

Council of Oklahoma

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Quarterly Board Meeting

Friday, July 18, 2025, 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

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

Board Member(s) attending via Teleconference

David Blose, 724 Ranchoak Drive, Yukon, Oklahoma

Join our meeting online

Meeting ID: 251 379 798 943, Passcode: 4Yj2Jv7w

* Possible action item

Call to Order: Ms. Sharon Garrity. Chair

Roll Call and Recognition of Quorum: Ms. Sharon Garrity, Chair and Staff

Welcome Recognition of Guests: Ms. Sharon Garrity, Chair

20 min Presentation with Questions after: "Enabling Technology and Remote Supports as Tools for Advancing Independence and Autonomy for People with I/DD in Oklahoma," Miranda Hutchison, Programs Administrator for Innovation and Training, OKDHS/DDS

Review April 2025 Meeting Minutes*: Ms. Sharon Garrity, Chair

Council Committee Reports*

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

State Plan Updates: Ms. Michelle Kelley

Finance Updates: Ms. Lori Wieder

Executive Updates: Ms. Sharon Garrity



Board Members

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

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





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

Center for Learning and Leadership

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

Felty, Assistant Director & Designee

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

🎉 OKLAHOMA **Human Services**

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

*Old Business

New Business*

Federal and State Issues, Legislation, Court Actions*



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Announcements / Upcoming Events of Interest:

- Next Council Committee Meetings! Join us!
 - o Friday, August 15, 2025, 10:00-11:30 a.m. State Plan Committee
 - o Friday, August 15, 2025, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. **A.T.O. Committee**
 - o Friday, August 15, 2025, 1:00-1:30 p.m. Executive Committee
 - Friday, October 24, 2025: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Finance Committee
 - o Friday, October 24, 2025: 12:15 12:45 p.m. **Executive Committee**
 - Friday, October 24, 2025: 1:00 3:30 p.m. 4th Council Board Meeting
 - 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
 - DREAMNIGHT AT THE OKC ZOO Friday, September 18!!





Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma Quarterly Meeting Minutes

DATE: Friday, April 25, 2025

TIME: 1:00 PM

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

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma met at 2400 N. Lincoln Blvd., Rm. C-48, Oklahoma City, OK, in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

NOTICE of the schedule for all regular and special meetings of the DDCO for calendar year 2025 was given in writing to the Oklahoma Secretary of State and public notice and the agenda posted on the Council's website at or before 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 2025, in accordance with 25 O.S. § 311 et seq.

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



Present: David Blose, Maggie Bond (1:02), Nadine Walter for Jeromy Buchanan,

Brett Cunningham, Janie Fugitt, Sharon Garrity, Shelly Greenhaw, Michelle Kelley, Gina Richardson, Kodey Toney, Lori Wieder, Dr. Cynthia Wilkett, RoseAnn Duplan for Melissa Sublett, Wanda Felty for Dr. Valerie Williams

Guests: Dee Blose, Lisa Kelly

Online:

Absent: Mindee Brown, Sherri Coats, Blaine Murdock, Beth Scrutchins, 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.

III. WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: Ms. Randle introduced Lisa Kelly, CEO of the Arc of Oklahoma, who expressed support for the Council's advocacy and collaborative efforts.

- IV. Council Presentation: 15 Minute Presentation: Potential Medicaid Cuts: What they could mean for Oklahoma.
 - Ms. Jenifer Randle and Ms. Michelle Kelley presented on the federal budget reconciliation process and its likely impact on Oklahoma's SoonerCare program, covering mandated vs. optional populations, cost-containment strategies (e.g. paperwork/work requirements, FMAP reductions, provider and waiver service cuts), and anticipated consequences, including rural hospital closures and increased institutionalization. They also provided guidance on compliant advocacy vs. prohibited lobbying for Council members.
- V. Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2024 & January 31, 2025: Sharron Garrity, Chair

DISCUSSION: The Council reviewed the meeting minutes for July 24, 2024.

ACTION: Ms. Garrity moved to accept the April 26, 2024, minutes.

AYES: Maggie Bond, Nadine Walter for Jeromy Buchanan, Brett, Cunningham, Janie Fugitt, Sharon Garrity, Shelly Greenhaw, Michelle Kelley, Gina Richardson, Lori Wieder, Dr. Cynthia Wilkett, RoseAnn Duplan for Melissa Sublett, Wanda Felty for Dr. Valerie Williams, Nadine Walter for Jeromy Buchanan, Brett Cunningham.

ارک NAYS:

ABSTAIN: Kodey Toney

MOTION: Carried

DISCUSSION: The Council reviewed the meeting minutes for January 31, 2025.

ACTION: Ms. Garrity moved to accept the April 26, 2024, minutes.

AYES: Maggie Bond, Brett, Cunningham, Janie Fugitt, Sharon Garrity, Shelly Greenhaw, Michelle Kelley, Lori Wieder, Dr. Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty for Dr. Valerie Williams, Nadine Walter for Jeromy Buchanan, Brett Cunningham, Kodey Toney.



ABSTAIN: Nadine Walter for Jeromy Buchanan, Gina Richardson, RoseAnn Duplan for Melissa Sublett.

MOTION: Carried

VI. Committee Reports:

A. Advocacy, Training & Outreach Committee: Ms. Jamie Fugitt reported over 200 participants at the DD Awareness Day event. Mr. Brad Mays shared that 19 delegates graduated on April 12; Youth Leadership Forum interviews completed with ~15 acceptances; program to begin June 2025. Ms. Morgan Davis detailed 32 sessions delivered in FY 25, training 373 self-advocates and 115 family/professionals; inaugural Project SEARCH training at Norman HealthPlex scheduled for August.

B. State Plan Committee: Ms. Jennifer Robinson reviewed Q1/Q2 project summaries (pp. 22–30) and preliminary themes from 14 listening sessions (transportation, resource gaps, transition challenges, discrimination, employment barriers).

C. Finance Committee:

DISCUSSION: Ms. Lori Wieder and Ms. Sharon Garrity presented the FY 26 funding recommendations, including continuation of existing projects and two new pilots—Partners Graduate Academy (\$10,000) and Advocacy Event Support (\$5,000). The proposed FY 26 budget was level-funded at \$915,000.

ACTION: Motion by Ms. Lori Wieder; second by Ms. Cindy Brown to accept FY26 budget.

AYES: Janie Fugitt, Sharon Garrity, Shelly Greenhaw, Michelle Kelley, RoseAnn Duplan for Melissa Sublett, Kodey Toney, Lori Wieder, Dr. Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty for Valerie Williams

NAYS: Maggie Bond, Nadine Walter for Jeromy Buchanan, Sherri Coats, Gina Richardson

ABSTAIN: Brett Cunningham,

MOTION: Carried





- A. Advisory Committee on Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities: No report
- B. Center for Learning and Leadership

 Othercomes University of Classification Sections and Development Development Development Development Development Development Development Development DDD Network Partner CLL/UCEDD: Ms. Wanda Felty noted threats to ACL funding and urged unified advocacy.
- C. DISABILITY LAW DD Network Partner ODLC: Ms. Roseanne Duplon reported settlement of the competency evaluation lawsuit, mandating reduced wait times and service expansions.
- OKLAHOMA
 Human Services
 Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS): No report
- E. Human Services Community Living, Aging and Protective Services (CAP): Mr. Jeromy Buchanan discussed demographic shifts and long-term care planning.
- F. Special Education Services (SDE/SES): Ms. Sherry Coats highlighted new assessment standards, MTSS implementation, and social-emotional growth.
- G. Rehabilitation Services

 Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS): Ms. Janie

 Fugitt described summer transition programs (BestSTEP, STEM camps) and customization training.
- H. State Department of Health (OSDH): Ms. Gina Richardson reported on the cancer registry, mobile wellness units, and grant-related staffing adjustments.
- VII. Directors Report: Ms. Jenifer Randle summarized social media engagement (14,000 video views; 3,400 reach), DUETS art booklet distribution, and ongoing partner advocacy and outreach activities.
- VIII. Other Old/New Business:

OKLAHOMA

- Consumer Involvement Grants were approved for Tyler Bond and Lori Wooten.
- Nominating Committee volunteers: Cody Cantrell and Roseanne Duplon; one vacancy remains.

- IX. Federal and State Issues, Legislation, Court Actions: No additional updates.
- X. Announcements: The next council meetings were announced.
- XI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. by Ms. Sharon Garrity.

Remote Supports as Tools for **Developmental Disabilities in** Advancing Independence & **Autonomy for People with Enabling Technology and** Intellectual and Oklahoma



Technology First

Commitment



Committed To:

- remote supports to increase independence, autonomy, Encouraging the use of enabling technologies and and self-determination.
- Opportunities to improve lives through the use of enabling technologies.
- ➤ Enabling technology as a first support option.
- > Advocate for the right to technology.
- ➤ Champion accessible technology.
- Continuous evaluation of technology solutions to measure accessibility.
- Continuously integrate and pilot enabling technologies.
- Connect people to additional assistance to supplement and enhance care.

The Possibilities for Improved Outcomes

Enabling Technology and Remote Supports can be used in a variety of ways:

- ➤ Increase independence in daily activities and employment.
- > Transition safely and naturally from family homes to independent living.
- Transition out of group homes and supported living into independent living.
- Age safely in independent living.
- Reduce in-person staffing in supported living to allow greater independence and autonomy.

Enabling Technology: Any type of technology that helps a person with I/DD to gain or achieve independence in their home, community or work environment.

Remote Supports: The use of enabling technology to remotely support a person in place of physical staff presence.



Scissortail Companion

- Cognitively accessible desktop software created by AbleLink and customized for Oklahoma.
- ➤ Made possible through a partnership with Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma, OSU Center on Developmental Disabilities and AbleLink.
- ➤ Previously used OKDHS laptops were donated to pilot participants.
- ➤ Laptops were handed out to 45 homes providing just over 100 people access to the Scissortail Companion.
- ➤ Research incorporated into pilot to measure effect on social isolation and digital skills.



Wearables for Wellness

➤ Use of wearable technology to self-direct health goals.

Center for Developmental Disabilities, Oklahoma ABLE Tech, and ➤ Partnership with KU Center on Developmental Disabilities, OSU Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma.

▼Measuring:

- ➤ Participants' interest and motivation to use the wearable,
- > Accessibility features, and
- ➤ Impact on lifestyle.
- ➤ Most frequently chosen devices:
- ➤ Fitbit Inspire 3
- ✓ Fitbit Versa 4
- ➤ Garmin Vivoactive 5



Accessibility of Wearable Technologies

Future Ready

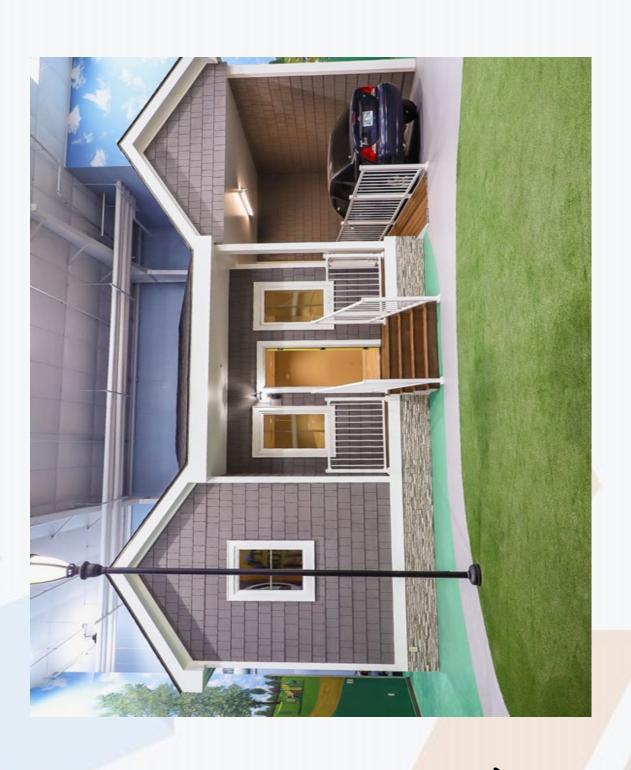
Match transition age youth between the ages of 14-21 with enabling technologies to support their employment goals

Equip with necessary enabling technologies and skills to improve adult employment outcomes in preferred career

Partners include OSU Center for Developmental Disabilities, Oklahoma ABLE Tech, selected schools and Dept. of Rehabilitation Services

Smart Home Demonstration Sites

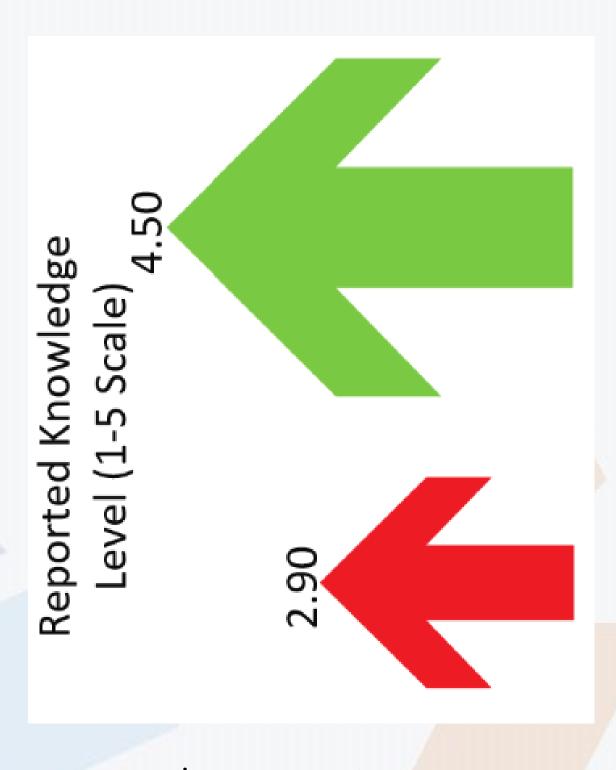
- ➤ Made possible through partnership with Oklahoma ABLE Tech and Bethany Children's Health Center.
- ➤ Existing structures were chosen.
- ➤ Identified enabling technology items.
- Oklahoma ABLE Tech and Bethany Children's Health Center agreed to provide education, matching, outreach, promotion and inperson/virtual tours.
- ➤ Future partner Soaring on Hope!



Measuring Effectiveness

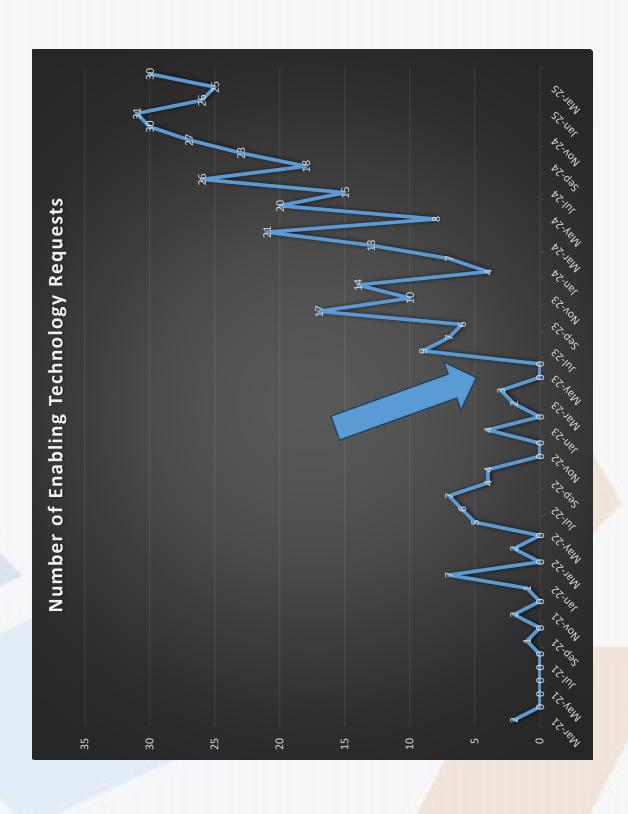
Pre and Post Surveys:

- ➤ 700 + visitors since July 2023.
- ➤ Reported level of knowledge increased from 2.90 to 4.50 after tour.
- ➤ 96% of visitors reported technology would meet their needs or the needs of someone they support.
- ▶ 62% plan to integrate one or more of the viewed technologies into their daily life. 36% replied they are considering it.



The Effect on Requests

As a result of the smart home demonstration sites enabling technology requests have soared!

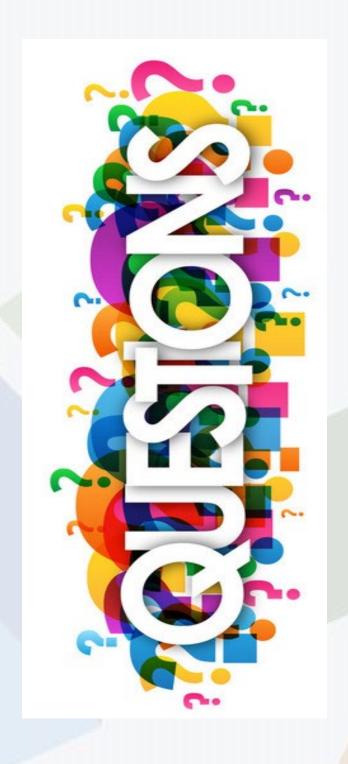


Smart Home Demonstration Sites and Helpful Links

Bethany Children's Health Center Smart Home Demo Site

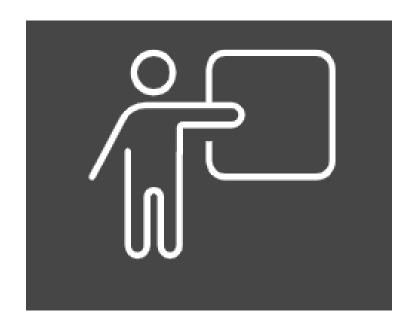
OK ABLE Tech Smart Home Demo Site

Enabling Technology Educational Video OK DDS Remote Support and Enabling Technology Home Page



Miranda Hutchison

Miranda. Hutchison@okdhs.org



ADVOCACY, TRAINING, AND OUTREACH (ATO)
COMMITTEE

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, criticalthinking 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 for 2025-2026; interviews ongoing
 - 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



Other Advocacy updates:

- ATO Committee is working on questions about disability issues to send to gubernatorial candidates.
- Recent events:
 - o 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
 - o 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:
 - o "Learning from people who have disabilities as the trainers on the topic."
 - o "This was useful information for our self-advocates."
 - o "I loved hearing the stories from the speakers."
 - o "Guest speakers."
 - "How to do not assume about anything about other people."



STATE PLAN COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 26 Funding Request

Project/Activity: Momentum Refresh

Organization: Tulsa State Fair

Proposal Description: The Tulsa State Fair, to be held Sept. 25-Oct.5, 2025, is dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment for all, including those with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, disabled veterans, and seniors with mobility challenges. The introduction of Momentum Refresh accessible restrooms is a significant step toward achieving this goal. These mobile, ADA-compliant restrooms, equipped with features such as adult-sized changing tables, space for mobility devices, and privacy screens, ensure that all guests can enjoy the Tulsa State Fair comfortably and with dignity. This initiative aligns with the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma's goals, particularly promoting community awareness and inclusion, as well as enhancing opportunities for social and recreational activities for individuals with disabilities.

Momentum Refresh restrooms not only improve accessibility for individuals with developmental disabilities but also benefit seniors, veterans, and families who may require additional support. By providing these specialized facilities, the Tulsa State Fair ensures that everyone, regardless of their mobility or care needs, can participate fully in the event. This effort also sends a strong message about the Tulsa State Fair's commitment to community leadership and inclusivity. It encourages other events in Oklahoma to adopt similar practices, reinforcing the value of universal design and the need for accessible public spaces that accommodate a diverse range of visitors. Incorporating Momentum Refresh restrooms at the Tulsa State Fair is a step forward in promoting dignity, independence, and social inclusion for individuals with various disabilities. By meeting and exceeding ADA standards and integrating assistive technologies, these restrooms offer a

functional and comfortable space for those with complex needs. This initiative will enhance the experience for thousands of guests and serve as a model for future inclusive public events, ensuring that everyone, regardless of ability, can participate and enjoy Tulsa's largest annual event.

Goal 3: Community Awareness and Inclusion

Objective 5: Individuals with developmental disabilities will have greater opportunities for meaningful friendships and relationships, recreational activities, and social inclusion in their communities.

Targeted Audience: individuals of all ages with developmental and physical disabilities, mobility challenges, disabled veterans, seniors, and families with children or caregivers who require additional support. These individuals often face barriers at public events due to a lack of accessible restrooms. Momentum Refresh restrooms provide the necessary space, privacy, and equipment to support those with mobility devices, cognitive disabilities, and chronic conditions, ensuring they can participate fully in the Tulsa State Fair and enjoy a more inclusive experience.

Funding requested for FY 2026

Council	Match (in kind)	Total
\$20,000	\$11,900	\$31,900

BUDGET

Expenses:

Momentum Refresh Ren	tal for 11 days (\$2,900x11)	\$31,900
Income:		
DDCO Funding	(62.7%)	\$20,000
Tulsa State Fair cash mat	ch (37.3%)	\$11,900



State Plan Project Quarterly Progress FY25 July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 Quarter 3 Project Summaries

Autism Foundation of Oklahoma, LEAD Trainings

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

In Quarter 3 of FY25, the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma (AFO) trained 172 individuals through Learn – Earn – Advance – Develop (L.E.A.D.) Neurodiversity in the Workplace program. Trainings were held at Tulsa Community College (165 participants), Chester's Party Barn (5), and The Gathering Place (2), with self-advocate Tyler Bond co-presenting at Tulsa Community College. AFO also soft-launched the Autism Job Board, listing five jobs from employers such as Goodwill Industries and Sisu Youth Services. Following LEAD training, The Gathering Place joined as a new employer on the platform, and Sisu reported hiring three individuals with autism or I/DD and making inclusive updates to their hiring process.

Survey feedback showed strong impact: 40% of businesses reported implementing more inclusive hiring practices, 20% had hired individuals with autism or I/DD, and the average training rating received for LEAD was 4.5 out of 5. AFO also co-hosted the successful *Ready, Set, Hire* Job Fair with DRS in Oklahoma City, with nearly 40 businesses and over 100 job seekers participating. Community engagement efforts included monthly social gatherings for young adults and the launch of a Disability Advisory Coalition with nearly 70 attendees.

Momentum increased in March, and AFO met or exceeded its goals for the year. Looking ahead, AFO is transitioning to a scalable group training model with customized sessions and a new fee structure to ensure long-term sustainability, while continuing to seek grants for free training opportunities. Several new trainings are already scheduled with partners statewide.

AutismOklahoma, LookOut Art Programming

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

In the third quarter of the LookOut program, staff member Dee Blose participated as a panelist in a nationwide webinar on adaptive art programs, discussing how to engage individuals on the autism spectrum in art activities using their interests. Dee was also featured in a video produced by the Oklahoma Arts Council. The program hosted an outreach art table at a sensory-friendly Philharmonic event and recruited new artists and an intern. Plans continued for upcoming events, including a partnership with the Philbrook Museum in May and a commissioned artwork for a car show in McAlester. Additionally, art students worked on pieces for the Duets show in April. The LookOut media/film group completed their second video on acing job interviews and provided approximately 100 hours of training to participants.

The program collaborated with 7725 Connect, Vantage Point, LifeChurch, and the Oklahoma Arts Council, achieving successful outcomes across multiple initiatives. Popup events at 7725 Connect raised around \$500 in sales and donations, and the program was invited to continue displaying art at a self-serve table in the food court. The artwork for the Duets project was completed by the February deadline, allowing for the creation of a gallery guide that acknowledges the Council as a funder. Moving forward, LookOut is focused on recruiting contract art instructors and sustaining the program through donations and volunteer support. The newly launched market site, spectrummarket.org, is helping to sell art and accept restricted donations, with recent events raising about \$500. The program continues to bring joy to artists and their families as they showcase their work.

In the 3rd quarter project meeting, strategies to promote online sales while helping participants learn about self-employment were discussed.



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Best Buddies, Expansion

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

During the reporting period, Best Buddies expanded their presence in Oklahoma by partnering with several school districts and community groups to establish new chapters and strengthen existing ones. The organization made significant progress in the Tulsa area, meeting with staff at Jenks High School and Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) to launch new programs, including a pilot initiative across multiple TPS schools set to begin in fall 2025. Weekly student engagement efforts at Union High School successfully boosted participation, and outreach at parent resource fairs in districts like Bixby, Owasso, and Jenks helped raise awareness and extend the organization's reach. These efforts contributed to the program's overall goal of establishing five new chapters at Oklahoma middle and high schools during the grant period, creating more inclusive opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Despite strong turnout at events and meetings, challenges remained in getting students to complete the required online application to be officially counted in the system. To address this, Best Buddies distributed paper applications and worked with teachers and parents to improve response rates. Plans are in place to host parent nights and increase direct communication with families, especially at newer chapters like Clyde Bond Middle School. In preparation for sustainability beyond Council funding, the team began planning the Best Buddies Friendship Walk, an event that raises funds and celebrates inclusion. A key lesson this quarter was recognizing the value of building stronger communication pathways with parents to support chapter growth and student engagement.



University of Kansas Center for Research, Black Feathers podcast

The numbers represent all-time downloads as of that quarter.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
# of podcast listeners for episode #1	110	126	138	
# of podcast listeners for episode #2	0	79	131	
# of podcast listeners for episode #3	0	0	67	
# of podcast listeners for episode #4				
# of podcast listeners for episode #5				
# of podcast listeners for episode #6				

During quarter 3, the KU team continued to advance its communications strategy for the *Black Feathers* podcast by releasing teaser content, audio highlights, and social media posts aimed at engaging tribal communities. The team actively monitored the social media platforms of 39 tribal nations to align messaging and shared experiences and sent regular alerts using a compiled communications log. However, coordinating guest schedules remained a challenge, prompting the team to pre-record two episodes in March to stay on track. Engagement metrics showed modest reach, with Facebook leading in views (1.1K), followed by LinkedIn and Twitter. As part of ongoing outreach, the team transitioned from Twitter to BlueSky and is increasing direct outreach by phone to tribal nations to encourage participation and feedback.

In terms of production and impact, two episodes were recorded this quarter, with Episode 3 focusing on newborn screenings in collaboration with Oklahoma OKDHS. While downloads (67 for Episode 3 at release) were lower than previous episodes due to the specialized content, the podcast reached listeners in multiple Oklahoma cities, 16 additional states, and even three listeners from Canada. Most listeners used Apple Podcasts on mobile devices. Despite limited participation in the Black Feathers listener survey, the team continues to collect and post relevant resources from speakers and national databases. Challenges persist in collecting detailed listener data, but the team is exploring new approaches and remains committed to delivering meaningful, culturally connected content. Looking ahead, conversations are underway to expand the podcast model to Kansas through partnerships with the Life Span Institute.

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

https://x.com/blackfeatherpod

https://www.facebook.com/blackfeatherspod

https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/blackfeatherspod

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

Oklahoma Autism Center, Early Access Screenings & ADOS2 Qualified Examiner

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

During this reporting period, the Early Access team delivered multiple targeted trainings to early childhood professionals across Oklahoma. In January, 14 Family Support Specialists from Child Care Resource and Referral received an expanded version of Early Access Level One training. In February, 42 providers from Muscogee Nation Head Start participated in a training on developmental monitoring and support strategies. March included a training in Oklahoma City for SoonerStart and home visiting program staff, and a two-day Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2) training with 48 professionals, including psychology interns and colleagues from the Oklahoma Autism Network. The team also provided direct screening services to 11 families, supported 34 others with screening-related questions, and delivered resources and referrals to 31 families and 19 community members.

In addition to training and support services, the team focused on expanding access to Spanish-speaking communities by building partnerships with bilingual providers, including those at the Super Niños clinic and Sooner SUCCESS. They began translating their *Let's Play: A Guide for Families* into Spanish and planned bilingual Early Access trainings. Efforts to support children with fetal substance exposure are also underway, with future trainings planned. The team's partnerships with childcare providers continue to grow, with an upcoming tailored training at Metro Tech with the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD) registry approval. These activities align with the program's sustainability strategy, leveraging contracts and collaborations under related initiatives like the Preschool Development Grant from the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness. As new populations are reached, the team is learning how best to engage and serve diverse audiences, building both infrastructure and relationships to support long-term impact.



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	
# of family members who participated in respite retreat	46	20	0	
# of others who participated in respite retreat	0	0	0	
# of retreats held	1	1	0	
# individuals with DD who participated in sibling overnight camp	0	0	0	
# of siblings who participated in sibling overnight camp	0	0	0	
# of caregivers who received respite due to sibling overnight camp	0	0	0	
# of others who participated in sibling overnight camp	0	0	0	
# individuals with DD who participated in sibling day camp	0	0	0	
# of siblings who participated in sibling day camp	0	0	0	
# of caregivers who received respite due to sibling day camp	0	0	0	
# of others who participated in sibling day camp	0	0	0	
# of sibling day camps held	0	0	0	

During the reporting period, Sooner SUCCESS made significant progress in organizing caregiver retreats and Sibling Camp events to provide respite and support for families of individuals with developmental disabilities. The Oklahoma Family Caregiver Respite Retreat Interest Form, launched in December 2024, has received 171 submissions, underscoring the overwhelming demand for caregiver support, which far exceeds current capacity. Spring caregiver retreats are scheduled for April in Tulsa and May in Oklahoma City, each designed to serve 36 caregivers with personalized welcome baskets and engaging self-care activities, including music, massage, yoga, and therapeutic art. Planning efforts began in January, with both regional teams successfully coordinating logistics, speakers, and activities. The OKC retreat will feature presentations from DDS/Liberty, DDCO, and Dr. Bobby Kern on the importance of respite.

Sibling Camp is set for late April at the J.D. McCarty Center, offering siblings of children with special needs a rare opportunity to bond, learn, and enjoy shared experiences. This unique camp promotes self-advocacy, social skill development, and confidence through immersive and inclusive programming. To broaden access, new day camp versions are being introduced across the state. Planning included family interviews to tailor experiences and ensure camp readiness, and 13 volunteers, including a behavioral specialist, were confirmed to help support campers with higher needs. Despite successes, challenges remain—most notably in recruiting male volunteers and managing the increasing costs of lodging and supplies. Sooner SUCCESS continues to refine its models, expand outreach, and pursue sustainable funding to ensure these valuable programs can serve more families in the future.

Oklahoma Family Network, Joining Forces Conference

March 28, 2025	
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	10
# of family members who participated in council activity	118
# of others who participated in council activity	287

The 18th Annual Joining Forces: Supporting Family-Professional Partnerships Conference was held on March 28, 2025, with its main site at the Champion Event Center in Oklahoma City and five additional remote locations in Enid, Poteau, Tulsa, Okmulgee, and Duncan. With a theme of *PartnerSHIPS: Charting the Course*, the conference featured opening speaker Ellen Buettner, CEO of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, and keynote speakers Autumn Cooper of the Oklahoma State Department of Health and Daniel Durany, an autism advocate. A total of 415 attendees, a 120% increase from 2024, participated, including 128 families/self-advocates and 287 professionals. Breakout sessions at each site addressed local partnership opportunities, while the Whova app helped unite attendees statewide through networking and resource sharing. Notably, 46.3% of attendees were from rural areas, highlighting the value of hosting the event across multiple sites for broader access and inclusion.

This long-standing conference, now in its 18th year, is built on the strength of a committed Planning Committee with both long-time and new partners, including state agencies, Tribal Nations, educational institutions, advocacy groups, and community organizations. Hosted by Oklahoma Family Network (OFN), a 501(c)(3), the conference is supported through biennial golf tournament proceeds, annual fundraising, and contributions from more than 15 sponsoring groups. Additional in-kind donations and day-of-event support help keep the conference low-cost and widely accessible. OFN remains committed to sustaining this event for years to come by maintaining minimal costs and strong community partnerships.

Key lessons learned from the 2025 conference include the need for stronger IT infrastructure at remote sites to ensure more inclusive two-way communication and improving Spanish-language accommodations outside the main location. The conference continues to focus on increasing awareness and practical skills for family-professional partnerships, empowering individuals with developmental disabilities and special health care needs and supporting leadership and advocacy. Attendees reported high satisfaction, with 98% stating their knowledge increased and 95.5% making new connections for future collaboration, underscoring the powerful impact of this statewide event.





The 2025 Joining Forces Conference was held on March 28th, 2025. This year's conference was hosted at the Champion Event Center located at 737 S. Meridian Avenue in Oklahoma City and was live-streamed to remote sites in Enid, Poteau, Tulsa, Okmulgee, and Duncan. The theme this year was PartnerSHIPS: Charting the Course. The opening speaker was Ellen Buettner, Chief Executive Officer of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, and the keynote speakers, Autumn Cooper, Oklahoma State Department of Health, and Daniel Durany, Advocate and Individual with Autism. All attendees at each site were able to listen and learn from each of the speakers and each site planned and hosted site-specific breakout sessions addressing partnerships and opportunities in their communities. This was the largest in-person Joining Forces Conference with 415 attendees, a 120% increase from 2024. The Whova App was used to engage attendees across the state and encourage resource sharing and networking. Accommodations were provided for Spanish-speaking attendees. We are grateful to the Developmental Disabilities Council for their support in allowing OFN and our many partners to provide this opportunity to families, advocates, and professionals across the state.

The 18th Annual Joining Forces: Supporting Family Professional Partnerships Conference brings together local, state, and national leaders to discuss best practices and promising practices in the area of family-professional partnerships. Participants gain knowledge and practical tools to use as they work together in support of a good life for the person with special health care needs, intellectual disabilities, and other Oklahomans. The conference also offers opportunities for making connections with professionals, families, and others for future partnership activities.

GOALS OF THE CONFERENCE:

- Increase awareness of the importance of family and professional partnerships
- Increase family partnerships in the development, implementation, and evaluation of programs
- Increase leadership and partnership skills
- Identify opportunities for family leadership
- Support professional and family members as they partner to improve services for a "good life"

This year was the second year to host at multiple sites across the state to provide easier access and convenience for attendees.

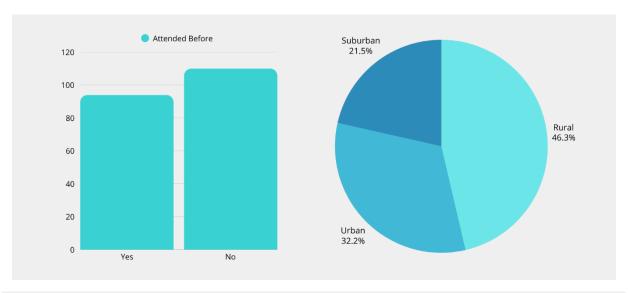
Below are charts showing demographics and evaluation data. 213 evaluations were completed.

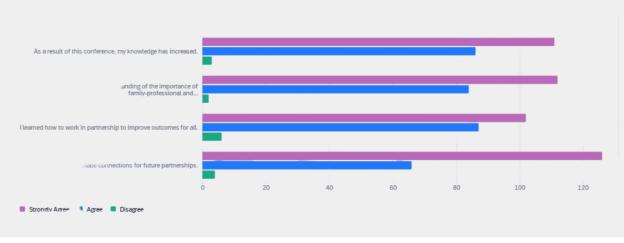
JOINING FORCES 2025 - MARCH 28, 2025 Enid - 42 Duncan - 32 Muscogee - 33 OKC - 184 Poteau - 27 Autumn Cooper Tulsa - 97

Total Attendees - 415

&

Daniel Durany





Partnership Awards were presented at each site to recognize an outstanding partnership making a difference in each community.

Joining Forces Partnership Award Winners

Tulsa Area - Cynthia Mooney with Mental Health Association of Tulsa

Cynthia Mooney, who runs the Tulsa Chldren's Behavioral Health Partnership in Tulsa truly follows each of these seven partner values. Cynthia is supportive of each event that Oklahoma Family Network does in the City of Tulsa. She will sit on planning committes, offer to come and set-up and clean-up, makes copies when we need and always shares all of our information to community partners. The award should go to Cynthia at the Tulsa Partnership. Cynthia asks the Mental Health Association for donations for our OFN events (including Joining Forces) I truly can't think of a better partner for this award than Cynthia.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation - Community and Human Services Department



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Human Services Department and Cynthia Smith are vital partners in the community and with the Oklahoma Family Network. They are always willing to step up and partner to meet the needs of the families they serve. Always recognizing the need to partner, knowing we can accomplish more when we work together all while respecting, valuing and accepting those they are working with.

Joining Forces Partnership Award Winners

Duncan Area - Stephens County Sooner Start

The Sooner Start teams are dedicated to meeting the unique needs of each family they support. They continuously seek innovative approaches to engage both caregivers and children, fostering meaningful connections. Through collaboration with other Text for Duncan





Enid Area - Central Christian Church



the home for the Foster Feet program, which provides new shoes and coats in the community for children and youth. They also opened their doors when it was recognized that Sundays were the only day our unsheltered and food-insecure individuals and families didn't have a meal. They created the Welcome Table and currently serve around 150 meals each week with the help of volunteers in the community. During the last year there was an opportunity for our community to host a family resource center for an after-school program for students needing help with their work and additional family support the FRC team and the church were able to come to an agreement that the FRC could be housed at the church and the church stepped up to help do

Over the years the Central Christian Church has been

some renovating to support the project. They have also hosted events such a sensory-free movie night and Enid Civitan dances for individuals with special needs. By working with other partners to provide services for the families and individuals from all ages and walks of life they have truly stepped up and became a partner that will have an impact on families all across our community

Joining Forces Partnership Award Winners

OKC Area - NorthCare Logan County



Just over a year ago, NorthCare received a grant to expand services in the Logan County area. Since then, NorthCare staff have become trusted and key members of the community. NorthCare's two Logan County programs, the outpatient program and the crisis center, demonstrate the Seven Partner Values on a consistent basis.



Poteau Area - Carl Albert State College



President Jay Falkner and staff go above and beyond to help with community programs. They host Coalition Meetings, Joining Forces Events, Pervasive Parenting Center Events including the Youth Expedition, and have created the Harbor to help with mental health issues in the area. No matter what Oklahoma Family Network or our families need CASC and it's employees step up to the plate. Providing a facility to have meetings, our LeFlore Co. Coalition for Healthy Living, The new Clinical High Risk for Phycosis program and so much more. From the warm inviting atmosphere of the 1507 Cafe to the great folks in the mail room, to the staff in the President's office. Everyone is always willing to,go the extra mile to ensure that the families and individuals in our area recieve their very best. No matter if it's planning a conference a year ahead or having an emergency meeting, Dr. July Falkner, CASC and it's staff are someone you can trust to help all they can.

Below are some comments/feedback from the evaluations:

- It was wonderful to have breakout presenters/speakers at this satellite site. I found those satellite speakers very informative.
- This was a great event Love the keynote speakers the best and the opportunity to connect with others and learn what others are doing
- ❖ I absolutely loved everybody who talked and came. It felt like one big family and the community coming together to raise awareness & that people are not alone!
- ❖ This was my first Joining Forces event. I thoroughly enjoyed every part of it! I made new connections and learned so much. Thank you and I look forward to the next one!
- ❖ Had a great experience and made new valuable contacts.
- ❖ The information this year was very pointed and meaningful to my professional and personal life. The keynote speakers were fantastic!
- ❖ I look forward to this conference. Once again, it was inspiring. The speakers were excellent, the organization and facilitation were impressive, including the communication leading up to the event. Also, I very much appreciate the low-key atmosphere allowing us to have autonomy and connect at our own pace/comfort level, while also having plenty to keep us interested. Well Done!

Some lessons learned:

- Improve captioning and translation support at remote sites
- Too many emails through the Whova App
- Roundtable Sessions could have been shorter
- Improve the timing and coordination of the start of live stream speakers
- ❖ Provide microphones at remote sites for better 2 way communication and participation

The Oklahoma Family Network will continue planning and hosting the Annual Joining Forces Conference in partnership with many state agencies, and non-profit and community organizations. The sustainability plan has always been to utilize resources and partnerships written into grants, contracts, and generous in-kind contributions. This conference is all about partnering together to improve services and supports throughout Oklahoma and it all starts with the planning committee members and the contribution of time and resources to make it happen.

Oklahoma APSE 2025 Conference

April 1-2, 2025 in OKC	
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	7
# of family members who participated in council activity	5
# of others who participated in council activity	179

Summary of Activities and Outcomes:

The OK APSE Conference successfully delivered 8.5 hours of training across a two-day event, featuring a diverse lineup of both state and national presenters. The conference focused on increasing awareness and understanding of disability services, independent living, and employment support. Survey feedback reflected strong outcomes: 73% of attendees strongly agreed they learned new ideas, 61% gained skills, and nearly half reported improved ability to engage with people with disabilities. The event also enhanced participants' understanding of how to support individuals with disabilities within their communities.

Collaboration and Community Impact:

The conference fostered robust collaboration with several organizations, including DDCO, DHS/DDS, DRS, Viability, DRTC, and Rise Staffing, contributing either financially or through in-kind support. It provided a platform for collaboration among speakers, exhibitors, and attendees representing a broad range of disability-focused organizations. Participants highlighted increased access to resources, enhanced professional networking, and strengthened partnerships aimed at promoting inclusive employment and independent living.

Successes, Feedback, and Future Topics:

Attendee feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 72.92% expressing extreme satisfaction with the event and facility. Keynotes from Kevin McShan and Chuck Roberts, breakout sessions, networking opportunities, and access to resources were repeatedly cited as highlights. Participants valued the diversity of topics and speakers and suggested future sessions focus on job development, assistive technology, autism, rural services, and self-advocacy. The conference was praised for enhancing awareness, knowledge, and practical strategies to better serve individuals with disabilities across Oklahoma.

6. Summary of activities

- 1. Delivered 8.5 training hours through a 2-day conference
 - a. 73% attended strongly agreed that the event gave them an opportunity to learn new ideas
 - b. 61% attended strongly agreed that event helped them build skills
 - c. 47.83% attended strongly agreed the event improved their ability to engage with persons with disabilities
 - c. 68.09% attended strongly agreed that the event helped them understand how to support people with disabilities in the community.
- 2. Utilized Oklahoman's and National presenters in the field of disabilities.
- 3. Provided opportunities to increase knowledgebase of services and support for people with disabilities.
- 4. Increased networking opportunities.
- 5. Increased awareness of available resources.

7. Collaboration

- a. The event enabled the OK APSE Council to collaborate with DDCO, DHS/DDS, DRS, Viability, DRTC, Rise Staffing as financial contributors and/or inkind support.
- b. Collaboration between exhibitors representing organizations/businesses
- c. Collaboration with speakers/presenters who value the mission/vision of OK APSE and providing an opportunity to increase knowledge in the field.
- d. Collaboration with attendees who are representatives of organizations who support individuals with disabilities gaining/maintaining independent living and/or employment.

8. Successes and Accomplishments

- a. developed and delivered a 2-day conference to increase employment and independent living opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- b. Increased access to resources.
- c. Increased awareness of available employment opportunities, services and support.
- d. Increased knowledgebase to service providers / front-line support representatives.
- e. Increased opportunity for networking and collaboration.
- f. Enhancing awareness of the rights and contributions of people with disabilities
- g. Enhancing disability-inclusive development and awareness
- h. Opportunities for individuals with disabilities to share personal success stories, personal strategies to overcome barriers, personal goals, and service / support recommendations.

9. What's working

- -72.92% of attendees were extremely satisfied with the event/facility.
- -Employer engagement
- -Network opportunities
- -Event location / facility accessible
- -Diversity of attendees, i.e., frontline staff working to improve the quality of life for individuals/families.
- -Variety of Speakers/Presenters.
- -Keynotes Kevin McShan and Chuck Roberts
- -Access to resources.

- -knowledge about the transportation programs available to agencies and clients.
- -Interacting with fellow provider agencies and case managers and gaining more knowledge from them.
- -The format of the conference and the selection of breakout sessions.
- -The collaboration between various types of service agencies and individuals with disabilities.
- -Time to collaborate with colleagues.
- -Session Diversity.
- -Evening social event.
- -Learning about the different things that are available for people with disabilities.
- -ability to make professional connections within the field of inclusive employment.
- -Hearing personal success stories and strategies to overcome barriers.
- -Specific sessions, such as:

Al-Powered Strategies for Future-Ready Disability Services: Leveraging Al to Improve Employment, Service and Strategic Planning, Grant Writing and Policy Development - Boosting Efficiency and Impact by Erik Nelson and Brian Prosser, SET Works; Colorado's Transition Away from 14C by Adam Tucker Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing and Jenny Jordan, HCBS Benefits Manager overseeing Benefits Planning and Supported Employment; Promoting Safety in the Community by Stan Campbell, President IDD Safe and Rob High, IDD Safe Training Director.

-Increase family partnerships: "From Adversity to Ally: Removing Roadblocks to Effective Parent Partnerships", offered good and simple ideas to better partner with parents/family members.

10. What's not working

- a. Attendees requested more information on the following topics in the future:
 - 1. Job Development
 - 2. Creative Assistive Technology
 - 3. Rural resources
 - 4. Ideas to assist an individual to self-advocate
 - 5. Ideas for working with visually impaired or blind individuals
 - 6. Customized employment
 - 7. Ideas on supporting individuals with ASD in employment
 - 8. Assessment tools
- b. Attendees requested a longer evening social event.
- c. Attendees requested offering training topics more than once.

11. Sustainability

- a. continue to collaborate with disability organization stakeholders
- b. develop quarterly virtual newsletter to stay connected
 - 1. incorporate individual success stories
- c. increase OK APSE membership

12. Lessons learned

- a. add a pre-conference option to increase CRC and/or LPC training opportunities
- b. reconsider utilizing presenters, via zoom. Some attendees like this and some did not.

2025 Pervasive Parenting Southeast Region Youth Summit

June 2025 in Poteau	
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	32
# of family members who participated in council activity	19
# of others who participated in council activity	7

Advocacy Leadership Camp Overview

From June 4–7, 2025, the Pervasive Parenting Center (PPC), in collaboration with multiple partner organizations including the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (DDCO), Carl Albert State College, the Choctaw Nation, and others, hosted a four-day Advocacy Leadership Training Camp at Carl Albert State College in Poteau, Oklahoma. The camp was designed for youth and young adults (ages 14–24) with developmental and other disabilities, and provided inclusive, family-friendly programming. Of the 36 who registered, 29 youth participated—25 as residential campers and four as commuters—alongside eight parent participants. Campers stayed in dormitories to encourage independence and peer connection in a structured, supportive environment.

Skills Development and Program Impact

Camp activities focused on building key life and advocacy skills through interactive breakout sessions and themed games such as "Family Feud" for goal setting, "Jeopardy" for self-advocacy, and "Wheel of Fortune" for self-care. Additional sessions addressed healthy relationships, financial literacy, communication, and transition planning. Evening social activities, including bingo and a dance, encouraged bonding and engagement. The camp also featured specialized workshops like Improv Communication, yoga for stress management, and a "Telling Your Story" advocacy session. The final day included a keynote on suicide awareness in the autism community, followed by recognition of participants and a self-advocate panel. Campers reported increased confidence, skills, and motivation to advocate for themselves and others.

Lessons Learned and Continued Growth

The success of the camp highlighted the importance of collaboration and camper feedback. Minor logistical issues, such as check-in and campus transportation, were addressed with the addition of a golf cart for medically fragile participants. PPC has secured many supplies for future camps and continues to build partnerships to sustain the program through in-kind donations. The long-term impact is evident through camper achievements, including organizing disability awareness events and participating in statewide advocacy forums. The camp continues to grow a network of empowered young leaders ready to promote inclusion and create meaningful change in their communities. There have been several former campers who have not only attended YLF but have also participated in Autism Day at the Capitol.

1507 S McKenna, Poteau, OK 74953 | Phone: (918) 658-5076 | www.pervasiveparentingcenter.org

Advocacy Leadership Camp Summary

Hosted by the Pervasive Parenting Center and Partner Organizations June 4–7 | Carl Albert State College, Poteau, Oklahoma

The Pervasive Parenting Center (PPC), in collaboration with the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (DDCO), Carl Albert State College, the Choctaw Nation, Oklahoma Family Network (OFN), the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS), hosted a four-day Advocacy Leadership Training Camp in Eastern Oklahoma. The event, offered at no cost to participants, was open to the public and primarily focused on youth and young adults with developmental and other disabilities. While the core curriculum was tailored to young adults, the camp included inclusive, family-friendly activities to engage all attendees.

Program Overview

Held on the campus of Carl Albert State College in Poteau, the camp offered youth the opportunity to stay in campus dormitories, promoting independence and peer connection in a supportive environment.

On Wednesday, June 4, 25 residential campers and 4 commuting participants began the experience with a structured check-in and orientation. The day included icebreaker activities and team-building exercises led by peer counselors, followed by dinner in the campus cafeteria, recreational games, and social time to help build relationships among participants.

Skill-Building Activities & Sessions

Thursday and Friday featured a full day of rotating breakout sessions focused on building key skills in the areas of self-advocacy, employment, social interaction, and daily living. Campers were divided into eight rotating teams and participated in a series of interactive, themed sessions, including:

- "Family Feud" Goal-setting and planning
- "Jeopardy" Self-advocacy skills
- "Wheel of Fortune" Self-care strategies
- Team-Building Challenges
- Healthy Relationships Education
- Financial Literacy Workshops

Additional sessions included an Improv Communication Workshop led by Carly Dummit and Kyle Britt from the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma. This engaging session used theatrical techniques to enhance social and verbal communication skills.



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Joni Bruce of OFN provided Transition Notebook Training, helping students and families better prepare for adulthood and independence.

Campers also participated in yoga to reinforce self-care practices and stress management. This was provided by Brittany Couch with the Department of Mental Health.

Campers also participated in art therapy, where they created paintings representing what brings them joy.

Evening activities included bingo for socialization and relaxation.

On Friday, the improv session and breakouts continue. Campers also participated in **yoga** to reinforce self-care practices and stress management.

Tana Hanson of OFN, along with camper Taygen Kinder, facilitated a "Telling Your Story" workshop, encouraging campers to develop personal narratives they can use for advocacy and leadership opportunities.

Clifford Sipes with the Department of Mental Health gave a presentation on self-regulation.

The day concluded with a dance—an exciting highlight for many campers. Meals, including breakfast, lunch, and dinner, were provided by PPC throughout the event.

Saturday: Reflection & Recognition

The final day, Saturday, June 7, began with breakfast and featured inspiring keynote speaker Carley Dummitt with the Autism Foundation of Oklahoma. She talked about suicide awareness in people on the autism spectrum. She also debuted her documentary on the subject to the campers.

Following the keynote presentations, participants received certificates of completion, presented by team leaders and peer counselors. The camp concluded with a self-advocate panel featuring veteran campers who reflected on their experiences and encouraged others to pursue their goals.

Participation & Impact

• Total Youth Participants: 29

Pre-Registrations: 36Dorm Residents: 25

• Commuters: 4

• Parent Participants: 8

• Nurse Visits: 2 (all minor incidents)

The event was made possible through generous in-kind support from Carl Albert State College, with special thanks to President Jay Falkner for providing facilities.

Participant Feedback

"Because of the camp I have helped advocate for myself and others including at the Capitol." — *Konner Toney, Panama*

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"I went to Oklahoma City, to the Capitol, and spoke up about bills and laws that would affect me and others like me because of things I've learned here." — *Kimberly Mathews, Heavener*

"Because of what I learned here last year, in April I helped organize an autism awareness day at my work." — *Bailey Hughey, Roland*

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Summary Report on 2025 Listening Session Attendance

Wendy Morton will attend the State Plan Committee Meeting on Friday, August 15th to report to the State Plan Committee. She will go over the findings from the surveys, including major themes and what topics we might consider focusing on for our next 5 Year Plan.

Attendance Data from Listening Sessions to date

25 Total Listening Sessions (includes 3 pilot sessions and 1 conference breakout)

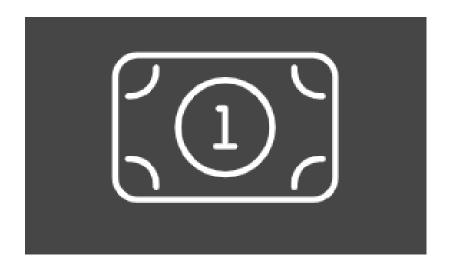
- 18 Virtual Sessions were scheduled
 - o 16 were held, at various times on various days
 - o 2 were canceled because of no attendance
 - o many sessions were changed from in-person to virtual due to low enrollment at rural sites
- 7 In-Person Sessions were held
 - o DDCO Staff
 - o DDCO Council
 - o OKC
 - o Owasso
 - o Ada
 - OK APSE Conference Breakout
 - Staff at the Sequoyah Building

127 total in attendance, approximately (over 220 people had signed up)

- 67 Virtual
- 60 In person

Most of the in-person sessions in rural areas had very low registration numbers and were either switched to virtual or canceled altogether.

We still have online surveys to collect data from. At last count, we had over 60 online surveys submitted.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

DDCO SFY26 Budget Approved 4/25/2025

			FY-75			FY-26	
Description			Requested	25 Proj	Requested		Chg / 26 Proj
29144001 GRANTS MANAGEMENT							
Payroll (3)	1	↔	283,117.00 \$	283,117.00	❖	283,117.00	
Operating	2	↔	49,422.00 \$	49,422.00	-γ-	49,422.00	
Total	3	↔	332,539.00 \$	332,539.00	⊹	332,539.00	
29141001 PLAN & ADMIN (25% State)							
Council & Operating	4	↔	\$ 00.60465	59,409.00	❖	59,409.00	
Translation & ADA Accommodations	5	↔	\$ 00.000,5	5,000.00	↔	5,000.00	
NACDD Mbrship	9	Υ.	7,600.00 \$	7,551.00	\$	7,600.00	
Total	7	↔	72,009.00 \$	71,960.00	❖	72,009.00	
		•			•		
29142001 PLAN/PROJ MGT (12.5% State)							
Payroll (2)	∞	↔	173,409.00 \$	173,409.00	\$	173,409.00	
Operating	6	↔	23,053.00 \$	23,053.00	δ.	23,053.00	
Total	10	\$	196,462.00 \$	196,462.00	❖	196,462.00	
29143002 Partners in Policymaking							
100% in person	11	↔	\$ 00.000,09	43,000.00	❖	45,000.00	(15,000)
PIP Graduate Academy	12	↔	↔	-	❖	10,000.00	10,000
29143003 Youth Leadership Forum							
100% in person	13	⊹	\$ 00.000,08	60,000.00	↔	65,000.00	(15,000)
	;	L					
Statewide self-advocacy trainings	14	S	41,204.50 \$	26,000.00	S	20,000.00	(15,204.50)
29143004 CIF / PDF							
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29143005 Library							
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DDCO SFY26 Budget Approved 4/25/2025

			FY-25	55			FY-26	9	
Description		æ	Requested		25 Proj	Red	Requested	Chg	Chg / 26 Proj
29143006 Projects & Activities	l								
U Kansas - FEAT License	17	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00	Ş	1	\$	(1,000.00)
NASDDDS & UMKC - Supporting Families C.O.P.	ζ.								
Mbrship & Annual Mtg / Showcase)	ς.	6,180.00	\$	6,180.00	ب	11,620.00	ς.	5,000.00
Conference Support	19	\$	7,500.00	\$	1	↔	1	⊹	(7,500.00)
AFO - L.E.A.D. employment training	20	\$	125,000.00	\$-	125,000.00	↔	1	-ζ>	(125,000.00)
OK Autism Ctr - ADOS & Screenings	21	Υ.	135,024.00	\$	135,076.00	↔	135,570.00	ς,	546.00
Pervasive Parenting Ctr - Youth Summit	22	\$	24,500.00	↔	24,500.00	↔	24,500.00	↔	ı
Sooner SUCCESS - Respite Program	23	-\$-	117,585.00	\$	117,585.00	↔	108,502.00	↔	(9,083.00)
Recite Me website tool bar	24	\$	5,350.00	\$	5,350.00	↔	5,565.00	↔	215.00
Best Buddies Inclusion Project	25	-γ-	25,000.00	-ζ-	25,000.00	↔	25,000.00	↔	1
Look Out Art Programming	26	\$-	24,000.00	\$	24,000.00	\$	18,000.00	\$	(6,000.00)
Inclusive Communications Conference	27	⊹	10,240.00	Ş	10,240.00	\$-	20,000.00	ς,	9,760.00
Black Feathers Podcast	28	Υ.	24,961.00	-ζ-	24,961.00	↔	ı	ς.	(24,961.00)
OK APSE Conference	29	-ζ-	1	\$	5,000.00	↔	ı	ς.	1
Joining Forces Conference	30	Υ.	ı	\$	5,000.00	↔	ı	ς.	1
Oklahoma State Fair - Momentum Refresh	31	Υ.	1	-ζ-	25,000.00	Υ-	25,000.00	ς.	1
Advocacy Events (DD Day, ADA Day)	32	\$	1	\$	1	↔	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00
	33								
	34	\$	1						
	35								
Discretionary Funding	36	\$	1						
2 Mth Expenditures in Reserve	37	\$	1						
Total	38	\$	506,340.00	⊹	533,892.00	↔	378,757.00	Ş	(153,023.00)
			•						
Total DDCO Budget	39	\$	1,294,054.50	\$	1,261,853.00	↔	1,114,767.00	\$	(198,727.50)
Indirect & Cost Allocations	40	ş	90,000.00	Ş	90,000.00	ş	90,000.00	ş	90,000,06
Total DDCO Costs	41	ب	1,384,054.50	\$	1,351,853.00	↔	1,204,767.00	φ	(108,727.50)
Less: State Funding	42	s	(42,560.00)	δ.	(42,547.75)	↔	(42,560.00)	ᡐ	•
Less: DSA Adm @ 5% of Grant	43	ş	(45,961.00)	❖	(45,961.00)	❖	(45,961.00)	ş	(45,961.00)
NET GRANT USE	4	ş	1,295,533.50	Ş	1,263,344.25	ş	1,116,246.00	\$	(154,688.50)