



MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

April 2, 2025

The Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain
2025 East River Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55414

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lee Shervheim, Chair
Jenny Arndt, Vice Chair
Dupree Edwards
Jen Hall-Lande (ICI representative)
Jessica Heiser (MDLC representative)
Lisa Jemtrud
Heather Kainz
Lesli Kerkhoff (virtual)
Joel Liestman
Elizabeth Marsh (virtual)
Katie McDermott
Alan Morrison
Christine Mueller
Mike Nichols
Garrett Petrie
Connie Rabideaux (virtual)
Jennifer Santema (virtual)
Bonnie Jean Smith
Sumukha Terakanambi

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Jason Blomquist
Amy Hewitt
Abdi Matan
Chris McVey
Jenn Purrington
Mary Raasch
Erin Schwab

GUESTS

Gammachis Bokku (Senator Klobuchar)

Allie Glass (Senator Klobuchar)

Charlie Hammond (Rep. McCollum)

Katie Legrid

Michelle Manivel (Rep. Morrison)

Taylor Mills (Rep. Morrison)

Derek Pearson

Tom Pearson

Dan Reed

Sarah Sandgren (Senator Smith)

A list of ICI staff members and other guests appears in the summary of testimony (see attachment)

STAFF

Stephanie Nelson

Paul Nevin

Colleen Wieck

MINUTES

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Lee Shervheim, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Shervheim invited all members who were present virtually and in person to introduce themselves. All public members and guests also introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Shervheim called for approval of the agenda. Smith moved, seconded by McDermott to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

Shervheim called for approval of the minutes. McDermott moved, seconded by Arndt to approve the February 5, 2025 Council minutes. Motion carried.

V. TOWN HALL MEETING

Shervheim described that the purpose of the morning meeting is to enable constituent representatives to listen to the real experiences of the Council members and the public. See the attachment for a summary of testimony.

A lunch break was held from 11:30 am until 12:15 pm.

VI. FIVE YEAR PLAN INPUT SURVEY

Tom Pearson and Derek Pearson provided preliminary results of the survey conducted on behalf of the Council for the next Five-Year Plan. The final report will be ready in the next month.

MarketResponse International prepared a Meta-Analysis report of the findings from previous studies conducted in 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. This report was posted on the Council website. The research team then conducted 23 in-depth interviews with Council members, various leaders and subject matter experts. Based on these activities, an online survey was created for self-advocates and family members. Finally, an intersectionality study was designed to gather insights from members of marginalized communities, and those surveys are underway.

Preliminary results:

1. There is a higher proportion of self-advocates in 2025 than previous studies.
2. Progress has been made in connectivity, interaction, and support networks; advancement in public awareness; and expanded access to technology.
3. Perception of home communities has improved over previous studies.
4. Access to healthcare has improved.
5. Compared to previous years, the levels of integration, inclusion, and productivity have improved.
6. The pandemic affected employment.
7. The most critical issues facing people with developmental disabilities in the next five years are funding, discrimination, and the political climate.
8. Ongoing challenges include shortage of staff, transportation, employment, housing, and healthcare. Federal changes and funding cuts could have devastating effects.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Appropriations:

- The 2025 federal allocation received to date totals \$521,034.00--about half of the total allocation for last year.
- The Administration for Community Living was abolished this past week.
- The Notice of Award letter should be issued in April, but it is unknown what the level of funding will be.

Legacy Proposal:

- Senator John Hoffman is the author of Senate File 90 which would provide Legacy funding for preservation of developmental disabilities history.
- Partners graduates have been working to get House authors and support for the bill.

Disability Day:

- Partners graduates played key roles at Disability Day on March 25, 2025.
- Susan Elizabeth Littlefield interviewed graduates for a news segment that was broadcast that evening and then included a longer segment about Disability Day on the show she hosts on Sunday, March 30, 2025.

Treat People Like People:

- The campaign is currently funded by the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Council on Disability, and the Institute on Community Integration.
- The Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities will be providing additional funding (\$100k) until June 30, 2025.

Medicaid Campaign:

- The Council staff and Sumukha Terakanambi participate in several Medicaid coalitions, including a meeting hosted by the Governor's Office. Sumukha Terakanambi was a speaker at a recent roundtable and was featured in a news segment on Kare11. There is a call-in day on April 3, 2025.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Language has changed and DEI isn't used. No one seems to care that DEI has been abandoned.
- Alan Morrison said you have to pick a fight to win a fight. We won't go back. I have learned a lot by attending these meetings. We must support one another.
- Bonnie Jean Smith discussed the use of police by the Minneapolis Schools on her 5-year-old son. He did not want to attend public school after that incident and experienced PTSD. We are living during times of dehumanization with Project 2025.
- Dan Reed announced that there will be a march on the Capitol on Saturday (April 5, 2025) at noon. He urged attendance because now is the time to express your opinions.
- Lee Shervheim announced that his daughters appeared on six billboards during the Down syndrome awareness campaign.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Shervheim called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nichols moved, Edwards seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck
Executive Director