



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, June 18, 2026

Present:

Angie Auldridge, Richard Bauernschub, Damon Briggs, Kalani Brown, Carmen Brown, Meeka Caldwell, Laura-Sun Cefaratti, Laura Paloma Chavez, Bill Georg, Kathy Hargett, Kimberly Hubscher, Allison Wohl (for Marlana Hutchinson), Jarred Jones, Tiffany Joseph, Sam Livingston, Meghan Marsh, Kimberly McKay, Dee Sapp, Justin Stocker, Katelyn Szymanski, Maureen van Stone, Marcus Whitman

Absent:

Kevin Armstrong, Amanda DiStefano, Kay Han, Karenn Jones, Theresa Kuhns, Lauren Whiteman

Staff:

Rachel London, Jenn Raulin, Chris Rogers

Guests:

- Danielle Bustos, Independence Now Inc./Maryland Youth Leadership Forum
- Sammy Menjivar, future Council staff

The meeting was called to order by Dee Sapp, Council Chair.

Welcome and Introductions – Dee Sapp

- Dee Sapp welcomed everyone to the Council meeting.

Public Comments

- No public comments.

Approval of Minutes

- M/S/P to approve the March 16, 2026 minutes.

Council Chair Report – Dee Sapp

- The Council has awarded \$75,000 in small grants since October 1. We have another \$75,000 budgeted in FY27 money.
- This is Dee's last meeting as Council chair. She will still be on the Council for a couple more years. She thanked everyone for their work while she was chair, and looks forward to working together going forward.

Executive Director Report – Rachel London

- The Council hired Sammy Menjivar as the new Director of Policy. He will start on July 8.
- The Council's work with Maryland ABLE to update the plan language ABLE User's Guide is almost complete.
- The Council continues to work with the Department of Veterans and Military Families (DVMF) on the toolkit for military families of people with developmental disabilities. The Executive Committee approved a staff proposal for Parents' Place of Maryland to develop the toolkit. As a result, DVMF got more money from another partner to help.
- Federal update: the Administration is moving the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) from the Department of Education to the Department of Health and Human Services. They are also moving the Office of Civil Rights.
- DDA update: At the end of May, DDA closed comments to amendments for the Community Pathways Waiver. The Council and DD Coalition submitted comments. There were 835 total comments submitted.

Council Budget – Rachel London

- As a reminder, the Council's Federal Fiscal Year 2026 (FFY 26) budget includes funds from both FFY25 and FFY26.
 - FFY 25 funding is almost spent
 - FFY 26 still has money left. The Council did not get all of our FFY 26 funding until April of 2026 (7 months late), so we have had less time to spend it. The Council has also been very conservative with funding due to the uncertainty in the federal government.

- A recommendation was made to include enough money on Line 51 (contractual) in the future.

Nominating Committee – Meeka Caldwell

- There is a motion from Nominating Committee to elect Angie Auldridge as chairperson and Damon Briggs and Rich Bauernschub as co-vice chairpersons for the next 2 years. S/P with no additional discussion.

Presentation: Maryland Youth Leadership Forum – Danielle Bustos

- Danielle presented about the history of the Youth Leadership Forum. She highlighted what this year's program will include. The upcoming YLF will take place June 25-27 at Towson University.

State Plan: Public Comment Survey – Jenn Raulin

- Jenn reviewed the State Plan process and the results from the public comment survey. There were no questions.

State Plan: Annual Work Plan – Jarred Jones

- M/S/P to approve the FFY 2027 (Year 1) Annual Work Plan.

State Plan: Evaluation Plan – Jenn Raulin

- M/S/P to approve the State Plan Evaluation Plan.

Meeting adjourned.