



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma

Join our meeting on Zoom

Meeting ID: 160 337 5568

Passcode: 8675309

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Oklahoma City, OK 73125
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Quarterly Board Meeting

Friday, July 24, 2026, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Oklahoma Center For NonProfits, 701 N Lindsay Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

Board Member(s) attending via Teleconference

Alicia Lincoln, 123 Robert S. Kerr, Room 518, Oklahoma City, OK

David Blose, 724 Ranchoak, Yukon, OK



Board Officers

Kodey Toney, Panama
Margaret Bond, Broken Arrow
Brett Cunningham, Okla. City
Susan Rutledge, Broken Arrow

Board Members

David Blose, Yukon
Jeromy Buchanan, Okla. City
Sherri Coats, Oklahoma City
Matthew Conner, Pryor
Shelly Greenhaw, Edmond
Janie Fugitt, Oklahoma City
Heather Hancock-Blackburn, Okla. City
Laura Haney, Tulsa
Jacob Pyle, Norman
Gina Richardson, Okla. City
Beth Scrutchins, Okla. City
Melissa Sublett, Tulsa
Lori Wieder, Stillwater
Cynthia Wilkett, Tulsa
Valerie Williams, Okla. City
Bryce Wooten, Edmond

Council Staff

Planning & Grants Director
Jennifer Robinson

Marketing & Outreach Director
Alissa Patterson

Advocacy Training Director
Dr. Bradley Mays

Self-Advocacy Training Director
Morgan Davis

Executive Director
Jenifer Randle

Possible action item for voting   *

- I.   **Call to Order & Roll Call:** Mr. Kodey Toney, Council Chair & Staff
- II.  **Welcome Recognition of New Members and Guests:** Mr. Kodey Toney, Chair
- III.  **Review April 2026 Meeting Minutes*:** Mr. Brett Cunningham, Secretary.
- IV.  **Public Comments** – Please let staff know if you have prepared comments for the Council before the meeting. Because of time constraints, guests are limited to 3 minutes.
- V.   **Review and updating of Council Bylaws*:** Ms. Susan Rutledge, Parliamentarian
- VI.   **Council Committee Reports***
 - a.  **State Plan Updates*:** Mr. Bryce Wooten, Ms. Jennifer Robinson
 - OK State Fair funding request*
 - Tulsa State Fair funding request*
 - Council Project Progress Updates
 - b.  **Finance Updates*:** Ms. Lori Wieder
 - c.  **Advocacy, Training, & Outreach (ATO) Updates*:** Ms. Janie Fugitt, Dr. Bradley Mays, Ms. Morgan Davis

Partners in Policymaking, Youth Leadership Forum, Self-Advocacy Trainings Updates



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma

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.

d. Executive Updates*: Mr. Kodey Toney

- Approvals and decisions since last quarterly meeting

VII. Outside Council Reports:

a. Advisory Committee on Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Ms. Susan Rutledge, Council Representative to Committee



b. Center for Learning & Leadership: Designee: Ms. Wanda Felty, Assistant Director



c. Disability Rights Oklahoma: Designee: Ms. RoseAnn Duplan, Policy & Communications Specialist



d. Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS): Ms. Beth Scrutchins, Director or Designee



e. Community Living, Aging, and Protective Services (CAP): Designee: Ms. Nadine Walters



f. Special Education Services (SDS/SES): Ms. Sherri Coats, Program Director or Designee



g. Oklahoma Rehabilitation Services (DRS): Ms. Janie Fugitt, Programs Field Representative or Designee



h. Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH): Ms. Gina Richardson, Early Intervention Manager or Designee

VIII. Director's Report: Ms. Jenifer Randle



- IX.  Old Business, Federal and State Issues, Legislation, Court Actions * - Members, Staff**
- Rethinking Paying Subminimal Wage to Persons with Disabilities Task Force – Ms. RoseAnn Duplan
- X.  New Business, Federal and State Issues, Legislation, Court Actions * - Members, Staff**
- Federal appropriations (\$) in discussion
 - State Interim Studies
- XI.  Public Comments** – Please let staff know if you have prepared comments for the Council before the meeting. Because of time constraints, guests are limited to 3 minutes.
- XII.  Announcements / Upcoming Events**
- Next [Council Committee Meetings!](#)
 -  Friday, Aug. 28 – 10:00 a.m. – State Plan Committee
 -  Friday, Aug. 28 – 11:45 a.m. – A.T.O. Committee
 -  Friday, Aug. 28 – 1:00 p.m. – Executive Committee
 -  Friday, Sept. 25 - 10:00 a.m. – State Plan Committee
 -  Friday, Sept. 25 – 11:45 a.m. A.T.O. Committee
 -  Friday, Sept. 25 -1:00 p.m. - Executive Committee
 -  Friday, Oct. 30 – 10:30 a.m. – Finance Committee
 -  Friday, Oct. 30 – 11:15 a.m. - Executive Committee
 -  Friday, Oct. 30 - 12:00 p.m. - Quarterly Board meeting
 - Other Events!!
 - ADA Anniversary, July 26 – Join the Solidarity Walk at Scissortail Park in Oklahoma City
 - Sign up for our [weekly emails!](#)

I.  Adjournment

Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma
Quarterly Meeting Minutes

DATE: Friday, April 24, 2026

TIME: 1:00 PM

PLACE: Oklahoma Center For NonProfits, 701 N Lindsay Ave, Oklahoma City,
OK 73104

BE IT REMEMBERED that on Friday, April 24, at 1:00 p.m., the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma met at the Oklahoma Center for NonProfits, 701 N. Lindsay Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73104 in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

NOTICE of the schedule for all regular and special meetings of the DDCO for calendar year 2026 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 23, 2026, in accordance with 25 O.S. § 311 et seq.

I.  **CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Bond called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

II.  **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Maggie Bond, Nadine Walter for Jeromy Buchanan (left at 2:29 p.m.), Lori Chesnut for Sherri Coats, Brett Cunningham, Janie Fugitt, Shelly Greenhaw, David Blose, Heather Hancock, Laura Haney, Gina Richardson, Mark Lewis for Beth Scrutchins (left at 2:59 p.m.), Susan Rutledge, Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty for Valerie Williams

Guests: Chris Castleberry

Online: Bryce Wooten

Absent: Jacob Pyle, Melissa Sublett, Kodey Toney, Lori Wieder

Staff: Jennifer Robinson, Jenifer Randle

By roll call, it was determined there were sufficient members for a quorum and business was conducted. Mr. Bryce Wooten's meeting location is listed on the agenda and there is quorum in person, therefore, Mr. Wooten is a voting member.

 **WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:** Ms. Bond welcomed everyone to the Council meeting.

- III.  **REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES:** Mr. Cunningham, Secretary
- A.  **DISCUSSION:** The Council reviewed the January 30, 2026 meeting minutes.
-  **ACTION:** Ms. Felty moved to accept the January 30, 2026, minutes. Ms. Rutledge seconded the motion.
-  **AYES:** Maggie Bond, Lori Chesnut, Brett Cunningham, Janie Fugitt, David Blose, Heather Hancock, Laura Haney, Gina Richardson, Susan Rutledge, Wanda Felty, Bryce Wooten.
-  **NAYS:** none.
-  **ABSTAIN:** Nadine Walter, Shelly Greenhaw, Mark Lewis, Cynthia Wilkett.
-  **MOTION:** Carried

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

-  **DISCUSSION:** There were no comments made.

V. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A.   **State Plan Committee, State Plan Comments:** The Council reviewed public comments on the goals and objectives for the next five-year state plan. There were comments specific to vagueness of the goals, wanting more work specific to employment, and wanting to understand creative community solutions. The Council determined it would draft a thank you to the public for their time and input on the state plan and share this message on Council social media.
-  **ACTION:** Mr. Wooten moved to accept the drafted State Plan Goals and Objectives for 2027-2031. Ms. Rutledge seconded the motion.
-  **AYES:** Maggie Bond, Nadine Walter, Lori Chesnut, Brett Cunningham, Janie Fugitt, Shelly Greenhaw, David Blose, Heather Hancock, Laura Haney, Gina Richardson, Mark Lewis, Susan Rutledge, Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty, Bryce Wooten
-  **NAYS:** none
-  **ABSTAIN:** none
-  **MOTION:** Carried

 **State Plan Committee, FY27 Work Plan:** The Council reviewed projects for the Fy 2027. Ms. Felty mentioned this was the first year she remembered that the Council had to turn away some projects due to funding. This workplan is paired with the Fy27 Budget Plan.

 **ACTION:** The State Plan Committee recommends the FY 2027 Work Plan.

 **AYES:** Maggie Bond, Nadine Walter, Lori Chesnut, Brett Cunningham, Janie Fugitt, Shelly Greenhaw, Heather Hancock, Laura Haney, Gina Richardson, Mark Lewis, Susan Rutledge, Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty, Bryce Wooten

 **NAYS:** none

 **ABSTAIN:** David Blose

 **MOTION:** Carried

 **State Plan Committee, Quarter 2 Progress:** Ms. Robinson presents quarter 2 updates of Council projects. Ms. Robinson explained what the updates are and where the information comes from.

 **State Plan Committee, Youth Expedition Summit:** Ms. Robinson brought a proposal from the Oklahoma Family Network to fund the Southeastern Youth Expedition Summit in Poteau this summer. This work was budgeted originally last year for \$25,000 but in a new budget that was submitted with the work plan, they requested \$20,000.

 **ACTION:** Mr. Bryce Wooten moves to approve \$20,000 to the Oklahoma Family Network for the Southeastern Youth Expedition Summit. Ms. Rutledge seconded the motion.

 **AYES:** Maggie Bond, Nadine Walter, Janie Fugitt, Shelly Greenhaw, Heather Hancock, Laura Haney, Gina Richardson, Mark Lewis, Susan Rutledge, Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty, Bryce Wooten

 **NAYS:** none

 **ABSTAIN:** Lori Chesnut, Brett Cunningham

 **MOTION:** Carried

- B.   **Finance Committee: FY27 Budget Plan:** Ms. Randle presented the Council the FY2027 Budget Plan for approval. She noted that on this budget sheet for 2026, there was an error. The Tulsa State Fair was budgeted \$20,000 and they spent \$20,000, not \$25,000 as the budget plan states.

 **ACTION:** The Finance Committee recommends the FY 2027 Budget Plan.

 **AYES:** Maggie Bond, Nadine Walter, Lori Chesnut, Brett Cunningham, Janie Fugitt, Shelly Greenhaw, Heather Hancock, Laura Haney, Gina Richardson, Mark Lewis, Susan Rutledge, Cynthia Wilkett, Wanda Felty, Bryce Wooten

 **NAYS:** none

 **ABSTAIN:** David Blose

 **MOTION:** Carried

- C.   **Advocacy, Training & Outreach Committee:** Ms. Fugitt referred the Council to the orange paper in their packet for committee updates. Dr. Mays and Ms. Davis are absent today as they are providing testimony at the Rethinking Subminimum Wage Task Force at the State Capitol today. Ms. Bond reported she had used the candidate questions created by the committee in a modified version on The Hidden Workforce podcast with Governor Candidates Getner Drummond and Cyndi Munson. Ms. Fugitt spoke about Dr. Mays and Ms. Davis presenting at the Oklahoma APSE Conference and she will be attending the national APSE Conference in Dallas. Ms. Randle highlighted the social media report attached.

- D.   **Executive Committee:** Ms. Bond reported the Executive Committee approved a Consumer Involvement Request for Katerina Alder, teacher and parent, to attend this summer's NDSS Conference as well as discussing the Council Fy 27 budget and work plan.

VI. **Reports from Outside Committees / Organization:**

- A.  **Advisory Committee on Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities:** Ms. Rutledge, Council representative, reported the past

advisory meeting discussed policies. One member of the advisory committee asked about the authority of the advisory committee. It was discussed that the advisory committee brought recommendations that were sent to the Healthcare Authority Advisory Council and then to the Healthcare Authority Board. Ms. Rutledge referred to the DDS policy provided in the meeting materials. This policy seeks to change who can provide family training, adding that agencies or businesses providing direct care or vocational services cannot provide Family Training Services on a member's plan of care to avoid conflicts of interest.

- B.   **DD Network Partner - CLL/UCEDD:** Ms. Felty, Assistant Director. Ms. Felty reported the UCEDD is near the end of the grant year. The President's budget did not recommend funding for the UCEDD but reminded us that this is only the president's budget.

- C.   **DD Network Partner - ODLIC:** No report.

- D.   **Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS):** Mr. Mark Lewis and Mr. Chris Castleberry. Mr. Castleberry reported on the policy mentioned earlier in the meeting regarding the substantial change regarding who provides family training. He invited members to provide comments or questions. Ms. Felty asked about a notice sent to families regarding the clarification of homemaker from Beverly. This said Homemaker services were only homemaker services, not training. Ms. Felty said families were confused by this policy and were worried. Mr. Castleberry confirmed he believes this was just a clarification sent out. Ms. Castleberry answered Ms. Fugitt's question regarding who provides the training. DDS contracts with organizations that can provide the training. After re-reading the proposed change, Ms. Felty explained this policy goes with the recent HCBS Settings rules. Ms. Greenhaw asked if there were enough organizations to provide the trainings. Mr. Castleberry said they have evaluated this and believe they have enough.

- E.  **OKLAHOMA Human Services** **Community Living, Aging and Protective Services (CAP):** Ms. Nadine Walter has been appointed to serve as the Interim Director for CAP, serving in place of Mr. Jeromy Buchanan who left the agency. The director of Adult Protective Services has also left the agency. Ms. Walter has hired an Interim Deputy Director, Ms. Stacy Tolson. The Legislature appropriated 38 million to CAP which will allow CAP to serve more individuals and hopefully keep things from bottle necking. Medically Fragile Program has been fully transferred from the Healthcare Authority, moving 106 members to OKDHS. They now have 133 unduplicated members with a maximum of 155 that can be served. The Older Americans Act program budget is a flat budget and taking a toll. SWODA has determined not to sign a contract with CAP this year, which has never happened before as well as CAP is looking for nutrition programs. Change in leadership and budget implications are causing anxiety for staff, not knowing what is on the horizon. Ms. Walter commented on the Council's new Goals and Objectives could be CAPs and to not be disappointed with 'only' 90 responses to public comments as this is a good response. Ms. Felty asked what the 38 million appropriations could be used for. Ms. Walter responded that she has asked leadership about this, hoping to be able to hire staff as this is some of the bottlenecks. She's also looking at technology and how I.T. could help.

- F.  **OKLAHOMA Education** **Special Education Services (SDE/SES):** Ms. Chesnut reported the Special Education Policy and Procedures manual is out for public comment until May 1. This manual provides guidance on all policies under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The Pathways to Partnership grant continues to move forward. The website Plan Your Way OK is out.

- G.  **OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services** **Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS):** Ms. Fugitt reported in the Employment Support Services Unit that everything currently being done is by email, receiving documentation, etc. They're working on creating a portal that the case manager can use to upload all documentation, etc. there. Case Managers will have access

to approval for payment. Busy piloting this and hope to roll out in October.

OKDRS Applications received between October and March were 1,990. 1,490 employment plans have been developed. There have been 438 successful closures, meaning they obtained employment or services requested. Current hourly wage at closure is \$17.25 and average hours worked per week are 34. OKDRS has 60 days to determine eligibility for services, and their average time is 37 days. From eligibility to employment plan development, case managers have 90 days and the average time to complete this is 54 days.

There are 2 vacant vocational rehabilitation positions open. There are many new employees. 88 active caseloads on the vocational rehabilitation, with an average of 92, with a total of 9,001 active.

Secondary transition summer programs are being done. STEM Camps are still accepting applications. There are 34 BEST STEP Camps and they are full.

- H.   **OKLAHOMA State Department of Health** **Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH):**
Ms. Richardson reported the Health Department is pushing their Mobile Health Wellness Units in communities to provide vaccines, women's health, etc. Measles in Oklahoma is currently down but we are on alert for measles exposure. Oklahoma Health Department is receiving \$223 million for the Rural Transformation Grants to expand and access health in rural communities. The first micro grants application and almost every county has applied. The second round of the micro grants application will be coming. Sooner Start has several openings and is having difficulty filling these.

- VII.  **Directors Report:** Ms. Randle reported that they did receive quarterly financial information but were unable to print because of no toner at the office. She shared the information on screen.

- IX.  **Other Old/New Business:** None

- X.  **Federal and State Issues, Legislation, Court Actions:** None, besides what has been discussed.

XI.  **Public Comments:** No public comments were made.

XII.  **Announcements:**

Ms. Randle reminded the members of upcoming meetings. Members asked for a doodle calendar poll to determine the best calendar date for the committee meetings in June.

Momentum Refresh will be in Oklahoma City for the Memorial Marathon. They will be bringing a different vehicle, which is easier for moving quickly as they will be at the starting line and finish line.

XIII.  **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.



BYLAWS

Article I. NAME

The name of this body shall be the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma, hereinafter referred to as the Council.

Article II. COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION

- Section 1. The formation of the Council is authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, P.L. 106-402 and as subsequently amended and numbered.
- Section 2. State authorization of the Council is by Executive Order of the Governor, which names the Designated State Agency (DSA) to which the Council is assigned for assistance with administrative activities of the Council.
- Section 3. As provided in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (Developmental Disabilities Act), the Council and its DSA may enter in an agreement that documents the rights and responsibilities of both the Council and the DSA.

Article III. COUNCIL PURPOSE

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have competencies, capabilities, and personal goals that should be recognized, supported, and encouraged. Any assistance to such individuals should be provided in an individualized manner, consistent with the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities of the individual. The purpose of the Council is to promote activities that are consistent with these principles.

The goal is to achieve independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion into the community for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is done through activities promoting systemic change, capacity building, and advocacy. Activities developed are intended to be person- and family-centered, comprehensive, coordinated and culturally-competent in design and delivery of supports, services, and other assistance.

Article IV. COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council, through Council members, staff, consultants, contractors, or sub-grantees, shall have the following responsibilities:



1. Systemic Change, Capacity Building, and Advocacy Activities:

The Council shall serve as an advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities, as defined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, and conduct programs, projects and activities that carry out the purpose of the Council.

2. State Plan Development, Implementation, and Monitoring:

The Council, in consultation with its DSA, shall prepare the Developmental Disabilities Council Five-Year State Plan as described and required by federal law within the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. This plan will define programs, activities, and resources by which the Council will implement its systemic change, capacity building, and advocacy activities in selected areas of emphasis and will include information related to the Council's establishment and maintenance, identify its DSA, and provide a comprehensive review and analysis of programs and services available to Oklahomans with developmental disabilities and their family members. The state plan will also include assurances of compliance with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, as described within the Act.

The Council will solicit public review and comment on the five-year plan before submission to the Governor or their designee for approval and submission to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD).

The Council will monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State Plan not less than annually. When necessary, the Council will amend the plan using the same review and approval processes described above.

In addition to the Executive Order, federal law provides the Council must annually submit its original or amended State Plan, as defined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, to the Governor or their designee for approval.

3. Reviewing and Reporting:

The Council shall submit to the AIDD or successor entity, the Governor, and/or the DSA such periodic reports on its activities as AIDD may reasonably request and will keep such records and afford access thereto.

4. Administrative Activities:

The Council shall prepare and approve a budget of all monies, federal and state, allocated to and received by the Council prior to February 28 of the upcoming federal fiscal year.



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The Council shall, consistent with federal and state laws, hire, supervise, and evaluate a Director of the Council. The Director will, consistent with federal and state laws, hire, supervise, and evaluate the staff of the Council.

The Council shall inform the Governor or his designee of all Council member terms which will expire at least three months prior to the Council term expiration date, and support the Governor's office to identify and screen applicants for Council membership.

5. Other Activities

The Council will review and act on other matters as may be deemed by the Council that fall within the intent of the federal law, guidelines, and directives.

Article V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Council will comply with the requirements of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.

Section 2. All appointments to the Council shall be made by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma in accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, and upon the recommendation of the Council and/or other organizations, groups, and individuals.

Section 3. The maximum term of appointment, except for mandated representatives, shall be four years, and the appointments shall be staggered so that no more than one-third of the membership is appointed in any one year. Members may serve a maximum of eight consecutive years. After serving the maximum term, a member must have at least a one-year lapse in membership on the Council before he/she can be reappointed to the Council.

Should a Council member's appointment lapse, the member will continue to serve until such time as the Governor renews the term or makes a new appointment to that position.

Council members who wish to resign during a current term must notify the Governor's office in writing and send copies of this correspondence to the Council office.

Section 4. Mandated representatives shall be appointed by the Governor. Agency representatives shall appoint a single designee to represent the agency/entity, should the appointee be unable to attend a meeting. Each agency/entity



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representative will inform the Council in writing of their designee. This designee will receive duplicate materials prior to Council meetings to assure their knowledge of timely Council issues and will be allowed to vote at Council meetings at which they represent their agency.

Should the persons filling these mandated positions, or their designees discontinue their affiliation with the agency/entity, immediate notice will be forwarded to the Governor's office for the naming of a replacement. The agency/entity representative's designee will continue to serve as a voting member of the Council until such time as the agency's/entity's representative is replaced.

Section 5. The Council staff will notify the Governor's Office immediately should a vacancy arise due to death or disqualification.

Members are expected to attend in person or virtually. For a member to be a voting member, their attendance must be in person or abide by the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act. The Act requires virtual voting members to list their identity and specific location and telephone number from which the member shall be physically present and participating shall be listed on the Council agenda.

Members choosing to be a voting member virtually should notify the Council Chair and Executive Director five working days before said meeting via email. This email should include the public location and telephone number from which they will be present and participating to be listed on the Council Agenda.

Please remember no less than a quorum of the Council shall be present in person at the meeting site as posted on the meeting notice and agenda.

Disqualification shall be determined by Council vote as a result of a member's failure to attend three consecutive meetings.

Article VI. COUNCIL OFFICERS, THEIR DUTIES, AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Council shall have four officers: a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian. These four officers form the core of the Council's Executive Committee. Every member of the Council is eligible to serve as a Council officer.

Section 2. For the appointment of Chair and for the subsequent slating of the positions of Vice Chair and Secretary, a Nominating Committee shall be selected by consensus of the membership to serve a one-year term. The Nominating



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Committee will be composed of three members of the Council, at least one of whom shall be a person with a developmental disability.

- Section 3. At the direction of the Governor's Office, or as a vacancy occurs in the office of Council Chair, the Nominating Committee may select three members who are qualified and willing to serve as Chair. These names shall be submitted to the Governor by the Council Chair and staff. The Governor will appoint the Chair. The Chair shall serve a two-year term and will be eligible for two consecutive two-year terms, consistent with the Chair's term limits as provided above.
- Section 4. Following appointment of the Chair, 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 consistent with the Open Meetings Act.
- Section 5. Following the appointment or election of the Vice Chair and Secretary, the Parliamentarian will be appointed by the Council Chair.
- Section 6. The offices of Vice Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian are for one year. These officers may serve in the same office three consecutive years.
- Section 7. The duties of the Chair shall include the following: to call and preside over Council meetings and Executive Committee meetings; to be an *ex officio*, voting member of all Council committees except the Nominating Committee; to appoint the Chair, Vice Chair, and members of all standing and *ad hoc* Council committees except the Nominating Committee; to submit such reports as are necessary to appropriate federal and state agencies; to serve as the official spokesperson of the Council; to work in concert with the Council Director to ensure that the functions of the Council according to the Developmental Disabilities Act and its regulations are carried out; to supervise the Council Director; to sign all official reports submitted by the Council; and to perform other duties as the Council may select.
- Section 8. The duties of the Vice Chair shall include the following: to carry out the duties of the Chair in their absence or through the remainder of their term if the office of Chair is vacated, and to carry out such other duties as the Chair may direct.
- Section 9. The duty of the Secretary is to ensure minutes of each Council meeting and Council Committee meeting are written and approved by the Council or appropriate Council Committee. Minutes shall include a record of member



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attendance, documentation of all motions, seconds, and votes, and a narrative of all business conducted at the meeting.

The Secretary shall write a letter to any Council member who has missed two consecutive meetings to remind the member of the potential for disqualification if a third consecutive meeting is missed.

- Section 10. The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for assuring that Council meetings are conducted in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.
- Section 11. If neither the Chair nor Vice Chair of the Council is present to preside at a Council meeting, then the Council Director shall chair the meeting. Conduction of the meeting does not convey the right or privilege of making or seconding motions, or the right to vote to the Director.
- Section 12. The Council shall have five standing committees: the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, the Nominating Committee, the State Plan Committee, and the Advocacy, Training and Outreach Committee. In addition to these committees, the Council chair may appoint *ad hoc* committees that shall be disbanded upon completion of the task to which the committee is assigned.

All Council members are encouraged to serve on at least one of the committees per year. At the Council's last meeting of the calendar year, all Council members will select the committee(s) he/she wishes to serve for the following year.

- Section 13. The Executive Committee shall consist of the four Council officers; and the chairs of the State Plan Committee; the Advocacy, Training and Outreach Committee; and the Finance Committee. Non-Council members are ineligible to serve on this committee.

The duties of the Executive Committee shall be as follows: approve requests for Consumer Involvement Fund, Professional Development Fund, and Conference Co-sponsorship funding; review and make recommendations to the Council 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.

Although information may be exchanged, no action shall be taken at any Executive Committee meeting unless a quorum is present; a quorum being defined as a simple majority of the committee's membership.



Section 14. The Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members of all standing and *ad hoc* committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee, shall be appointed by the Council Chair. Should the State Plan Committee or the Advocacy, Training and Outreach Committee wish to include non-Council

members on these committees, committee members may forward such recommendations to the Council Chair. Non-Council member committee appointments shall be made by the Council Chair.

Non-Council members serving on Council committees will not be permitted to vote within the committee, nor at any full Council meetings they may attend, nor may they serve as the Chair or Vice Chair of any Council committee.

Section 15. The Finance Committee shall consist of current members of the Executive Committee, and one or two additional Council members to serve “at large,” appointed by the Council Chair. The Council Chair shall appoint the Committee Chair from among the members of the Executive Committee or from the “at large” membership of the Finance Committee. If the appointed Chair is not already seated as a member of Executive Committee, the Finance Committee Chair will also be a member of the Executive Committee. Non-Council members are ineligible to serve on this committee.

The duties of the Finance Committee shall be as follows: work with the Executive Director and Staff to coordinate the development of the annual budget prior to the start of the state fiscal year; recommend the annual budget for approval by the Executive Committee and Council; review and preliminarily approve periodic changes to the annual budget for subsequent approval of the full Council; review and preliminarily approve periodic financial reports for subsequent approval of the full Council; serve as board representative to internal and external auditors; review and temporarily approve fiscal policies and guidelines for subsequent approval of the full Council; present and make recommendation to the Council for the approval of preliminarily approved actions; and other duties as assigned or delegated to the Finance Committee by the Council.

Although information may be exchanged, no action shall be taken at any Finance Committee meeting unless a quorum is present; a quorum being defined as a simple majority of the committee’s membership.

Section 16. The duties of the Nominating Committee are to slate the Vice Chair and Secretary on an annual basis, with the slate being presented to the Council at the fourth quarterly meeting each year. In addition, the Nominating Committee will



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meet as necessary to appoint Council representatives to outside committees, such as the Group Homes Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee on Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Non-Council members are not permitted to serve on the Nominating Committee.

- Section 17. The duties of the State Plan and Advocacy, Training and Outreach (ATO) Committees are to: meet at least quarterly to review progress of current and planned Council activities in each committee's workplan; approve any project scope of work to be done, work with staff to develop new agreements or invitations to bid as necessary; and develop and refine the Goals, Objectives and Activities in the State Plan and in the committee's workplan.

Although information may be exchanged, no action shall be taken at any State

Plan or ATO Committee meeting unless a quorum is present; a quorum being defined as a simple majority of the committee's membership.

- Section 18. Properly-appointed Agency designees are authorized to participate and vote on the Council or Council committees on which their respective Agency representative is appointed, should that representative not be in attendance. Agency designees may not serve as the Chair or Vice Chair of a Council committee.

Should an Agency designee wish to serve on a Council committee that is not the committee to which their Agency representative is appointed, an appointment to a committee may be made by the Council Chair, consistent with these Bylaws. If such appointment is made, these Agency designees serve as non-Council members of a Council committee and thus may not vote within the committee, nor may they serve as a Committee Chair or Vice Chair.

Article VII. COUNCIL STAFF

In accordance with federal law, the Council may hire staff sufficient to properly support the implementation of the State Plan. Staff shall serve in the unclassified service and shall be consistent employees of the State of Oklahoma, at the pleasure of the Council.

At a minimum, the Council staff shall include an Executive Director, hired by the Council. The Executive Director, working with the Council, shall determine other staff positions necessary for the implementation of the State Plan and shall hire and supervise staff.

ARTICLE VIII. COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Section 1. Regular and special Council meetings are called by the Council Chair, or, in their



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absence, the Vice Chair. Any eight Council members acting together may call a special Council meeting. Notice must be given to Council members in writing at least 48 hours before the scheduled time of the meeting and in such manner as to comply with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

- Section 2. The Council shall meet at least quarterly, and at such other times as the need arises in order to carry out its responsibilities. In addition to the quarterly meetings of the Council, the Council may meet over the course of a weekend annually for a planning retreat, at which time the State Plan will be written or amended. Council member attendance at all meetings is expected. Members are strongly encouraged to attend all regular and special meetings and the Council retreat. Members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings of the Council may be immediately disqualified by vote of the Council. Should a member be disqualified, the Governor's office will be notified and a replacement sought.
- Section 3. Although information may be exchanged, no business shall be transacted at a Council meeting unless a quorum is present; a quorum being defined as one-half of the current membership of the Council. Unfilled positions will not be considered part of the current membership. Within this quorum there must be at least one member with a developmental disability or an immediate family member or guardian of a person with a developmental disability.
- Section 4. All regular quarterly and special meetings of the full Council shall be open to the public in accordance with Oklahoma law. The Council retreat and most Council committee meetings are planning functions of the Council and will be held in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.
- Section 5. A simple majority of Council Members will determine the results of any vote taken in a meeting of the Council or Council Committee.
- Section 6. In accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Act, a Council member who does not represent a required state agency may designate, in writing, an authorized representative to attend a Council meeting if unable to attend. Such representatives should meet the same membership qualifications of the Council member he/she will represent. The privilege of voting is not extended to these representatives. Authorized representatives do not count toward a quorum.

Article IX. COUNCIL'S OPERATING YEAR

The operating year of the Council shall correspond to the Federal Fiscal Year, October 1 - September 30, or other fiscal year as established by the federal government.



Article X. ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY (DSA)

Section 1. Council Contracts:

In implementing its State Plan, the Council, with the assistance of the DSA, may enter into contracts with public or private agencies or organizations according to purchasing and contracting laws and regulations of the State of Oklahoma. A majority vote of the Council or designated Council Committee is necessary to pursue such contracts.

Section 2. Funding Controls:

All expenditure of funds under the Basic State Plan Grant shall be in compliance

with the State Plan, written with the support of the DSA, and in compliance with the Developmental Disabilities Act. The DSA will assure compliance with state law and regulations pertaining thereto.

Section 3. Agreement between the DSA and the Council:

As permitted by federal law, the Council may enter into agreement for specific delineation of roles and responsibilities of both the DSA and the Council. Such agreement shall be signed by the Council Chair and the Director of the DSA.

Section 4. The Director of the DSA will appoint an official agency liaison to the Council. Such liaison shall have the authority to authorize action on behalf of the agency as requested by the Council.

Article XI. COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF

In addition to the Bylaws of the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma, the Council has several Administrative Directions and Instructions to Staff, including, but not limited to, staff positions, non-solicited proposals, grants, the preclusion of conflict of interest, contracting and payments procedure, cost reimbursement for Council members, travel assistance for non-council members, and conference sponsorship. These Administrative Directions and Instructions to staff provide further guidance for staff and Council members relative to Council business.



Article XII. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Bylaws adopted by the Council at any regular or called Council meeting by a 2/3 majority vote of the Council members present, provided a quorum has been established. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be sent to the members at least thirty business days prior to the meeting at which the proposed revisions will be considered.

Approved July 28, 2023

AJ Griffin, Chair



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

BYLAWS

Article I. NAME

~~The name of this body shall be the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma, hereinafter referred to as the Council.~~

The Governor will recognize this body as the **Developmental Disabilities Planning Council**. In public settings, it will be known as the **Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma**. In these bylaws, it may simply be called **“the Council.”**

Article II. COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION

Section 1. ~~The formation of the Council is authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, P.L. 106-402 and as subsequently amended and numbered.~~

The Council is created under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (P.L. 106-402), also called the DD Act in these bylaws, including any later updates or amendments.

Section 2. ~~State authorization of the Council is by Executive Order of the Governor, which names the Designated State Agency (DSA) to which the Council is assigned for assistance with administrative activities of the Council.~~

The Council is authorized by an Executive Order from the Governor. The Order also names the Designated State Agency (DSA) that will provide the Council with Administrative Support.

Section 3. ~~As provided in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (Developmental Disabilities Act), the Council and its DSA may enter in an agreement that documents the rights and responsibilities of both the Council and the DSA.~~

As allowed under the DD Act, the Council and the DSA may enter into an agreement that outlines the rights and responsibilities of each.

Article III. COUNCIL PURPOSE

~~Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families have competencies, capabilities, and personal goals that should be recognized, supported, and encouraged. Any assistance to such individuals should be provided in an individualized manner, consistent with the unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, and capabilities of the individual. The purpose of the Council is to promote activities that are consistent with these principles.~~

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families have strengths, abilities, and personal goals that should be recognized, supported, and encouraged. Any help they receive should be tailored to their unique strengths, needs, priorities, and culture. The



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Council's purpose is to support activities that follow these principles.

~~The goal is to achieve independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion into the community for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is done through activities promoting systemic change, capacity building, and advocacy. Activities developed are intended to be person and family centered, comprehensive, coordinated and culturally competent in design and delivery of supports, services, and other assistance.~~

The goal is for people with I/DD to have independence, productivity, and full inclusion in their communities. The Council works towards this by supporting activities that promote systemic change, build capacity, and strengthen advocacy.

All activities are designed to be person and family-centered, comprehensive, coordinated, and culturally competent in how supports, services, and other assistance are planned and delivered.

Article IV. COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

~~The Council, through Council members, staff, consultants, contractors, or sub grantees, shall have the following responsibilities:~~

The Council, through members, Council Staff, consultants, or contractors, shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Systemic Change, Capacity Building, and Advocacy Activities:

~~— The Council shall serve as an advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities, as defined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, and~~
~~— conduct programs, projects and activities that carry out the purpose of the Council.~~

The Council serves as an advocate for people with developmental disabilities, as defined in the DD Act. It carries out programs, projects, and activities that support the Council's purpose.

2. State Plan Development, Implementation, and Monitoring:

~~The Council, in consultation with its DSA, shall prepare the Developmental Disabilities Council Five Year State Plan as described and required by federal law within the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. This plan will define programs, activities, and resources by which the Council will implement its systemic change, capacity building, and advocacy activities in selected areas of emphasis and will include information related to the Council's establishment and maintenance, identify its DSA, and provide a comprehensive review and analysis of programs and services available to Oklahomans with developmental disabilities and their family members. The state plan will also include assurances of compliance with the Developmental Disabilities~~



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~~Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, as described within the Act.~~

The Council, consulting with its DSA, will prepare the Developmental Disabilities Council Five-Year State Plan as required by the DD Act. This plan will outline the programs, activities, and resources the Council will use to carry out its systemic change, capacity building, and advocacy work in selected areas of emphasis.

~~The Council will solicit public review and comment on the five-year plan before submission to the Governor or their designee for approval and submission to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD).~~

The Council will ask the public to review and comment on the five-year plan before it is sent to the Governor or their designee for approval and then submitted to the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD).

~~The Council will monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State Plan not less than annually. When necessary, the Council will amend the plan using the same review and approval processes described above.~~

The Council will monitor, review, and evaluate the State Plan at least once each year. If changes are needed, the Council will amend the plan using the same review and approval process described above.

~~In addition to the Executive Order, federal law provides the Council must annually submit its original or amended State Plan, as defined in the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, to the Governor or their designee for approval.~~

In addition to the Executive Order, federal law requires the Council to submit its original or amended State Plan each year to the Governor or their designee for approval, as defined in the DD Act.

3. Reviewing and Reporting:

~~The Council shall submit to the AIDD or successor entity, the Governor, and/or the DSA such periodic reports on its activities as AIDD may reasonably request and will keep such records and afford access thereto.~~

The Council will submit any reports on its activities that the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD), or its successor, reasonably requests. These reports will also be provided to the Governor and/or the DSA. The Council will keep the necessary records and make them available as required.

4. Administrative Activities:



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~~The Council shall prepare and approve a budget of all monies, federal and state, allocated to and received by the Council prior to February 28 of the upcoming federal fiscal year.~~

The Council will prepare and approve a budget for all monies, federal and state, it receives before June 30, the start of the upcoming state and federal fiscal year.

~~The Council shall, consistent with federal and state laws, hire, supervise, and evaluate a Director of the Council. The Director will, consistent with federal and state laws, hire, supervise, and evaluate the staff of the Council.~~

The Council will hire, supervise, and evaluate the Executive Director in accordance with federal and state laws. The Director, following the same laws, will hire, supervise, and evaluate the Council's staff.

~~The Council shall inform the Governor or his designee of all Council member terms which will expire at least three months prior to the Council term expiration date, and support the Governor's office to identify and screen applicants for Council membership.~~

Council staff will notify the Governor or their designee at least three months before any Council member's term expires. The Council and Council staff will support the Governor and their staff in identifying and screening applicants for Council membership.

5. Other Activities

~~The Council will review and act on other matters as may be deemed by the Council that fall within the intent of the federal law, guidelines, and directives.~~

The Council will review and take action on any additional issues that the Council determines fall within the purpose and requirements of federal and state laws, guidelines, or directives.

Article V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ~~The Council will comply with the requirements of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act.~~

The Council will follow all requirements of the DD Act.

Section 2. ~~All appointments to the Council shall be made by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma in accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, and upon the recommendation of the Council and/or other organizations, groups, and individuals.~~

All Council members are appointed by the Governor of Oklahoma, as required by the DD Act. Appointments may be based on recommendations from the Council, as well as from organizations, groups, or other people.



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Section 3.

~~The maximum term of appointment, except for mandated representatives, shall be four years, and the appointments shall be staggered so that no more than one-third of the membership is appointed in any one year. Members may serve a maximum of eight consecutive years. After serving the maximum term, a member must have at least a one year lapse in membership on the Council before he/she can be reappointed to the Council.~~

Council members (except those serving as mandated representatives) may be appointed for terms of up to four years. It should be attempted to stagger the member terms so that no more than one-third of the Council is appointed in any single year. Members may serve up to eight consecutive years. After reaching this limit, a member must take at least a one-year break before being eligible for reappointment.

~~Should a Council member's appointment lapse, the member will continue to serve until such time as the Governor renews the term or makes a new appointment to that position.~~

If a member's term expires and the Governor has not yet renewed the appointment or named a replacement, the member will continue to serve until the Governor takes action.

~~Council members who wish to resign during a current term must notify the Governor's office in writing and send copies of this correspondence to the Council office.~~

Council members who choose to resign before their term ends must submit a written resignation to the Governor's office and send a copy to the Council office.

Section 4.

~~Mandated representatives shall be appointed by the Governor. Agency representatives shall appoint a single designee to represent the agency/entity, should the appointee be unable to attend a meeting. Each agency/entity representative will inform the Council in writing of their designee. This designee will receive duplicate materials prior to Council meetings to assure their knowledge of timely Council issues and will be allowed to vote at Council meetings at which they represent their agency.~~

Mandated representatives are appointed by the Governor. If a mandated representative cannot attend a meeting, their agency or entity may select one designee to attend in their place. Each agency or entity must notify the Council in writing about who their designee is. The designee will receive the same meeting materials as the representative so they can stay informed about Council business. When attending in place of the representative, the designee may vote at Council meetings.

~~Should the persons filling these mandated positions, or their designees discontinue their affiliation with the agency/entity, immediate notice will be forwarded to the Governor's office for the naming of a replacement. The~~



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~~agency/entity representative's designee will continue to serve as a voting member of the Council until such time as the agency's/entity's representative is replaced.~~

If a mandated representative or their designee leaves the agency or entity they represent, the Council must immediately notify the Governor's office so a replacement can be appointed. Until the Governor names a new representative, the designee may continue serving as the voting member for that agency or entity. To make sure the entity is represented, the designee may appoint a designee for them should they be unable to attend.

Section 5. ~~The Council staff will notify the Governor's Office immediately should a vacancy arise due to death or disqualification.~~

If a vacancy occurs because a member dies or is disqualified, Council staff will notify the Governor's office immediately.

~~Members are expected to attend in person or virtually. For a member to be a voting member, their attendance must be in person or abide by the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act. The Act requires virtual voting members to list their identity and specific location and telephone number from which the member shall be physically present and participating shall be listed on the Council agenda.~~

Members are expected to attend meetings in person. To vote, a member must attend in person or virtually and meet all requirements of the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act for virtual participation.

~~Members choosing to be a voting member virtually should notify the Council Chair and Executive Director five working days before said meeting via email. This email should include the public location and telephone number from which they will be present and participating to be listed on the Council Agenda.~~

~~Please remember no less than a quorum of the Council shall be present in person at the meeting site as posted on the meeting notice and agenda.~~

A quorum of the Council must always be present in person at the posted meeting site.

~~Disqualification shall be determined by Council vote as a result of a member's failure to attend three consecutive meetings.~~

A member may be disqualified by a vote of the Council if they fail to attend three consecutive meetings.

Article VI. COUNCIL OFFICERS, THEIR DUTIES, AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES



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- Section 1. ~~The Council shall have four officers: a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian. These four officers form the core of the Council's Executive Committee. Every member of the Council is eligible to serve as a Council officer.~~
The Council will have four officers: a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian. These four officers make up the Executive Committee. Any Council member is eligible to serve in one of these officer roles.
- Section 2. ~~For the appointment of Chair and for the subsequent slating of the positions of Vice Chair and Secretary, a Nominating Committee shall be selected by consensus of the membership to serve a one-year term. The Nominating Committee will be composed of three members of the Council, at least one of whom shall be a person with a developmental disability.~~
A Nominating Committee will be chosen by consensus of the Council to serve for one year. This committee is responsible for recommending candidates for the position of Vice Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.
- The Nominating Committee will consist of at least three Council members, and at least one member of the committee should be a person with a developmental disability.
- Section 3. ~~At the direction of the Governor's Office, or as a vacancy occurs in the office of Council Chair, the Nominating Committee may select three members who are qualified and willing to serve as Chair. These names shall be submitted to the Governor by the Council Chair and staff. The Governor will appoint the Chair. The Chair shall serve a two-year term and will be eligible for two consecutive two-year terms, consistent with the Chair's term limits as provided above.~~
As the Governor's Office requests it, the Nominating Committee may select three qualified Council members who are willing to serve as Chair. Council staff will submit these three names to the Governor, who will appoint the Chair. The Chair will serve a two-year term and may serve up to two consecutive two-year terms, if this does not go over the overall member term limits.
- Section 4. ~~Following appointment of the Chair, 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 consistent with the Open Meetings Act.~~
As needed, the Nominating Committee will recommend Members to serve as Council Vice Chair, Secretary, Parliamentarian. These nominations will be given to



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the Council Chair, but only if each nominee has agreed to serve.

If the Chair accepts the Nominating Committee's recommendations, no Council vote is required. If the Chair does not accept the slate, the Council will take nominations from the floor for Council Vice Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian at the next Council meeting, and the Council will vote in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

~~Section 5. Following the appointment or election of the Vice Chair and Secretary, the Parliamentarian will be appointed by the Council Chair.~~

~~Section 6. The offices of Vice Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian are for one year. These officers may serve in the same office three consecutive years.~~

The Vice Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian each serve one-year terms. These officers may serve in the same role for up to three consecutive years.

~~Section 7. The duties of the Chair shall include the following: to call and preside over Council meetings and Executive Committee meetings; to be an *ex officio*, voting member of all Council committees except the Nominating Committee; to appoint the Chair, Vice Chair, and members of all standing and *ad hoc* Council committees except the Nominating Committee; to submit such reports as are necessary to appropriate federal and state agencies; to serve as the official spokesperson of the Council; to work in concert with the Executive Director to ensure that the functions of the Council according to the Developmental Disabilities Act and its regulations are carried out; to supervise the Executive Director; to sign all official reports submitted by the Council; and to perform other duties as the Council may select.~~

The Chair's duties include:

- Calling and leading all Council meetings and Executive Committee meetings.
- Serving as an *ex officio*, voting member of all Council committees except the Nominating Committee.
- Appointing the Chair, Vice Chair, and members of all standing and *ad hoc* Council committees, except for the Nominating Committee.
- Submitting required reports to federal and state agencies.
- Serving as the official spokesperson for the Council.
- Working with the Executive Director to ensure the Council carries out its responsibilities under the Developmental Disabilities Act and its regulations.
- Supervising the Executive Director.
- Sign all official reports submitted by the Council.
- Carrying out any additional duties assigned by the Council.



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Section 8.

~~The duties of the Vice Chair shall include the following: to carry out the duties of the Chair in their absence or through the remainder of their term if the office of Chair is vacated, and to carry out such other duties as the Chair may direct.~~

The Vice Chair's duties include stepping in to perform the Chair's responsibilities whenever the Chair is absent and completing the remainder of the Chair's term if the Chair's position becomes vacant. The Vice Chair will also carry out any additional duties assigned by the Chair.

Section 9.

~~The duty of the Secretary is to ensure minutes of each Council meeting and Council Committee meeting are written and approved by the Council or appropriate Council Committee. Minutes shall include a record of member attendance, documentation of all motions, seconds, and votes, and a narrative of all business conducted at the meeting.~~

~~The Secretary shall write a letter to any Council member who has missed two consecutive meetings to remind the member of the potential for disqualification if a third consecutive meeting is missed.~~

The Secretary will work with Council staff to ensure minutes are written for every Council meeting and every Council Committee meeting, and that these minutes are voted on by the Council or the appropriate committee.

Meeting minutes will include:

- A record of members and guests who attended
- All motions made, who seconded them, and the results of each vote
- A clear summary of business discussed and actions taken during the meeting

The Secretary will work with Council staff to ensure a letter to any Council member who has missed two consecutive meetings is sent, reminding them that missing a third consecutive meeting may result in disqualification from the Council.

Section 10.

The Parliamentarian shall be responsible for ~~assuring~~ **ensuring** that **all** Council meetings are conducted in ~~accordance~~ **compliance** with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

Section 11.

~~If neither the Chair nor Vice Chair of the Council is present to preside at a Council meeting, then the Council Director shall chair the meeting. Conduct of the meeting does not convey the right or privilege of making or seconding motions, or the right to vote to the Director.~~

If neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair is present to lead a Council meeting, the Executive Director will preside over the meeting. Serving in this role does not give the Director the right to make or second any motions or to vote.



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Section 12. ~~The Council shall have five standing committees: the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee, the Nominating Committee, the State Plan Committee, and the Advocacy, Training and Outreach Committee. In addition to these committees, the Council chair may appoint *ad hoc* committees that shall be disbanded upon completion of the task to which the committee is assigned.~~

~~All Council members are encouraged to serve on at least one of the committees per year. At the Council's last meeting of the calendar year, all Council members will select the committee(s) he/she wishes to serve for the following year.~~

The Council will have five standing committees:

- Executive Committee
- Finance Committee
- Nominating Committee
- State Plan Committee
- Advocacy, Training, and Outreach Committee

The Council Chair may create ad hoc committees as needed. These temporary committees will be dissolved once they complete the task they were assigned.

All Council members are encouraged to serve on at least one committee each year. At the Council's last meeting of the calendar year, each member will choose the committee or committees they wish to serve on for the following year.

Section 13. ~~The Executive Committee shall consist of the four Council officers; and the chairs of the State Plan Committee; the Advocacy, Training and Outreach Committee; and the Finance Committee. Non-Council members are ineligible to serve on this committee.~~

The Executive Committee will be made up of four Council officers; and the chairs of the State Plan Committee; the Advocacy, Training and Outreach Committee; and the Finance Committee. Non-Council members are ineligible to serve on this committee.

~~The duties of the Executive Committee shall be as follows: approve requests for Consumer Involvement Fund, Professional Development Fund, and Conference Co-sponsorship funding; review and make recommendations to the Council 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.~~



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The Executive Committee will:

- Approve requests for the Consumer Involvement Fund, the Professional Development Fund, and/or Conference Co-Sponsorship funding.
- Review professional service contracts and make suggestions to the full Council.
- Provide day-to-day support to the Director and Council Staff when asked.
- Review and approve the Council's Administrative Directions and Instructions to Council Staff.
- Make decisions for the Council when deadlines do not allow time for a full Council meeting.
- Review the performance of the Director.
- Carry out any other duties the Council assigns or delegates to the Executive Committee.

~~Although information may be exchanged, no action shall be taken at any Executive Committee meeting unless a quorum is present; a quorum being defined as a simple majority of the committee's membership.~~

No decisions can be made at an Executive Committee meeting unless a quorum is present. A quorum means more than half of the committee members.

Section 14. ~~The Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members of all standing and ad hoc committees, with the exception of the Nominating Committee, shall be appointed by the Council Chair. Should the State Plan Committee or the Advocacy, Training and Outreach Committee wish to include non Council members on these committees, committee members may forward such recommendations to the Council Chair. Non Council member committee appointments shall be made by the Council Chair.~~

- The Council Chair appoints Committee Chairs, Council officers, Committee members including non-Council members for all standing and ad hoc committees, except for the Nominating Committee
- If the State Plan Committee or the Advocacy, Training, and Outreach Committee want to include people who are not Council members, they may recommend those people to the Council Chair.
- The Council Chair makes all appointments of non-Council members to committees.

~~Non Council members serving on Council committees will not be permitted to vote within the committee, nor at any full Council meetings they may attend, nor may they serve as the Chair or Vice Chair of any Council committee.~~

Non-Council members who serve on Council committees:

- May participate in committee discussions and activities.
- May not vote in committee meetings.



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- May not vote at any full Council meetings they attend.
- May not serve as a Committee Chair or Vice Chair.

Section 15. ~~The Finance Committee shall consist of current members of the Executive Committee, and one or two additional Council members to serve “at large,” appointed by the Council Chair. The Council Chair shall appoint the Committee Chair from among the members of the Executive Committee or from the “at large” membership of the Finance Committee. If the appointed Chair is not already seated as a member of Executive Committee, the Finance Committee Chair will also be a member of the Executive Committee. Non-Council members are ineligible to serve on this committee.~~

- The Finance Committee includes all current members of the Executive Committee, plus one or two additional Council members who serve “at large.” These at-large members are appointed by the Council Chair.
- The Council Chair appoints the Finance Committee Chair. The Chair may be chosen from the Executive Committee or from the at-large members of the Finance Committee.
- If the appointed Finance Committee Chair is not already a member of the Executive Committee, they will become a member of the Executive Committee as part of their role.
- Only Council members may serve on the Finance Committee. Non-Council members are not eligible.

~~The duties of the Finance Committee shall be as follows: work with the Executive Director and Staff to coordinate the development of the annual budget prior to the start of the state fiscal year; recommend the annual budget for approval by the Executive Committee and Council; review and preliminarily approve periodic changes to the annual budget for subsequent approval of the full Council; review and preliminarily approve periodic financial reports for subsequent approval of the full Council; serve as board representative to internal and external auditors; review and temporarily approve fiscal policies and guidelines for subsequent approval of the full Council; present and make recommendation to the Council for the approval of preliminarily approved actions; and other duties as assigned or delegated to the Finance Committee by the Council.~~

The Finance Committee will:

- Work with the Executive Director and Council Staff to help develop the annual budget before the start of the state fiscal year.
- Recommend the annual budget to the Executive Committee and the full Council for approval.
- Review and give preliminary approval to periodic changes to the annual budget, before those changes go to the full Council for final approval.
- Review and give preliminary approval to periodic financial reports, before they go to the full Council for final approval.



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- Serve as the Council's representative to internal and external auditors.
- Review and temporarily approve fiscal policies and guidelines, before they go to the full Council for final approval.
- Present and make recommendations to the Council on all items the Finance Committee has preliminarily approved.
- Carry out any other duties the Council assigns or delegates to the Finance Committee.

~~Although information may be exchanged, no action shall be taken at any Finance Committee meeting unless a quorum is present; a quorum being defined as a simple majority of the committee's membership.~~

No decisions can be made at a Finance Committee meeting unless a quorum is present. A quorum means more than half of the committee members.

Section 16. ~~The duties of the Nominating Committee are to slate the Vice Chair and Secretary on an annual basis, with the slate being presented to the Council at the fourth quarterly meeting each year. In addition, the Nominating Committee will meet as necessary to appoint Council representatives to outside committees, such as the Group Homes Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee on Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Non-Council members are not permitted to serve on the Nominating Committee.~~

The Nominating Committee will:

- Prepare a slate of candidates for the positions of Vice Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian each year.
- Present this slate to the Council at the fourth quarterly meeting.
- Meet as needed to appoint Council representatives to outside committees, such as:
 - the DDS Advisory Committee on Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities
 - any similar external committees that require Council representation.

Only Council members may serve on the Nominating Committee. Non-Council members are not eligible.

Section 17. ~~The duties of the State Plan and Advocacy, Training and Outreach (ATO) Committees are to: meet at least quarterly to review progress of current and planned Council activities in each committee's workplan; approve any project scope of work to be done, work with staff to develop new agreements or invitations to bid as necessary; and develop and refine the Goals, Objectives and Activities in the State Plan and in the committee's workplan.~~

~~Although information may be exchanged, no action shall be taken at any State Plan or ATO Committee meeting unless a quorum is present; a quorum being~~



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

~~defined as a simple majority of the committee's membership.~~

The State Plan Committee and the Advocacy, Training, and Outreach (ATO) Committee will:

- Meet at least once each quarter to review progress on current and planned Council activities in their workplans.
- Approve the scope of work for any projects and work with Council Staff to develop new agreements or invitations to bid as needed.
- Develop and refine the Goals, Objectives, and Activities in the State Plan and in each committee's workplan.

No decisions can be made at a State Plan Committee or ATO Committee meeting unless a quorum is present in person. A quorum means more than half of the committee members.

Section 18. ~~Properly appointed Agency designees are authorized to participate and vote on the Council or Council committees on which their respective Agency representative is appointed, should that representative not be in attendance. Agency designees may not serve as the Chair or Vice Chair of a Council committee.~~

A properly appointed Agency designee may participate and vote in place of their Agency's representative at Council meetings or on Council committees where that representative is appointed. Agency designees may serve as the Chair or Vice Chair of any Council committee.

~~Should an Agency designee wish to serve on a Council committee that is not the committee to which their Agency representative is appointed, an appointment to a committee may be made by the Council Chair, consistent with these Bylaws. If such appointment is made, these Agency designees serve as non-Council members of a Council committee and thus may not vote within the committee, nor may they serve as a Committee Chair or Vice Chair.~~

- If an Agency designee wants to serve on a Council committee other than the one their Agency representative is appointed to, the Council Chair may appoint them, following these Bylaws.
- When serving in place of their agency representative, an Agency designee is considered a Council member for that committee.
- When appointed to a different committee, the Agency designee serves as a Non-Council member of that committee.
 - As non-Council members, they may not vote in that committee.
 - They may not serve as the Committee Chair or Vice Chair.

Article VII. COUNCIL STAFF

~~In accordance with federal law, the Council may hire staff sufficient to properly support~~



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

~~the implementation of the State Plan. Staff shall serve in the unclassified service and shall be consistent employees of the State of Oklahoma, at the pleasure of the Council.~~

~~At a minimum, the Council staff shall include an Executive Director, hired by the Council. The Executive Director, working with the Council, shall determine other staff positions necessary for the implementation of the State Plan and shall hire and supervise staff.~~

In line with federal law, the Council may hire staff as needed to support the implementation of the State Plan.

- The Council will hire an Executive Director.
- Working with the Council, the Executive Director will determine what additional Council Staff positions are needed to carry out the State Plan.
- The Executive Director is responsible for hiring, supervising, and managing all Council staff.
- All Council staff serve in the unclassified service and are employees of the State of Oklahoma. Staff serve at the pleasure of the Council.

ARTICLE VIII. COUNCIL MEETINGS

Section 1. ~~Regular and special Council meetings are called by the Council Chair, or, in their absence, the Vice Chair. Any eight Council members acting together may call a special Council meeting. Notice must be given to Council members in writing at least 48 hours before the scheduled time of the meeting and in such manner as to comply with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.~~

- Regular and special Council meetings may be called by the Council Chair or, if the Chair is unavailable, by the Vice Chair.
- Any eight Council members acting together may call a special meeting.
- Written notice must be provided to all Council members at least 48 hours before the meeting.
- All notices must comply with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

Section 2. ~~The Council shall meet at least quarterly, and at such other times as the need arises in order to carry out its responsibilities. In addition to the quarterly meetings of the Council, the Council may meet over the course of a weekend annually for a planning retreat, at which time the State Plan will be written or amended. Council member attendance at all meetings is expected. Members are strongly encouraged to attend all regular and special meetings and the Council retreat. Members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings of the Council may be immediately disqualified by vote of the Council. Should a member be disqualified, the Governor's office will be notified and a replacement sought.~~

- The Council will meet at least once each quarter.
- Additional meetings may be held whenever needed to carry out the Council's responsibilities.



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- The Council may also hold an annual weekend planning retreat, where the State Plan may be written or amended.
- Council members are expected to attend all meetings, including regular meetings, special meetings, and/or an annual retreat.
- Members who miss three consecutive Council meetings, **in-person or virtual**, may be disqualified by a vote of the Council.
- If a member is disqualified, Council staff will notify the Governor's office so a replacement can be appointed.

Section 3. ~~Although information may be exchanged, no business shall be transacted at a Council meeting unless a quorum is present; a quorum being defined as one-half of the current membership of the Council. Unfilled positions will not be considered part of the current membership. Within this quorum there must be at least one member with a developmental disability or an immediate family member or guardian of a person with a developmental disability.~~
No business can be conducted at a Council meeting unless a quorum is present **in person**. A quorum means one-half of the current Council membership. Unfilled positions are not counted when determining this number.

Within that quorum, there must be at least one member who has a developmental disability or an immediate family member or guardian of a person with a developmental disability.

Council members attending virtually do not count towards the quorum requirement.

Section 4. ~~All regular quarterly and special meetings of the full Council shall be open to the public in accordance with Oklahoma law. The Council retreat and most Council committee meetings are planning functions of the Council and will be held in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.~~

All regular quarterly and special meetings of the full Council are open to the public, as required by Oklahoma law.

A Council retreat and most Council committee meetings are planning functions of the Council and will be held in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act.

Section 5. A simple majority of Council Members will determine the results of any vote taken in a meeting of the Council or Council Committee.

Section 6. ~~In accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Act, a Council member who does not represent a required state agency may designate, in writing, an authorized representative to attend a Council meeting if unable to attend. Such representatives should meet the same membership qualifications of the Council~~



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

~~member he/she will represent. The privilege of voting is not extended to these representatives. Authorized representatives do not count toward a quorum.~~

A Council member who does not represent a required state agency may, in accordance with the DD Act, designate an authorized representative in writing if they are unable to attend a Council meeting.

Authorized representatives must meet the same membership qualifications as the Council member they are representing.

These representatives may not vote and do not count toward a quorum.

Article IX. COUNCIL'S OPERATING YEAR

~~The operating year of the Council shall correspond to the Federal Fiscal Year, October 1 – September 30, or other fiscal year as established by the federal government.~~

The Council's operating year follows the federal fiscal year, which runs from October 1 through September 30, or any other fiscal year established by the federal government.

Article X. ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED STATE AGENCY (DSA)

The DSA provides administrative support to the Council as required by the DD Act and Oklahoma law.

Section 1. Council Contracts:

~~In implementing its State Plan, the Council, with the assistance of the DSA, may enter into contracts with public or private agencies or organizations according to purchasing and contracting laws and regulations of the State of Oklahoma. A majority vote of the Council or designated Council Committee is necessary to pursue such contracts.~~

To carry out its State Plan, the Council may, with help from its DSA, enter contracts with public or private agencies or organizations. All contracts must follow Oklahoma's purchasing and contracting laws and regulations.

A majority vote of the Council, or of a designated Council committee, is required before pursuing any such contract.

Section 2. Funding Controls:

~~All expenditure of funds under the Basic State Plan Grant shall be in compliance~~

~~with the State Plan, written with the support of the DSA, and in compliance with the Developmental Disabilities Act. The DSA will assure compliance with state law and regulations pertaining thereto.~~



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All expenditures under the Basic State Plan Grant must comply with the State Plan, which is developed with support from the DSA and must follow the requirements of the DD Act.

Section 3. Agreement between the DSA and the Council:

~~As permitted by federal law, the Council may enter into agreement for specific delineation of roles and responsibilities of both the DSA and the Council. Such agreement shall be signed by the Council Chair and the Director of the DSA.~~

As permitted by federal law, the Council may enter into a written agreement with its DSA that outlines the specific roles and responsibilities of both parties. This agreement must be signed by the Council Chair and the Director, or agency liaison, of the DSA.

Section 4. The Director of the DSA will appoint an official agency liaison to the Council. Such liaison shall have the authority to authorize action on behalf of the agency as requested by the Council.

Article XI. COUNCIL ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS TO COUNCIL STAFF

~~In addition to the Bylaws of the Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma, the Council has several Administrative Directions and Instructions to Staff, including, but not limited to, staff positions, non-solicited proposals, grants, the preclusion of conflict of interest, contracting and payments procedure, cost reimbursement for Council members, travel assistance for non-council members, and conference sponsorship. These Administrative Directions and Instructions to staff provide further guidance for staff and Council members relative to Council business.~~

In addition to these Bylaws, the Council maintains Administrative Directions and Instructions to Council Staff. These documents cover topics such as Council Staff positions, unsolicited proposals, grants, conflict-of-interest requirements, contracting and payment procedures, cost reimbursement for Council members, travel assistance for non-Council members, and conference sponsorship.

These Administrative Directions and Instructions provide additional guidance to Council members and Council Staff on how Council business is carried out.

Article XII. AMENDMENTS CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS

~~These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Bylaws adopted by the Council at any regular or called Council meeting by a 2/3 majority vote of the Council members present, provided a quorum has been established. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be sent to the members at least thirty business days prior to the meeting at which the proposed revisions will be considered.~~



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

These Bylaws may be changed or replaced at any regular or special Council meeting by a two-thirds vote of the Council members present, if a quorum has been established. Proposed **changes** must be sent to all Council members at least thirty business days before the meeting where the changes will be considered.

~~Approved July 28, 2023~~

Approved _____

~~AJ Griffin, Chair~~

Kodey Toney, Chair

Funding Request for Fy27

Project/Activity: Accessibility Initiatives at the Oklahoma State Fair
Organization: Oklahoma State Fair

Proposal Description: The Oklahoma State Fair (OSF) is seeking funding to continue accessibility initiatives that support people with disabilities and their families during the annual Oklahoma State Fair. Key components include partnering with Momentum Refresh to provide a fully accessible, staffed mobile restroom equipped with an adult changing table, ceiling lift, adjustable fixtures, and a private space that can also serve as a calming and lactation room. OSF will continue offering multiple calming spaces where state fair guests can take a break from sensory stimulation in a supportive, low-stress environment. These spaces will be staffed by trained personnel.

In addition to physical accommodations, OSF will work with Square Holes to provide training, education, and resource development. This includes staff, volunteer, and vendor training materials; development of social narratives for sensory-friendly time; improve signage and way finding; support calming space operations; and coordinating the OSF Accessibility Expo. The Accessibility Expo will feature disability service organizations, educational activities, entertainment, and opportunities for community engagement. These efforts will complement the Fair's sensory-friendly time, during which lights, sounds, and other sensory stimuli are reduced to increase participation for people with sensory sensitivities.

OSF is committed to embedding accessibility and inclusion into its long-term operations. Many resources developed through this project (training materials, vendor guides, social narratives, calming space equipment, and survey tools) can be sustained and reused in future years. While the mobile restroom remains the most challenging component to sustain financially, OSF is seeking additional community support. OSF has expanded permanent accessibility features at the fairgrounds by adding three new adult changing stations. Through these initiatives, OSF aims to ensure all guests can participate in Fair activities with greater dignity, safety, independence, and enjoyment. The 2026 OK State Fair operates for 11 days, September 17-27, 2026.

Council Goal & Objective: Representation and Public Attitudes

Targeted Audience: We believe that the addition of an accessible restroom, the activities of Sensory Friendly Time, and the multiple locations of the Calming Space, as well as an Accessibility Resource Fair will span all demographics. We believe these specific activities transcend age, gender, cultural and other dissecting characteristics of the overall benefiting population. Many activities are DD targeted but will benefit all.

Funding requested for Fiscal Year FY27

Council	Match (in kind)	Total
\$25,000	\$15,910.05	\$40,910.05

Prior Fiscal Year - FY26

Council	Match (in kind)	Total
\$25,000	\$15,141.50	\$40,141.50

Prior Fiscal Year - FY25

Council	Match (in kind)	Total
\$25,000	\$15,689.50	\$40,689.50

Overall Budget

Calming Space Items Budget

3

Funding Request for FY27

Project/Activity: Accessible Initiative at the Tulsa State Fair
Organization: Tulsa State Fair

Proposal Description: The proposed project will improve accessibility and inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families at the Tulsa State Fair through a partnership between Expo Square/Tulsa State Fair, Momentum Refresh, and Square Holes. The initiative combines accessible infrastructure with disability awareness and education to reduce barriers that often prevent full participation in large community events. By implementing these efforts at one of Oklahoma's largest annual gatherings, the project aims to create a more welcoming and inclusive environment while serving as a model for other public events across the state. The Tulsa State Fair runs for 11 days, October 1-11, 2026.

Momentum Refresh will provide an accessible restroom vehicle equipped with features such as adult changing tables, transfer hoists, and caregiver assistance space, allowing individuals with significant support needs to attend the fair with greater dignity, safety, and independence. Square Holes will establish two sensory-friendly quiet spaces for individuals who experience sensory overload and provide disability inclusion consulting, educational materials, and outreach activities. Together, these services will support individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and caregivers by addressing both physical accessibility and sensory needs.

The project is expected to increase participation by individuals with developmental disabilities, improve caregiver support, and raise public awareness of disability inclusion and neurodiversity. Success will be measured through facility usage data, participation metrics, public engagement activities, and feedback from individuals with disabilities and their families. Beyond the immediate impact at the Tulsa State Fair, the project seeks to create lasting systems change by demonstrating how large-scale public events can successfully integrate accessibility, sensory accommodation, and inclusive practices into standard event operations.

Council Goal & Objective: Representation and Public Attitudes

Targeted Audience: The targeted population for this project includes individuals with disabilities and their families across Oklahoma, particularly those who face barriers to participation in large public events and community activities due to accessibility needs or lack of inclusive infrastructure.

Funding requested for Fiscal Year FY27

Council	Match (in kind)	Total
\$25,000	\$20,000	\$45,000

Prior Fiscal Year - FY26

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

Total Project Budget - \$45,000

Funding Requested from DDCO - \$25,000

Required Match - \$20,000

Revenue Sources

Source	Amount
Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma (Requested Funding)	\$25,000
Expo Square / Tulsa State Fair Staff Support (In-Kind Match)	\$20,000
Total Revenue	\$45,000

Project Expenditures

Expense Category	Amount
Momentum Refresh Accessible Restroom Rental (11 Days)	\$28,420
Square Holes Accessibility Consulting & Quiet Space Management	\$12,100
Sensory-Friendly Quiet Space Supplies	\$800
Accessibility Outreach Materials & Signage	\$1,800
Project Coordination / Staff Time	\$1,200
Evaluation & Reporting	\$680
Total Expenses	\$45,000

Match Funding Explanation

The required match (\$20,000) will be provided through a combination of in-kind operational support and partner contributions.

Expo Square / Tulsa State Fair will provide staff coordination, planning, and operational support necessary to implement the accessibility initiatives during the fair. Community sponsorships will contribute funding to support accessibility outreach and inclusion initiatives. Square Holes will contribute in-kind materials and outreach support associated with the sensory-friendly quiet spaces and disability inclusion awareness.

Momentum Refresh Accessible Restroom Rental

Funding will support the rental of an accessible restroom vehicle designed for individuals with disabilities who require adult-sized changing tables, transfer hoists, and caregiver support space.

The rental includes delivery, setup, driver-operator services, and sanitation supplies for the duration of the 11-day Tulsa State Fair.

Square Holes Accessibility Consulting

Square Holes will provide accessibility consulting and manage two sensory-friendly quiet spaces during the fair. These spaces provide a supportive environment for individuals who experience sensory sensitivities.

Sensory-Friendly Space Supplies

Supplies for the quiet spaces include seating, acoustic materials, sensory tools, lighting, and other equipment designed to create a calming environment.

Accessibility Outreach Materials

Signage and educational materials will help inform fair attendees about accessibility resources available at the event.

Project Coordination & Evaluation

Expo Square staff will coordinate project implementation and collect evaluation data required for Council reporting.



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma

State Plan Project Quarterly Progress FY26 July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

Project Summaries & Final Reports for One Time Events

Oklahoma Family Network Joining Forces
OK APSE Conference



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Oklahoma Family Network, Joining Forces

Type of Attendee (these are of the attendees that answered the survey)	Attended
# of Professionals who participated in council activity	172
# of Family Member/Caregiver who participated in council activity	67
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	16
Total Attendees from Registration/Sign In	
# of total attendees (Enid -25, Lawton-26, Muskogee-31, OKC-130, Poteau-21, Tulsa-120, Weatherford-18, Ardmore-32)	403

The 2026 Joining Forces Conference, themed **“The Power of WE,”** was held on March 27, 2026, at the Springlake Metro Tech Campus in Oklahoma City through a partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Education. The conference expanded its reach by livestreaming morning sessions to seven locations across Oklahoma, including new sites in Ardmore and Weatherford. Opening remarks from state leaders highlighted the history and importance of collaboration, while keynote speaker Shade Dill explored the challenges and opportunities of cross-agency partnerships. The event concluded its morning session with an inspiring call to action from AJ Griffin, who emphasized that Oklahoma’s future depends on the strength of partnerships built to address shared challenges.

The conference brought together 403 attendees from rural, suburban, and metropolitan communities, including families, advocates, professionals, and community leaders. Participants benefited from statewide access to presentations and locally hosted breakout sessions focused on partnerships and community opportunities. Accessibility supports, including Spanish-language accommodations and ASL interpretation, helped ensure meaningful participation. The event provided attendees with practical tools, new perspectives, and networking opportunities to strengthen family-professional partnerships and improve outcomes for individuals with disabilities and special health care needs.

Now in its 19th year, the Joining Forces Conference continues to promote family leadership, collaborative service development, and stronger partnerships between families and professionals. The conference’s sustainability is supported through grants, contracts, in-kind contributions, and the ongoing commitment of state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community partners. Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees praising the quality of the presentations, the keynote speaker, and the valuable connections made. The conference remains a key statewide effort to foster collaboration and improve services and supports that help Oklahomans achieve a good life.



The 2026 Joining Forces Conference was held on March 27th, 2026. This year's conference was hosted at the Springlake Metro Tech Campus in Oklahoma City thanks to the partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Education. The morning sessions were live-streamed to remote sites in Enid, Poteau, Tulsa, Okmulgee, Lawton, Ardmore, and Weatherford, with Ardmore and Weatherford added as new locations. The theme this year was The Power of WE. Melissa Miller, State Medicaid Director and Deputy Chief of Staff at the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, and Wanda Felty, Assistant Director & Community Leadership and Advocacy Coordinator, provided the opening session. They welcomed everyone and shared some history of partnerships and Joining Forces. Keynote speaker Shade Dill, leadership trainer and founder of Higher Thought Leadership, spoke about the Partnership Paradox and explored the paradoxes that shape cross-agency work. Partnerships are essential and difficult. Partnerships don't fail because people don't care. They fail because people are navigating competing truths simultaneously. The morning session ended with a powerful message from AJ Griffin, Ed D, President and CEO of the Potts Family Foundation. AJ challenged everyone with a call to continue the work and reminded attendees that Oklahoma's future is not determined by the challenges we face, but by the partnerships we build to overcome them.

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 year's conference hosted 403 attendees representing metro, suburban, and rural communities. Accommodations were provided for Spanish-speaking attendees in OKC and Tulsa, and ASL was provided in OKC by our DRS partners. 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. [LINK to JF VIDEO](#)

The 19th 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 3rd 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. 240 evaluations were completed.

JOINING FORCES – MARCH 27, 2026



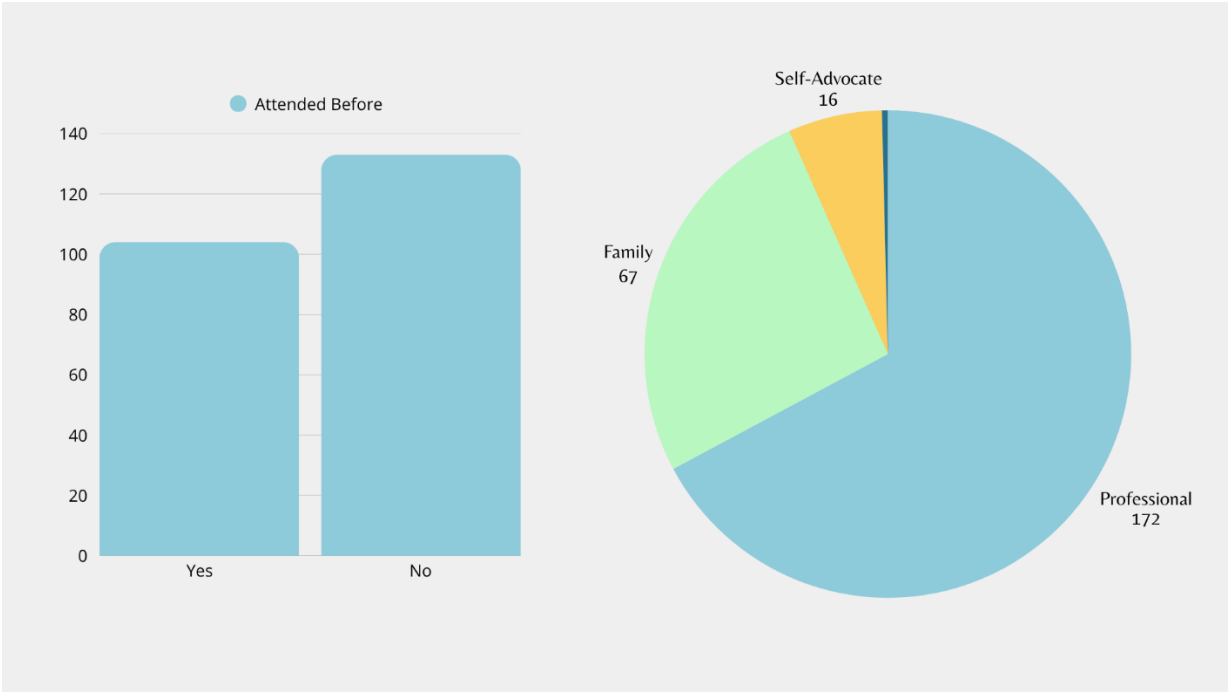
Family & Professional Partnerships

Keynote Speakers:

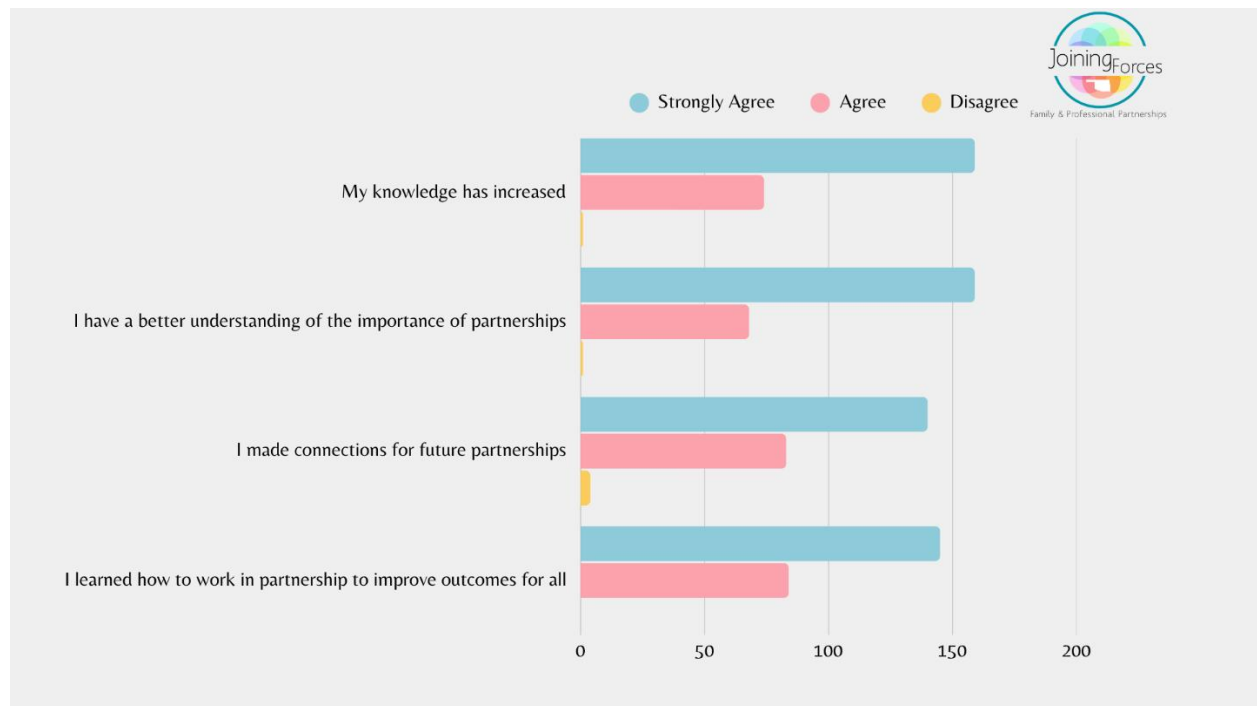
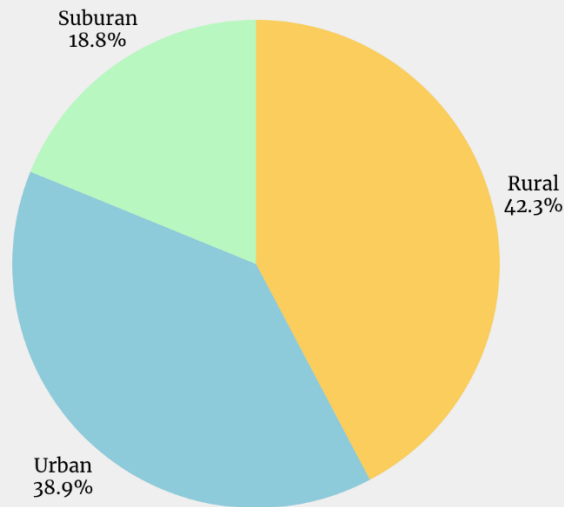
Shade Dill
&
AJ Griffin

Enid – 25
Lawton – 26
Muscogee – 31
OKC – 130
Poteau – 21
Tulsa – 120
Weatherford – 18
Ardmore – 32

Total Attendees – 403



Which of the following describes your community ?



Comments:

- ❖ “Absolutely loved it. I look forward to working with future partnership connections.”
- ❖ “Was a great conference! I learned a lot and felt like it hit all the right notes. Very well put together and delivered.”
- ❖ “Great information. It was my first time attending and it was super great! Loved it!
- ❖ “This is always a great conference and the keynote was amazing!”

Congratulations to the winners of the 2026 Partnership Awards

OKC - DSACO

Tulsa - St. Francis Children's Hospital

Poteau - LeFlore County Community Coalition

Ardmore - Ardmore Behavioral Health Collaborative

Enid - Katie Crawford Tri-County Family Resource Center

Weatherford - Marissa Murley

Lawton - Stephanie Red Elk Sooner Success

Okmulgee - Dr. Monte Randall, Ed. D ****Not pictured****



<https://oklahomafamilynetwork.org>

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.



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

OK APSE Conference

Type of Attendee	Attended
# of Professionals who participated in council activity	140
# of Family Member/Caregiver who participated in council activity	12
# of Educators who participated in council activity	19
# of Employers who participated in council activity	3
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	7

The OK-APSE conference successfully delivered 8.5 hours of educational training over a 1.5-day event, including a pre-conference Ethics session that provided three training credits. The conference increased participants' knowledge, skills, and awareness related to supporting individuals with disabilities in community settings while promoting networking and resource sharing. Through collaboration with Council volunteers, state agencies, presenters, and funding partners, the event reinforced Oklahoma's commitment to Employment First principles and expanding competitive integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The conference achieved its goals of providing professional development, increasing access to resources, expanding awareness of employment supports, and strengthening cross-sector collaboration. Highlights included expanded breakout session offerings, increased family participation, the addition of a new employer presenter, and a highly interactive keynote presentation. Attendees represented a broad range of stakeholders, including educators, employers, family members, self-advocates, service providers, and agency representatives, creating meaningful opportunities to share experiences, build partnerships, and advance disability-inclusive practices.

Several areas for growth were identified, including increasing service provider participation, expanding OK-APSE membership, strengthening employer engagement, and offering more training on rural service delivery, job coaching certification, visual impairment supports, and assistive technology. Lessons learned emphasized the value of strong partnerships, self-advocate leadership, and expanded pre-conference training opportunities. Looking ahead, OK-APSE plans to continue promoting Employment First, pursue additional funding opportunities, offer virtual training throughout the year, and engage new Conference Ambassadors to help shape future conferences and expand the organization's impact.

To: Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma
From: OK-APSE
Re: 2026 Oklahoma APSE Employment Conference – Summary

Theme: Open Ears, Open Opportunities, Creating Partnerships

The 2026 Oklahoma APSE Employment Conference convened a broad coalition of stakeholders, including disability employment professionals, educators, workforce partners, employers, policymakers, families, and self-advocates. The conference supported Oklahoma's ongoing commitment to expanding competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities through the principles of Employment First and cross-system collaboration.

Purpose and Alignment

The conference aligned with the mission of APSE and OK-APSE to promote competitive integrated employment as the preferred outcome for all individuals with disabilities. Sessions emphasized systems change, workforce inclusion, and strategies to improve access to employment, retention, and career advancement. Conference activities expanded access to resources and strengthened opportunities for networking and collaboration. Additionally, offering an opportunity for self-advocates to share personal stories, strategies for overcoming barriers, individual goals, and recommendations for services and support.

Conference Objectives

The 2026 conference was designed to:

- Strengthen partnerships among education, workforce, and disability service systems
- Improve employment outcomes through evidence-based and person-centered practices
- Increase employer engagement in inclusive hiring and retention
- Expand knowledge of transition-to-employment pathways for youth with disabilities
- Promote innovation in employment supports, including technology and AI tools
- Strengthen the role of self-advocates and families in driving employment systems
-

Keynote Highlights

The opening keynote, *"Touching the Heart of Our Work,"* presented by Peter Leidy, emphasized the importance of empathy, communication, and person-centered approaches in supporting employment outcomes. The closing keynote, *"Wellbeing: What Makes Life Worthwhile,"* reinforced the connection between holistic wellbeing and sustained employment success, highlighting five interconnected domains: career, social, physical, financial, and community wellbeing.

Key Training Areas and Outcomes

Conference breakout sessions addressed critical areas of practice and systems development, including:

1. Inclusive Communication and Workforce Engagement

Participants explored strategies for strengthening employer relationships, improving communication practices, and understanding the impact of language, intent, and perception in employment settings.

2. Person-Centered and Customized Employment Practices

Sessions focused on individualized employment pathways, natural supports, transferable skill development, and approaches that align job development with individual strengths and interests.

3. Transition and Youth Employment Systems

Presentations highlighted Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), Area Transition Teams,

and coordinated strategies to improve post-secondary employment outcomes for students with disabilities.

4. Workplace Success and Employment Retention

Topics included self-advocacy, managing workplace conflict, disclosure decision-making, and strategies to support long-term job retention and success.

5. Employer Partnerships and Systems Collaboration

Sessions emphasized strengthening partnerships between vocational rehabilitation, education systems, community providers, and employers to expand inclusive hiring practices.

6. Innovation and Technology in Employment Services

Presenters explored the role of artificial intelligence, digital tools, and emerging technologies in improving service delivery, job development, and administrative efficiency.

7. Mental Health and Inclusive Employment Supports

Content highlighted trauma-informed practices, recovery-oriented approaches, and strategies to support individuals with diverse mental health needs in the workforce.

Stakeholder Engagement

The conference featured participation from state agencies, service providers, educational institutions, and employer partners, as well as self-advocates and family members. Attendees included Professionals in the field of employment support and services, along with 19 Educators, 3 Employers, 12 Family Members, and 7 Self-Advocates. A Lunch & Learn session provided attendees with information on APSE training, membership, and conference opportunities. The event reinforced national Employment First priorities and highlighted APSE's role as a leading national organization advancing integrated employment systems.

The conference's success is made possible through collaboration with Council volunteers whose agencies actively support and align with the mission and vision of OK-APSE. It also benefits from the contributions of speakers, presenters, and state agency representatives who generously share their time to provide education and advance knowledge in the field of disability services and support. In addition, financial support from organizations such as the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council, Bios Corporation, Rise Staffing, and Viability plays a critical role in making the event possible.

Outcomes and Impact

The 2026 Oklahoma APSE Employment Conference strengthened statewide collaboration and reinforced a shared commitment to Employment First principles. Participants gained practical strategies to improve employment outcomes, strengthen system coordination, and expand inclusive workforce opportunities. The conference created a positive and engaging atmosphere with strong participation, meaningful networking, and increased community support.

Attendees especially enjoyed the social event, which encouraged connection and engagement. The Dragon Brew Crew SPED Students brought great energy to the conference, while new vendors, including Hearts for Hearing and Oklahoma Family Network, expanded available resources and support options. Two Oklahoma gubernatorial candidates from both political parties attended the conference and publicly expressed support for disability employment initiatives and funding efforts.

Survey feedback showed attendees left feeling more informed, connected, and supported. Networking opportunities encouraged collaboration and idea sharing, including discussions on building stronger business partnerships to increase employment opportunities.

The Pre-Conference session was well-received and added value to the event. Future considerations include moving the session to the end of the conference to create a stronger opening experience, increasing sponsorships and employer participation, and continuing efforts to identify venues that are both accessible and affordable.



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma

State Plan Project Quarterly Progress FY26
July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026
Quarter Three Summaries



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

AutismOklahoma, LookOut Art Programming

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	60	50	75	
# of family members who participated in council activity	20	20	30	
# of others who participated in council activity	200	300	200	

During the seventh quarter of the LookOut program (Year 2, Quarter 3), Autism Oklahoma continued to identify, engage, and support individuals with autism through arts programming, community outreach, and skill-building opportunities. A major focus of the quarter was preparation for the Duets art show, which opened in early April and featured collaborative artwork created by artists and their partners. Several featured artists, including Anna, CJ, and Spencer, were first connected to Autism Oklahoma through LookOut outreach efforts, highlighting the program's success in discovering and developing new talent.

The program also expanded community engagement through a variety of activities, including a Valentine's Day card-making event with Francis Tuttle nursing students and an Autism Oklahoma Open House at the organization's new facility, which welcomed approximately 80 visitors. Outreach efforts continued through the distribution of LookOut promotional materials at community events, resulting in increased awareness and participation, including the recruitment of a new student into the Invisible Layers Productions (ILP) program. During the quarter, approximately 140 hours of training were provided to 30 artists and aspiring artists, while outreach and education efforts reached more than 300 community members.

The project met all planned timelines and benefited from collaborations with numerous community partners, including 7725 Connect, Vantage Point, LifeChurch, Delta Dental, the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits, the Paseo Arts and Creativity Center, Case of Champions, the Kirschner Trusts, and the Oklahoma Arts Council. While challenges included weather impacts during the art show and the ongoing search for contract art instructors, strong attendance and continued program growth demonstrated community commitment and interest. To support long-term sustainability, Autism Oklahoma continues to utilize donations and volunteers, has launched SpectrumMarket.org to support the art program, and is developing additional fundraising opportunities to strengthen future program funding.



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Best Buddies, Expansion

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	1	0	0	
# of family members who participated in council activity	0	0	0	
# of others who participated in council activity	25	0	256	

During this quarter, Best Buddies in Oklahoma focused on expanding its presence beyond the Tulsa area by building relationships with school districts and exploring opportunities for new chapters. Following a successful meeting in Bartlesville, district leaders expressed support for launching high school chapters in fall 2026 and began identifying potential advisors. The organization also met with several schools in the Oklahoma City area to discuss future chapter development and expand access to Best Buddies programming.

Collaboration and outreach efforts continued to strengthen connections across K–12 schools, adult services, transition programs, and higher education institutions. Meetings with Oklahoma Connections Academy, Terra Verde Discovery School, and Oklahoma City Community College explored opportunities to create new chapter sites and support school-to-college transitions for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Additional visibility efforts, including participation in an Oklahoma State Department of Education event and outreach at the State Capitol, increased awareness of Best Buddies and generated interest from potential partners and participants.

The quarter demonstrated steady progress toward expansion goals, highlighted by Bartlesville’s verbal commitment to launch chapters and growing engagement from schools across the state. While some challenges arose from misconceptions that Best Buddies duplicates services offered by organizations such as Special Olympics, ongoing education efforts emphasized the complementary nature of these programs and the value of providing multiple opportunities for students with IDD. Best Buddies remains well-positioned for long-term sustainability through private donor support, special event revenue, and a recent \$15,000 grant from the Grace and Franklin Bernsen Foundation.



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

DDS – Smart Home in Tulsa Area

	Q1	Q2	Q3
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	0	0	3
# of family members who participated in council activity	0	0	6
# of others who participated in council activity	0	0	32

Soaring on Hope spent January and early February completing the setup of its smart home demonstration site, culminating in a grand opening on February 11, 2026. The launch received strong public attention, including coverage on the DHS website and social media. With the site officially open, Soaring on Hope now offers multiple ways for the public to explore the space, including in-person tours, virtual tours, and a Matterport 3D walkthrough.

Interest in the demonstration site has been high, with 41 visitors to date and expanded tour availability on Tuesdays and Fridays. Visitors include DDS case management staff, Soaring on Hope employees, parents, and individuals with disabilities. All guests complete pre- and post-visit surveys, with data collected by OK ABLE Tech and shared with DDS as needed.

The success of the project has been driven by strong collaboration among Soaring on Hope, DDS, OK ABLE Tech, and Bethany Children's Health Center. Outreach efforts by DHS, Soaring on Hope, CAP, and DDS staff helped generate excitement and awareness around the new site. The opening has renewed enthusiasm for enabling technology across DDS and CAP teams, and the site will continue to operate under Soaring on Hope's management.



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

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 families who received screening referrals/screening appts.		19	82	
# of families who received direct screenings	13	16		
# of families who received resources and referrals	95	37		
# of others who received resources and referrals	9	7	5	
# of people trained in Autism/Early Identification	14	80	176	
# of people trained in more in-depth training	8		26	
# of CASAs trained	10			
# of people trained in Pilot Training	34			

This quarter, the team engaged in a wide range of activities centered on early identification of autism spectrum disorder and developmental delays. Training was delivered across multiple settings, including Tinker Air Force Base and Oklahoma City, reaching a total of 202 participants. Additional efforts included in-depth autism screening training and practicum experiences for IPSI participants, weekly developmental and autism screenings, and extensive phone-based support for families and providers. In total, the team assisted 59 families with resource navigation, supported five providers with early identification guidance, and conducted outreach events at Metropolitan Library System locations.

Collaboration played a significant role in advancing project goals. The team partnered with early care and after-school providers at Tinker Air Force Base, began developing relationships with daycare providers at Acts 2 United Methodist Church, and worked closely with the IPSI project to deliver hands-on screening training. Outreach efforts expanded through social media, community events such as Groovin' for Autism, and networking with training participants. Internal partnerships within OAC also strengthened, including discussions about a potential ongoing paid partnership with Tinker Air Force Base following successful initial training.

While progress has been strong, the team encountered challenges with communication from some potential partners, such as the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, which limited planned training opportunities. In response, the team is prioritizing diversification of partnerships to reduce reliance on any single group. Sustainability efforts also included broad distribution of developmental monitoring materials—available in English and Spanish—through trainings and community events. Overall, the project continues to advance as planned, with strong engagement, positive feedback, and growing momentum in both training and screening activities.



Developmental Disabilities Council of Oklahoma

Sooner SUCCESS, Family Respite Retreats & Sibling Retreat

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
# individuals with DD who participated in council activity	0	0	20	
# of family members who participated in council activity	0	0	25	
# of others who participated in council activity	0	0	0	
# of retreats held	0	0	0	

Region 1- Roman Nose State Lodge Watonga, April 17-19, 2026

Region 2- Stoney Creek Hotel Broken Arrow, April 26-27, 2026

Region 3- Embassy Suites NW Exp OKC, May 1-2, 2026

Q3 - Region 4- Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center Sulphur, March 1-3, 2026

Sooner SUCCESS continues to make significant progress in providing respite, support, and connection opportunities for caregivers and siblings of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) across Oklahoma. Region 4 successfully hosted its Caregiver Retreat in March 2026, serving 25 caregivers with activities designed to promote relaxation, self-care, and social connection. Regions 1, 2, and 3 have secured venues and are finalizing plans for their spring retreats, with strong registration numbers already reported. Across all regions, teams are collaborating with vendors, speakers, local businesses, and community partners to enhance retreat experiences through activities, door prizes, and caregiver appreciation efforts.

Sibling Camp and Sibling Day Camp programming continues to expand statewide. The overnight Sibling Camp scheduled for April 2026 has reached full capacity, and five Sibling Day Camps are planned across Oklahoma throughout May and June. These programs provide siblings of individuals with disabilities opportunities to connect with peers, build friendships, and strengthen family relationships through supportive and engaging activities. Volunteer participation has grown substantially, with 35 volunteers registered and all required training and background checks completed.

Demand for both caregiver retreats and sibling programs remains exceptionally strong, demonstrating the critical need for respite and family support services. Since the caregiver retreat interest form launched, more than 800 individuals statewide have expressed interest in participating. However, increasing costs, limited program capacity, transportation barriers in rural areas, volunteer recruitment needs, and access to reliable respite care continue to present challenges. Participant feedback continues to highlight the meaningful impact of these programs, including one Region 4 family who shared that the retreat provided their first break from caregiving since their child was born, allowing them time to reconnect and recharge.



Advocacy Leadership Development Impact Report

Fy 2026 Progress Update (through June 30, 2026)

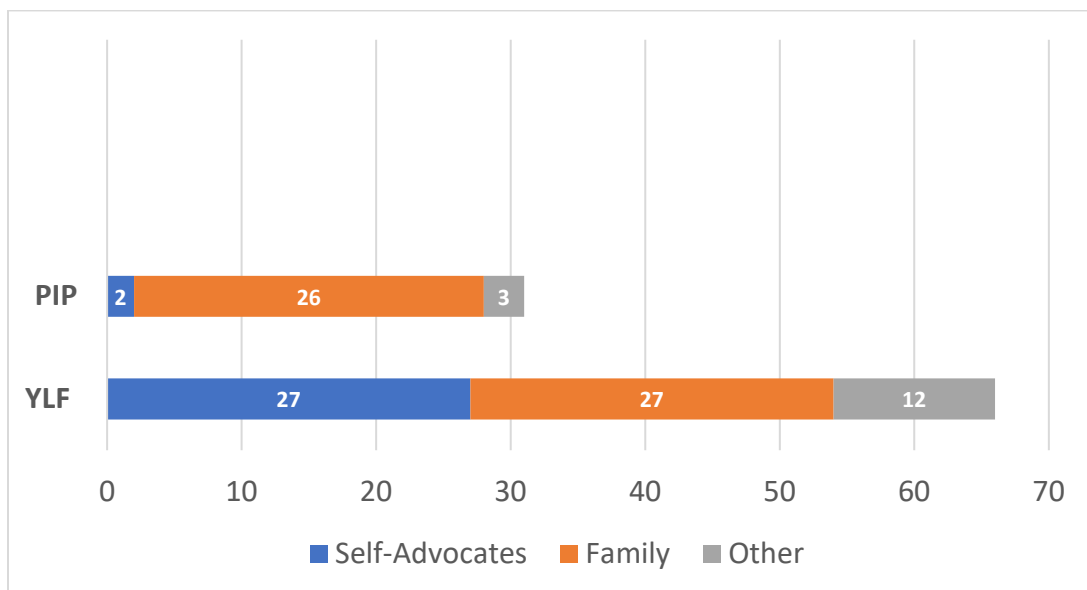
State Plan Alignment

Goal 1: Advocacy and Self-Advocacy Skills Improvement

Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will be skilled and empowered advocates and leaders in individual and systems change advocacy.

Objective 4: Annually through 2026, 50 individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and professionals will be educated about systems change advocacy and the tools to use to effectively educate community leaders and policymakers about issues that impact people with developmental disabilities and their families.

FY26 Impact Highlights and Progress towards Objectives 1 and 4





Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)

The 2026 Oklahoma YLF occurred at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) in Chickasha from June 9-13, 2026

🎓 19 student delegates graduated YLF

💰 8 Alumni returned to work at YLF

Delegates participated in leadership, teambuilding, critical-thinking and listening activities throughout the week, including a trip to the State Capitol on Thursday, June 11.

🏛️ Mock debate - HB1275 (social media ban for children under 16 years old) passed 14-4

Rep. Mickey Dollens spoke to the delegates about the importance of leadership before the debate. Representative Jacob Rosecrants served as House Speaker during the debate.

Other activities included, but not limited to, an etiquette dinner, talent show, and dance.

🎓 YLF Graduation brought everyone together, including family members (caregivers, siblings, and others) to celebrate the week's accomplishments.

📅 The 2027 Oklahoma YLF is tentatively scheduled for June 8-12, 2027

Partners in Policymaking (PIP)

📅 2026-2027 Oklahoma Partners in Policymaking Dates:

- Weekend 1 – August 28-29, 2026
- Weekend 2 – Oct 2-3, 2026
- Weekend 3 – Nov 6-7, 2026
- Weekend 4 – Jan 8-9, 2026
- Weekend 5 – Feb 5-6, 2027
- Weekend 6 – Mar 5-6, 2027



- Weekend 7 – Apr 9-10, 2027
- Weekend 8 – To be determined (for PIP Graduate Academy)

Weekends will be held at the Oklahoma History Center

2026 Oklahoma Partners in Policymaking Graduate Academy

- Saturday, June 27, 2026 at the Oklahoma Center for NonProfits
- 33 registered, 21 attended in person, 6 attended virtually

2025-2026 Oklahoma Partners in Policymaking

🎓 31 began, 19 completed

- Family members: 26
- Self-Advocates: 2
- Other: 3

Other Advocacy Updates

2026 Inclusive Communications Conference, June 12 - Dr. Brad Mays spoke to 10 professionals during a session called: "Inclusive Communication in the Classroom, Community, and Workplace"

2026 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 7, 2026, at Springlake MetroTech

These efforts in 2026 towards YLF and PIP continue to strengthen Oklahoma's network of self-advocates, family leaders, and community partners working to create systems change.



Self-Advocacy Trainings Impact Report

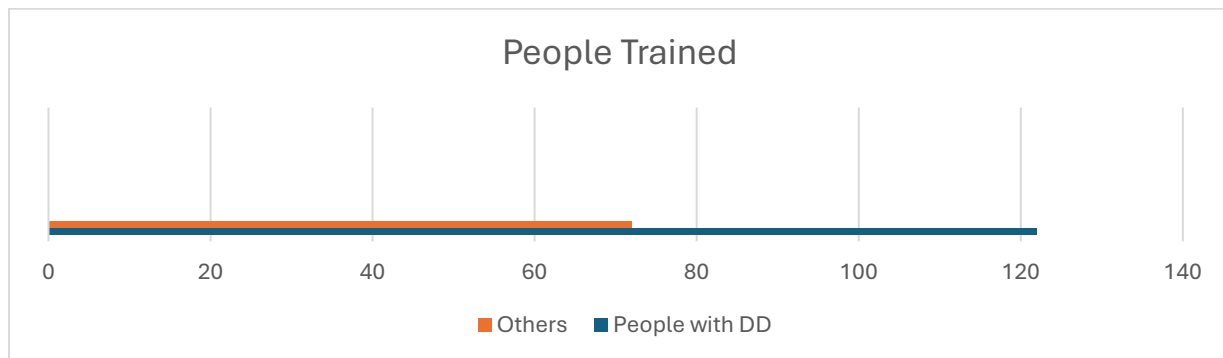
Fy 2026 Progress Update (through June 18, 2026)

State Plan Alignment

Goal 1: Advocacy and Self-Advocacy Skills Improvement. Individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will be skilled and empowered advocates and leaders in individual and systems change advocacy.

Objective 1: Annually through 2026, 150 individuals with developmental disabilities will be trained by self-advocate leaders to be resilient, strong, and effective self-advocate leaders.

FY26 Impact Highlights and Progress towards Objective 1



 122 Self-advocates trained. People gained knowledge and improved skills to advocate for themselves and participate more fully in their communities.

 72 Family members and Professionals trained. This expands support networks and increases the awareness of disability related resources and best practices from subject matter experts.

 39 Training courses delivered. These trainings provide tools and information for self-advocates, families, and professionals.



 32 Working sessions completed. These sessions support the subject matter experts who deliver the trainings.

Participant Voices

The impact of the trainings is best heard from past participants of the trainings.

“Speaker very knowledgeable”

“Learning about to cochlear implant and how it can connect to mics so hearing impaired can hear at conferences.”

“Liked the info and the trainers were Cool!”

“I like the Trainers, and the information.”

Through June 2026, we have trained 122 self-advocates, achieving 81% of the State Plan annual objective of 150 individuals trained, while also reaching 72 family members and professionals through a total of 39 training courses. We have also supported our trainers through 32 work sessions.

Quarterly Social Media Report



Developmental Disabilities
Council of Oklahoma

March 2026 - May 2026

Views

108.5K

Compared to Last Quarter

6.3% 

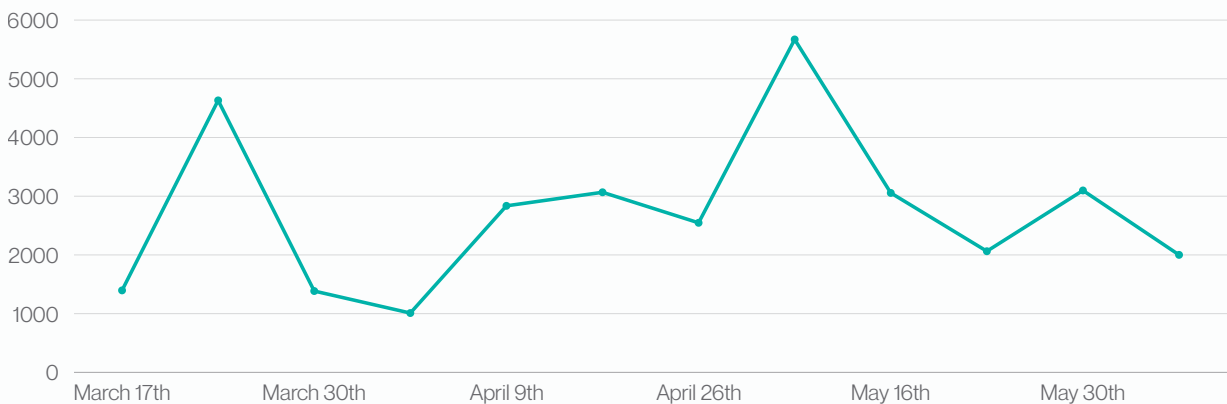
Interactions

1,805

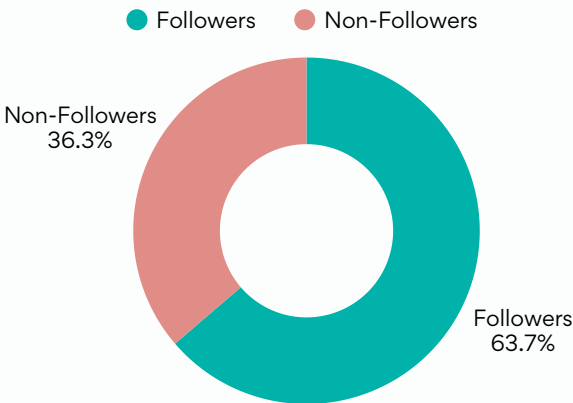
Compared to Last Quarter

6.6% 

Views Breakdown



Interactions



Followers Growth

New Followers

+221

Total Followers

4,034

DDCO FY27
Approved Budget

Description	4-24-2026		FY-26		FY-27	
	Requested	Chg / 26 Proj	Requested	Chg / 26 Proj	Requested	Chg / 27 Proj
29144001 GRANTS MANAGEMENT						
1 Payroll (3)	\$ 283,117	\$ 283,117	\$ 186,604	\$ (96,513)		
2 Operating	49,422	49,422	49,422	-		
3 Total	\$ 332,539	\$ 332,539	\$ 236,026	\$ (96,513)		
29141001 PLAN & ADMIN (25% State)						
4 Council & Operating	\$ 59,409	\$ 59,409	\$ 59,409	\$ -		
5 Translation & ADA Accommodations	5,000	1,892	5,000	-		
6 NACDD Mbrship	7,600	7,550	7,600	-		
7 Total	\$ 72,009	\$ 68,851	\$ 72,009	\$ -		
29142001 PLAN/PROJ MGT (12.5% State)						
8 Payroll (2)	\$ 173,409	\$ 173,409	\$ 169,247	\$ (4,162)		
9 Operating	23,053	23,053	23,053	-		
10 Total	\$ 196,462	\$ 196,462	\$ 192,300	\$ (4,162)		
29143002 Partners in Policymaking						
11 100% in person	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 10,000		
12 PIP Graduate Academy (built into PIP)	10,000	10,000	-	(10,000)		
13 Total	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000	\$ -		
29143003 Youth Leadership Forum						
14 100% in person	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ -		
29143007 Self-Advocacy Training						
15 Statewide self-advocacy trainings	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -		
29143004 CIF / PDF						
16 CIF / PDF	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -		

DDCO FY27

Approved Budget

Description		4-24-2026 FY-26		FY-27	
		Requested	Chg / 26 Proj	Requested	Chg / 27 Proj
29143006	Projects & Activities				
	NASDDDS & UMKC - Supporting Families	17			
	C.O.P. Mbrship & Annual Mtg / Showcase		\$ 11,620.0	\$ 12,000.0	\$ 380.0
	OK Autism Ctr - Childcare Provider Training & Screenings	18	135,570	70,000	(65,570)
	Sooner SUCCESS - Caregiver & Sibling Respite	19	108,502	87,972	(20,531)
	Recite Me website tool bar	20	5,565	5,788	223
	Best Buddies - School Inclusion Project	21	25,000	4,000	(21,000)
	AutismOK - Look Out Art Programming	22	18,000	15,000	(3,000)
	Inclusive Communications Conference	23	20,000	-	(20,000)
	OK APSE Conference	24	5,000	-	(5,000)
	Joining Forces Conference	25	5,000	-	(5,000)
	Oklahoma State Fair - Momentum Refresh	26	25,000	25,000	-
	Tulsa State Fair - Momentum Refresh	27	20,000	25,000	5,000
	Har Ber Village - Sensory Inclusion Project *	28	-	25,000	25,000
	VGM Storytelling - employment story *	29	-	25,000	25,000
	Youth Expedition Summit	30	24,500	-	(24,500)
	Advocacy Events (DD Day, ADA Day)	31	5,000	-	(5,000)
	Discretionary Funding	32	-	-	-
	Total	33	\$ 408,757	\$ 294,760	\$ (113,998)
Totals & Summary					
	Total DDCO Budget	35	\$ 1,149,767	\$ 935,095	\$ (214,673)
	Indirect & Cost Allocations	36	90,000	90,000	-
	Total DDCO Costs	37	\$ 1,239,767	\$ 1,025,095	\$ (214,673)
	Less: State Funding	38	(42,560)	(42,040)	520
	Less: DSA Adm @ 5% of Grant	39	(45,961)	(45,961)	-
	NET GRANT USE	40	\$ 1,151,246	\$ 937,094	\$ (214,152)