

Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

Council Meeting Minutes

February 12–13, 2026

Day One – February 12, 2026

Start Time: 3:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairperson **Kim Bellamy** called the meeting to order at **3:00 p.m.**

Roll Call

Council Members Present

Tehla Bates-Stayer, Lynda Baumgardner, Kim Bellamy, Amy Burns, Phylicia Davidson, Krystyne Ethridge, Elizabeth Forslund (via Zoom), Heather Glaser, Jeff Graham, Michelle Jarman, Jennifer Kirlin, Kathy Miller (via Zoom), Nikita Meyer, Stephanie Olson, David Ray, Maraia Rubin, Tess Reed, Deana Smith, Lucas Tronquet, and Feliciana Turner (via Zoom).

Members Absent

- Nicky Harper (excused)
- Karl Knopf (unexcused)

Staff Present

Penny Davis, Cathy Hardway, Brittany Hankinson-McGovern

Additional Attendee

David Glaser

Approval of Agenda

Lucas Tronquet moved to **approve the February 2026 agenda**.
David Ray seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

David Ray moved to **approve the November 2025 minutes**.
Lucas Tronquet seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Council Mission

Chairperson **Kim Bellamy** reviewed the **Wyoming Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (WGCDD)** mission, vision, and responsibilities.

Members were reminded to complete the **Quick Focus Form**.

Conflict of Interest

Council members were asked to submit **Conflict-of-Interest forms with updated contact information** by the end of the meeting.

Council Business

Director's Report

Presenter: Brittany Hankinson-McGovern

Council Membership

Recruitment efforts continue, with new members pending. Focus remains on recruiting **individuals with developmental disabilities and family members from the northeast and northwest regions** to ensure full statewide representation.

Office Management

Staffing & Training

- Shannon Buller continues as a consultant supporting development of the **Five-Year Plan**.
- Staff are participating in training to support evolving roles.

Fiscal

- The Council remains **level funded**, with **no budget cuts recommended by the Governor**.
-

Publications, Social Media, and Website

- Penny Davis is preparing the **Annual Report** for website publication.
 - Website and Facebook updates continue regularly.
 - The Council **newsletter is being refreshed and expanded**.
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Federal Reporting

- The **2025 Program Performance Report (PPR)** was submitted on time to the **Administration for Community Living (ACL)** with no questions.
 - The **Five-Year Plan** will be released for **public comment on March 10**, with final submission due **August 2026**.
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Executive Meetings

- Meetings between the **Chairperson and Executive Director** have temporarily increased from **monthly to weekly** during the training period.
 - The **Leadership Workgroup** continues to meet monthly.
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Information and Referrals

The Council receives **dozens of requests for information and referrals weekly**. Staff continue updating resources.

Council member stories and survey responses remain important components of the **Program Performance Report (PPR)**.

Projects

Presenter: Penny Davis

- **Employment Virtual Library:** Development of employment training materials is underway, with a dedicated newsletter section planned.
 - **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Luncheon:** March 11, 2026, at **Little America**. The event begins at **9:30 a.m.**; volunteers should arrive at **9:00 a.m.**
 - **Art Gala:** April 10, 2026, from **5:00–8:00 p.m.** at **The Office Bar & Grill**. Artists are currently being recruited.
 - **Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Conference:** Scheduled for **October 14–16, 2026**, with **Casper** as the intended location (contract pending).
 - **WYABLE Accounts:** Currently **717 accounts** are open, with an average balance exceeding **\$9,500**. Age eligibility has increased from **26 to 46**.
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Collaborative Projects

Presenter: Penny Davis

- **WIND – Charting the LifeCourse:** Cari Glantz will provide a presentation during the following day's session.
- **Uprising Project:** Development of two training videos focused on **preventing exploitation and human trafficking**.

Bright Idea Grant

Presenter: Cathy Hardway

One application met the program guidelines and was forwarded to the **Five-Year Plan Committee** for review. Committee members are gathering questions for the applicant, with a **vote scheduled for May**.

Partner Groups and Meetings

Presenter: Brittany Hankinson-McGovern

The Council discussed its partnerships with various organizations.

State Rehabilitation Council

- Tehla Bates-Stayer attended her **first meeting earlier that day**.
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Committee Reports

Budget / Executive Leadership Committee

Presenter: Phylicia Davidson

- Quorum achieved.
- Minutes and agendas from **May–November 2025** were approved.
- Budget standards and tracking were reviewed.
- The Council budget remains **stable**.

Ongoing work includes:

- Development of **plain language fiscal charts**
 - Leadership budget reviews
 - Monitoring federal funding and compliance
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Systems Change Committee

Presenter: Amy Burns

- Legislative updates and tracking were reviewed.
- Updates on **WYAccess** were provided.

No formal motions were made beyond **approval of agenda and minutes**.

Five-Year Plan Committee

Presenter: Nikita Meyer

- Committee agenda and minutes were approved.
 - Grant discussions are ongoing.
 - Shannon Buller will present **Five-Year Plan updates to the full Council**.
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Recess

Chairperson **Kim Bellamy** recessed the meeting at **4:12 p.m.**

Day Two – February 13, 2026

Start Time: 8:35 a.m. | Zoom

Call to Order

The meeting reconvened at **8:35 a.m.** with **Acting Chairperson Kim Bellamy** presiding.

Roll Call

Members Present

Tehla Bates-Stayer, Lynda Baumgardner, Kim Bellamy, Amy Burns, Phylicia Davidson, Krystyne Ethridge, Elizabeth Forslund, Heather Glaser, Jeff Graham, Michelle Jarman, Jennifer Kirlin, Kathy Miller, Nikita Meyer, Stephanie Olson, David Ray, Maraia Rubin, Tess Reed, Deana Smith, Lucas Tronquet, and Feliciana Turner.

Members Absent

- Nicky Harper (excused)
- Karl Knopf (unexcused)

Proxy

Sarah Leonard – Vocational Rehabilitation

Staff Present

Shannon Buller, Penny Davis, Cathy Hardway, Brittany Hankinson-McGovern.

Public Comment

Michael S. spoke on behalf of a family member regarding an **eviction notice received by his brother-in-law and his girlfriend**. The brother-in-law currently receives **SSDI but is no longer enrolled in Wyoming Medicaid**.

Council members offered referrals and resources, including:

- Protection and Advocacy
- Treasured Abilities
- Wyoming Independent Living (WIL)
- Laramie County Ombudsman

All relevant information was **emailed to Mr. S. following the meeting**.

Council Business

Council Leadership Nominations

Presenter: Brittany Hankinson-McGovern

The following leadership positions will be open for election:

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Systems Change Committee Chair
- Five-Year Plan Committee Chair

Eligibility Requirements

- Council Chair and Vice-Chair must be a **family member or an individual with a developmental disability**.
- Committee chairs may be **family members, individuals with developmental disabilities, or agency representatives**.

Timeline

- Nominations open until **March 6, 2026**
- Elections will be held in **May 2026**

Governance Term Limits (Adopted February 2023)

- Individuals may serve **two years on committees**.
- Individuals may serve **two years as Chair or Vice-Chair**.
- Individuals may serve **two years as committee chair and two years as Council Chair or Vice-Chair** (maximum of four leadership years).

Because **2025 leadership elections were postponed**, **Phylicia Davidson and Amy Burns remain eligible for re-election**, and their 2025 service year does not count toward term limits.

Five-Year Plan Update

Presenter: Shannon Buller

Shannon Buller presented an overview of the **draft goals and objectives** for the Council's new Five-Year Plan.

The plan will be released for **public comment March 10, 2026**, and submitted to the **Administration for Community Living in August 2026**.

Goal One – Advocacy

Increase the number of individuals with developmental disabilities and families who can:

- Access services
 - Communicate needs
 - Understand policies
 - Build relationships
 - Become leaders within their communities
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Goal Two – Systems Change

Increase participation among individuals with developmental disabilities, families, policymakers, and stakeholders in **transformative systems change** efforts that promote **independence, productivity, and inclusion**.

Goal Three – Capacity Building

Provide tools and opportunities that support **long-term community growth, independence, and employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities**.

Project Updates

Charting the LifeCourse

Presenter: Cari Glantz

Update on integration of the **Charting the LifeCourse framework** into:

- Family learning sessions (ECHO for Families)
 - Professional training programs
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Uprising Project

Presenters: Terri Markham and Elizabeth Scaife

The Uprising Project is developing **training videos focused on anti-trafficking and exploitation prevention**, specifically tailored for:

- Professionals working with individuals with disabilities
- Individuals with developmental disabilities

Videos are expected to be completed in time for the **Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Conference in October**.

Agency Reports

Wyoming Independent Living (Amy Burns)

- Annual **Peer Advocacy Conference** scheduled for **August 12–14 in Casper**
 - **Friendships and Dating Workshop** moved to early summer
 - New **three-year strategic plan** emphasizes disaster preparedness and collaboration
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Wyoming Department of Health – HCBS (Elizabeth Forslund)

The **Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC)** drafted a budget bill that includes:

- Increased provider rates
- Funding for the **Extraordinary Care Committee**

Testimony from **self-advocates and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)** was noted as impactful. Legislative budget decisions will be critical in expanding support services.

Wyoming Department of Health – Aging (Maraia Rubin)

- No current budget concerns
- Open cycle for **Wyoming Home Services providers**

Providers must submit a **letter of intent** before applying.

- Grant application opens **March 31**
 - Application deadline **April 30**
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WDH – Public Health / Maternal and Child Health Unit (Feliciano Turner)

Program priorities align with the Council's Five-Year Plan, including:

- Promotion of **family and self-advocacy**
- Focus on **adolescent mental health**

Additional updates:

- Offered connections to the **Adolescent Health Coordinator** to support the parent resource project
- Suggested collaboration between **WIND and the Council** to strengthen leadership and self-advocacy at the university level

Funding opportunities:

- **Child Food Sufficiency Grant** closes **February 16**
- Additional funding round begins **October**

Other initiatives:

- Grants supporting **women's and infant health**, including postpartum visits and infant safe sleep
 - Legislative review of the **Rural Health Transportation Program**, with **\$25 million allocated in the first year**
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Wyoming Department of Education (Deana Smith)

- **Chapter 7 Rules revision** currently halted
- No public comments received to date

Through **Ascend 307**, several webinars and training resources are available for educators and the public regarding **Special Education**.

Protection and Advocacy (Stephanie Olson)

- New **Legal Director** hired

- Applications open for a **Staff Attorney**

Funding for **FY2026 programs** is secured through **September 2026**. Advocacy efforts for **FY2027 funding** will begin early, with the CEO traveling to **Washington, D.C.** in late February.

WIND – Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (Dr. Michelle Jarman)

- Conducting a **needs assessment** related to the Five-Year Plan
- Preparing for the next **five-year grant application**, expected next year
- Continued work on an **inclusive post-secondary education program**

Currently hiring a **Resource Associate**.

Parent Information Center / PHP (Krystyne Ethridge)

- Organization now **fully staffed**
- Transition Specialist moved into a **trainer position**, with training sessions fully booked through **2026**

Upcoming event:

- **PHP Conference**
 - September 19
 - Laramie County Community College (Cheyenne)

PHP is also increasing its focus on:

- **Youth mental health**
 - **Self-advocacy**
-

Vocational Rehabilitation (Sarah Leonard)

- Online applications implemented, receiving **450+ applications in the past year**
- Developing updated protocols for **job coaches and job developers**

Additional updates:

- Cheyenne office expanded to **five counselors**
- Leadership training expected to be completed by **March 2026**
- RFP released for updated **needs assessment**

- Partnership underway with **San Diego State University**
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Action Plans

- **Leadership Training** scheduled for **July** for incoming and outgoing leadership.
 - **Full Council Training** tentatively planned prior to the **August meeting** (in-person only).
 - **Google Docs Training** available through individual sessions.
 - **New Member Orientation** will be held annually beginning each **November**.
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Housekeeping

Council members were reminded to:

- Complete the **Quick Focus Form**
- Submit **Conflict of Interest Forms**
- Turn in **Travel Vouchers**
- Submit **Newsletter Bios**

Additional reminders:

- Leadership nominations due **March 6**
 - Newsletter contributions due to **Penny Davis by Tuesday**
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Upcoming Events

- **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Luncheon** – March 11
 - **Art Gala** – April 10
 - **Next Council Meeting** – May 14–15 in Gillette
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Adjournment

David Ray moved to **adjourn the meeting**.
Lucas Tronquet seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Chairperson **Kim Bellamy** adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.