

# CROSS-DISABILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Virtual Meeting

Thursday, August 21, 2025

9:03 a.m. – 11:51 a.m.

**Cross-Disability Advisory Council Members Present:** Kirsten Dvorak, Kyle Erickson, Julianne Horntvedt, Kayla Johnson, Paul Kolstoe, Heather Lundeen, Toby Lunstad, Kevin Miiller, Jonathan O'Konek, Lorena Poppe, Danielle Robbins, Kendra Vander Wal

**Cross-Disability State Agency Representatives Present:** Jackie Adusimilli, Kathy Barchenger, Kayla Fender, Karla Kalanek, Mary McCarvel-O'Connor

**Guests Present:** Erin Leveton, Kathy Miiller, Erin Moore, Jillian Salmon

## WELCOME and ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The meeting was called to order at 9:03.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- Role Call
- Introduction of Heather Lundeen to CDAC
- APPROVAL OF "ND-CDAC Minutes 24JUL25 DRAFT"
  - Kevin Miiller opened the floor for discussion on the July minutes
  - Motion: It was moved by Lorena Poppe and seconded by Mary McCarvel-O'Connor to approve the July minutes
  - Vote (Yes): Kirsten Dvorak, Julianne Horntvedt, Kayla Johnson, Paul Kolstoe, Heather Lundeen, Toby Lunstad, Kevin Miiller, Jonathan O'Konek, Lorena Poppe, Danielle Robbins, Kendra Vander Wal
  - Vote (No): none
  - Motion carried

## Discussing Key Concepts

- Members confirmed that they were comfortable with the information that had been shared in the first CDAC meeting, including the basic information about Medicaid and Medicaid waivers.
- Members discussed the ways that different disabilities are assessed when considering whether someone is eligible for a waiver, focusing on the Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities (IID/DD) Waiver.
- Members participated in a survey that asked them to describe level of care in their own words. The survey results and the discussion after the survey showed that members understand the concept of level of care, and waiver eligibility.

### How would you describe level of care, in your own words?

What do i qualify for

Confusing

Degree of support needed for the person to accomplish an objective outcome across key areas.

Level of care is the specific needs and supports that an individual utilizes in their current environment.

A safety net to make sure people who need to qualify do qualify

LOC should capture all aspects of support need for each person. It should be comprehensive enough that it doesn't exclude but also adaptable to consider unique circumstances.

specialized care in a facility, regular care from trained staff, needing assistance at home

putting needs into words

Caregiver or professional care required to live independently with primary

Required support to function daily in social interactions and executive functioning.

The level at which a child is able to live a full life.

### How would you describe level of care, in your own words?

specialized care in a facility, regular care from trained staff, needing assistance at home

putting needs into words

be comprehensive enough that it doesn't exclude but also adaptable to consider unique circumstances.

Caregiver or professional care required to live independently with primary functional life domains

Required support to function daily in social interactions and executive functioning.

The level at which a child is able to live a full life.

evaluating the level of a person's functioning and care that would otherwise be provided in an institutional setting

determining the intensity and type of care needed in a particular setting

## State Assessment Tool Options

- Members were presented with information about state options for assessment tools. This included the choice between a “homegrown” (or state-built) tool, or a national tool that an independent organization develops.
- Members shared feedback on choosing a new tool:
  - Members recommended that the state use pediatric versions of tools for the youngest kids.
  - Members expressed a preference for a national tool, stating that national tool could result in enhanced validity and reliability of the process and results. Members also suggested that national tools could also have more resources to support a more standard administration of the tool.
- Members also talked about the importance of how a tool is administered:
  - Members stressed the impact of staffing and shared accounts of wait times between an assessment and getting access to services.
  - Members also talked about the potential difference between having a parent answer questions, and having an assessor observe a child’s behaviors.

## Examples of Specific Assessment Tools

- Members were presented with information about eligibility and assessment tools that North Dakota is currently using in some of its waivers. CDAC members had varying levels of familiarity with these tools.

## CDAC’s Subcommittees

- Members will get more information on the process of signing up for subcommittees after the meeting. The subcommittee meetings are still public meetings.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.