



MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

December 3, 2025

Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain—Mississippi Room
2025 East River Parkway
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present

Lee Shervheim, Chair
Jenny Arndt
Jason Blomquist
Dupree Edwards
Lisa Jemtrud (Virtual)
Heather Kainz
Lesli Kerkhoff
Joel Liestman
Elizabeth Marsh (Virtual)
Katie McDermott
Chris McVey
Christine Mueller
Garrett Petrie
Connie Rabideaux (Virtual)
Jenny Santema
Bonnie Jean Smith
Heather Stillwell
Sumukha Terakanambi
Garret Zayic

Members Excused

Amy Hewitt
Abdi Matan
Alan Morrison
Mary Raasch

Guests

Holly Johnson
Dan Reed

Staff

Stephanie Nelson
Paul Nevin
Colleen Wieck

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Lee Shervheim, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Shervheim invited all those present to introduce themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Shervheim called for a motion to approve the agenda. **Motion** by Smith, seconded by McDermott, to approve the agenda. The motion carried, and the agenda was approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES (October 1, 2025)

Shervheim called for approval of the October 1, 2025, Council Minutes. **Motion** by Kainz, seconded by Edwards, to approve the October 1, 2025, Minutes. The motion carried, and the Minutes were approved.

V. PURPOSE OF TODAY'S PLANNING SESSION

Shervheim shared some perspective on the planning process. He stated that it is nice to look ahead and define our future. The Council owns the goals, and he encouraged this in the current environment, noting that fewer goals may be better. The goals determine the "what," and the strategies define the "how." We cannot do everything with our limited budget. We must play to our strengths and unique contributions to the field, including leadership development and archiving. Shervheim provided a timeline for completing the plan and submitting it by August 15, 2026.

VI. SUMMARY OF INPUT CONVERSATIONS OF CURRENT GOALS

Holly Johnson of Lanterna Consulting, Inc., summarized input from previous small-group conversations. The Council was given this summary document and a second document with three scenarios. Johnson stated that there was a readiness to reduce the total number of goals. She offered three scenarios: (1) keep the eight goals and use simpler language; (2) reduce the eight goals to five goals; or (3) reduce the eight goals to three goals.

VII. DEVELOPING COUNCIL GOALS FOR THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The Council members then spent the next two hours reviewing, editing, and refining the language of three proposed goals.

Goal 1: Self-Advocacy and Leadership Development

People with developmental disabilities (youth and adults) and families will have increased access to educational and skill-building resources that promote self-advocacy and community leadership as required by the federal Developmental Disabilities Act. The Council will promote outreach, alliance building, and networking initiatives, expanding opportunities for all.

Goal 2: Employment – Youth and adults with developmental disabilities will be individually supported in their choices of services and opportunities to achieve, retain,

and advance in self-employment and competitive integrated employment while maintaining access to other essential benefits.

Goal 3: Education, Resources, Research, and Continuous Improvement

The Council will remain a nationally recognized archive of easy-to-access, high-quality information, education, and training materials in multiple formats. People with developmental disabilities and families, along with their supporters, will have opportunities to develop knowledge and skills through ongoing education and training resources that support the federal Developmental Disabilities Act's goals. The Council will sponsor research evaluating the outcomes of the Developmental Disabilities Act using qualitative and quantitative survey methods, and Council practices will be regularly reviewed and continuously improved.

At the conclusion of the working session, Shervheim asked for approval of these goal statements. **Motion** by Kainz, seconded by McDermott, to approve these three goals and post them for public comment. The motion carried.

VIII. NEXT STEPS FOR GOAL PLANNING

Wieck described the next steps in the planning process. The three proposed goals will be posted online, and the public comment period will be open until January 20, 2026. Announcements will be shared through GovDelivery, Facebook, and the Partners in Policymaking database. The current grant recipients will be notified and encouraged to participate. The comments will be summarized and shared with the Council at the February meeting. The federal law requires the Council to respond to substantive comments. The entire process is described and included in the Five-Year Plan.

IX. CLOSING COMMENTS

Shervheim thanked everyone for their hard work and asked for any final announcements. Katie McDermott announced that she will be joining the RISE Board of Directors. Joel Liestman stated that the National Williams Syndrome Conference will be held in Minneapolis in 2028. Elizabeth Marsh announced two Zoom meetings to discuss Waiver Reimagine. She sent an announcement that was distributed to the members. The conversations will take place on December 9, 2025, at 12 pm and 7 pm. Follow DiVA on Facebook for updates.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Shervheim called for the adjournment of the meeting. **Motion** by Liestman, seconded by Smith, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck, Executive Director