningham, RoseAnn Duplan, Sharon Garrity

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



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

DATE: Friday, May 9, 2025

TIME: 11:45 am

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

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Friday, May 9, 2025, at 11:48 am, the Advocacy Training & Outreach Committee met 2400 N. Lincoln Blvd, Sequoyah Building, Room C-48, Oklahoma City, OK 73125 in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

NOTICE of the schedule for all regular and special meetings of the DDCO Advocacy Training & Outreach Committee for the calendar year 2024 have been given in writing to the Oklahoma Secretary of State and public notice and agenda having been posted on the Council's website at or before 12:00 pm on Thursday, May 8, 2025, in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act, 25 O.S. Section 311.

- I.  **CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Fugitt called the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m.

- II.  **ROLL CALL:**

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

Members Online: Brett Cunningham (joined online at 11:49 a.m.)


Members Absent:

Guests:


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

Guests: None

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

- III.  **MINUTES REVIEW:** Review of October 11, 2024 and February 14, 2025 meeting minutes.

- a) **Review of the October 11, 2024, Minutes of the ATO Committee Meetings.**

 **Discussion:** The committee reviewed the October 11, 2024 minutes. On page 3, under item 4, a correction of "Mays in" to "Mays is."

Action: Ms. Bond moved to approve the ATO October 11, 2024 minutes as corrected

and was seconded by Ms. Fugitt.

 **AYES:** Janie Fugitt, David Blose

 **NAYS:** None

ABSTAIN: RoseAnn Duplan, Margaret Bond, Sharon Garrity

MOTION: Carried 

b) **Review of the February 14, 2025, Minutes of the ATO Committee Meetings.**



Discussion: The committee time reviewed the February 14, 2025 minutes.

Action: Ms. Duplan moved to approve the ATO February 14, 2025, minutes and was seconded by Ms. Bond.



AYES: Janie Fugitt, David Blose, RoseAnn Duplan, Margaret Bond, Sharon Garrity



NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

MOTION: Carried 

IV.



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

a) **Partners in Policymaking (PIP):**



DISCUSSION: Dr. Mays reported on Partners in Policymaking last weekend (Graduation). Out of 24 students, 19 graduated. It is hopeful the 5 students who did not compete will finish PIP in the following year.

b) **Youth Leadership Forum (YLF):**



DISCUSSION: Dr. Mays gave information about this year's YLF, set for June 10-14, in Chickasha, OK at USAO. 16 students have been accepted this year.

c) **Self-Advocacy trainings:**



DISCUSSION: Ms. Davis reported that in 2025 there have been 32 work sessions and 57 trainings delivered; In these trainings, 373 self-advocates trained; 150 professionals/family trained. She mentioned recent trainings completed and upcoming trainings. Ms. Davis also mentioned she has completed the LEND program.

d) **Council Marketing/Outreach:**



DISCUSSION: Ms. Patterson reported on social media metrics, specifically on Facebook and the Council website over the past month:

- DDCO page: +11% views; +21 followers

- PIPM page: +63% non-follower views; +10 followers
- YLF page: +55% views; no new followers
- OK Self-Advocacy page: +19% views; +5 followers
- Website Analytics: 1,058 visits (889 unique); top pages: Sooner Success, PIP, YLF
- Next Steps: Explore creating more reels, livestreaming at events to engage younger audiences.

e) **OK STABLE updates:**



DISCUSSION: Ms. Duplan reported there have been two virtual trainings about ABLE / STABLE accounts; one in-person at OK Federation of the Blind conference (Tulsa) in April 2025. 43 new accounts opened with the highest uptake in Tulsa, Sapulpa, Sand Springs. There is a new lead at the Treasurer's Office.

VII.



New Business:

- 35th ADA & 50th IDEA Anniversaries: The committee discussed commemorative activities for the 35th ADA Anniversary and the 50th Anniversary of the I.D.E.A.
- Candidate Questionnaire: The committee discussed creating a Q&A over several topics to send to Oklahoma Gubernatorial and possibly State Legislative Candidates. Topics for questions include Medicaid, education, voting access, civil rights. Staff will work on refining questions for review at the next ATO meeting.

VIII.



Announcements:

- ADA 35th Anniversary planning group forming—volunteers welcome.
- Next ATO Committee meeting: Friday, August 8, 2025, 11:45 a.m., Rm. C-48.

IX.



Adjournment: Ms. Fugitt moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.





Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

YLF and PIP Advocacy Update

Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)

- The 22nd Oklahoma YLF occurred at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) in Chickasha from June 10-14, 2025
 - Highlights:
 - Delegates participated in leadership, teambuilding, critical-thinking and listening activities throughout the week, including a trip to the State Capitol on Thursday, June 12th where they participated in a mock debate in the House of Representatives about SB 139 (cell phone policy on school grounds)
 - Delegates voted to pass the bill, 7-5
 - House Leader Cyndi Munson spoke to the delegates about the importance of leadership before the debate. Representative Jacob Rosecrants served as House Speaker and Representative Mike Kelley also supported the delegates during the debate
 - Etiquette dinner, talent show, dance, and Thunder watch party on Friday evening, July 13th
 - 16 students completed the week, becoming what we call “YLF alumni”. They participated in a graduation ceremony at the end of the week, honoring their hard work and commitment to continue developing as leaders and self-advocates
 - Preparations for the 23rd Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum are underway, tentatively scheduled for June 9-13, 2026.

Partners in Policymaking (PIP)

- 31 applicants accepted for 2025-2026
 - 2025-2026 PIP will again be held at the Connect Auditorium, thanks to AutismOklahoma.
 - 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



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Other Advocacy updates:

- ATO Committee is working on questions about disability issues to send to gubernatorial candidates.
- Recent events:
 - 2025 Inclusive Communications Conference, July 16-17
 - Dr. Brad Mays delivered a presentation.
 - 2024-2025 Partners in Policymaking (PIP)
 - Number of PIP students: 24 (19 graduates)
 - Family members: 13
 - Self-Advocates: 5
 - Other: 6
 - 2025 Oklahoma APSE Employment Conference
 - Dr. Brad Mays delivered a presentation to 10 professionals and self-advocates titled: “Beyond Accommodations: Fostering Success in the Community and Workplace” on April 1, 2025 at Springlake MetroTech





Self-Advocacy Trainings Report, report as of July 10, 2025

- Number of work sessions FY25: **42**
- Number of training courses completed: **66 (FY 25)**
- Number of Self-Advocates trained: **389 (FY 25)**
- Number of professionals and family members trained: **120 (FY 25)**
- Highlight Quotes from training courses:
 - “Learning from people who have disabilities as the trainers on the topic.”
 - “This was useful information for our self-advocates.”
 - “I loved hearing the stories from the speakers.”
 - “Guest speakers.”
 - “How to do not assume about anything about other people.”

Possible Candidate Questions

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

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



DAILY LIFE & EMPLOYMENT

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

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

Question: How can we ensure people with disabilities receive the necessary support to find and maintain jobs in the community that offer equal wages to those without disabilities, which will help to address the high unemployment rates for people with disabilities?



COMMUNITY LIVING

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

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

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



HEALTHY LIVING

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

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

Question: How will you ensure that people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) will continue to live and work in their communities and stay out of expensive Medicaid-funded institutions, such as nursing homes?



SAFETY & SECURITY

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

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

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



SOCIAL & SPIRITUALITY

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

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



ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT

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

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

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

Question: What will you do to encourage Disability History/Studies in the classroom at all grade levels, including higher education?

Question: What will you do to ensure that people with lived disability experience – individuals with disabilities or their family members – are appointed to policy making positions throughout your administration?