CROSS-DISABILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, SEP 10, 2026

1:01 p.m. – 3:41 p.m.

Cross-Disability Advisory Council Members Present: Darcy Andahl, Kirsten Dvorak, Kyle Erickson, Andrea Hansen, Julianne Horntvedt, Kayla Johnson, Paul Kolstoe, Heather Lundeen, Kevin Miiller, Katynka Morrissette, Jonathan O'Konek, Vicki Peterson, Lorena Poppe, Danielle Robbins, Kendra Vander Wall
Cross-Disability State Agency Representatives Present: Kathy Barchenger, Kayla Fender, Karla Kalanek,
Guests Present: Kathy Miiller, Erin Moore, Jillian Salmon

WELCOME and ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Roll Call

- APPROVAL OF CDAC AUG Minutes
  - Kevin Miiller opened the floor for discussion on the "ND-CDAC Minutes 27AUG26 DRAFT"
  - Motion: It was moved by Kirsten Dvorak and seconded by Lorena Poppe to approve the 27AUG26 Minutes
  - Vote (Yes): Kirsten Dvorak, Andrea Hansen, Julianne Horntvedt, Kayla Johnson, Paul Kolstoe, Jonathan O'Konek, Vicki Peterson, Lorena Poppe, Danielle Robbins, Kendra Vander Wall
  - Vote (No): none
  - Motion carried

- APPROVAL OF CDAC Public Comment Policy
  - Kevin Miiller opened the floor for discussion on the "CDAC Public Comment Policy RevSEP2026"
  - Motion: It was moved by Kayla Johnson and seconded by Darcy Andahl to approve the Public Policy
  - Vote (Yes): Darcy Andahl, Kirsten Dvorak, Andrea Hansen, Julianne Horntvedt, Kayla Johnson, Paul Kolstoe, Jonathan O'Konek, Vicki Peterson, Lorena Poppe, Danielle Robbins, Kendra Vander Wall
  - Vote (No): none
  - Motion carried

CDAC'S ROLE IN DRAFTING THE CROSS-DISABILITY WAIVER (CDW) APPLICATION

- Members were reminded about what "making a new waiver" means, specifically as it relates to one of their primary goals of advising HHS on the new CDW.
  - "Making a new waiver" means creating a new state-run home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver program that is subject to federal rules and monitoring.
  - This process includes North Dakota Health and Human Services (ND HHS) filling out an application to make a new HCBS waiver program and submitting it to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Studies (CMS) for approval.
- Members confirmed their understanding that CDAC's role is to advise HHS as the state writes an HCBS Waiver Application for the CDW.
  - CDAC shares ideas about topics that are part of the waiver and produces guiding principles that help HHS to write the application. There are other factors, like federal regulations and the state budget, that also influence what is written in the application.
  - CDAC will see the full draft application when it's released for public comment, a formal process HHS has done for its waivers multiple times before and is federally required.

OVERVIEW OF AN HCBS WAIVER APPLICATION

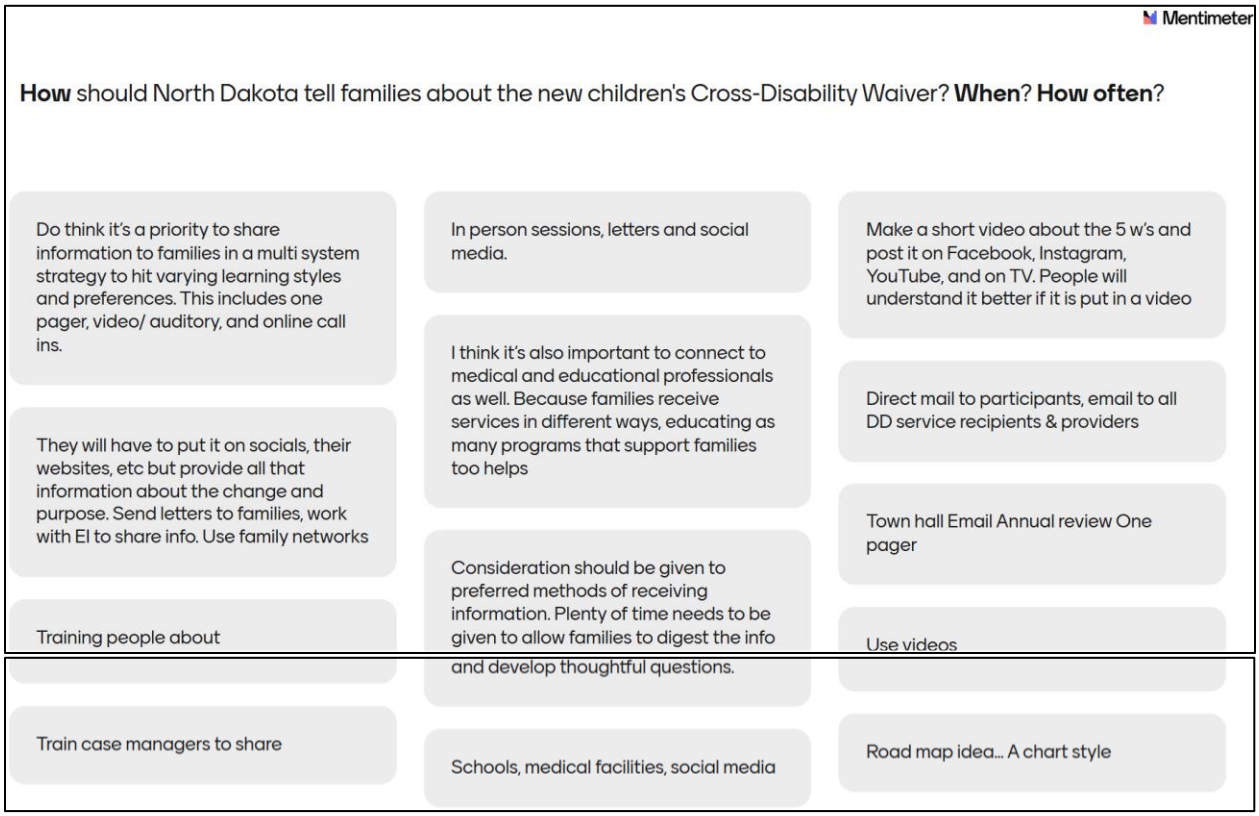
- Members were given more information about the standard HCBS Waiver Application.
  - This document, sometimes hundreds of pages long when it's done, serves as the blueprint for how a state should then implement and run the waiver.
  - This means it's not the easiest to read or understand this document, outside of the context of federal review and state implementation.
- Members were shown a demonstration of one of ND's existing children's waivers, to see how the document is structured and how to look for certain information in it.

CONNECTING CDAC'S DISCUSSIONS TO THE CDW APPLICATION

- Members were shown how every one of their agenda items since they started meeting in July 2025 connects to a certain part of the HCBS Waiver Application.
  - This helped members to see the relevance of the conversations they've been having, and how their guiding principles are having a direct impact.
- Members were also given a preview of what topics they'll potentially cover in each of their remaining meetings (which could change based on varying circumstances).
  - This helped members to see how they will cover all relevant topics from the entire HCBS Waiver Application draft to help advise HHS on the CDW.

DEEP DIVE INTO THE CDW APPLICATION – INTRODUCTION

- Members received a detailed overview of the kinds of questions that are asked in the Introduction of the HCBS Waiver Application, and what information CMS is looking for from states here.
  - Members also got to see what topics they've covered in the last year were related to this section.
- HHS wanted to gather CDAC's feedback about a specific part of the Introduction. CDAC's insight would help HHS keep writing the draft for that section.
  - Members completed a Menti survey to share this feedback:
    - The themes of their responses suggest that being clear about what's changing versus what's not changing, proactively addressing fears, level-setting expectations for new families, and using multiple forums for communication are important when introducing the CDW.



Mentimeter

For families who will be transitioning to the CDW: **What** should they **be told** about the transition?

- whether they would have to reapply or be reassessed, whether their current providers will change
- What won't change, i.e., their DDPM, HCBS, et veteran and what will change
- How it will take to get things going
- Calm fears and guide process
- What is covered, what is the process and who to contact of you have questions, timeline
- To help with fear what will and will not change. What supports are available. Clear info on what to do to keep services
- What service will stay the same, what will increase, and what is limited
- Is there new paperwork
- They should be given details of what specific services are available and what each service looks like.
- As much as we can. This would include frequency of check-ins, family expectations, services/ supports, assessments, service coordinator roles. Important to take time for conversation vs emailed out.
- Eligibility requirements and realistic expectations

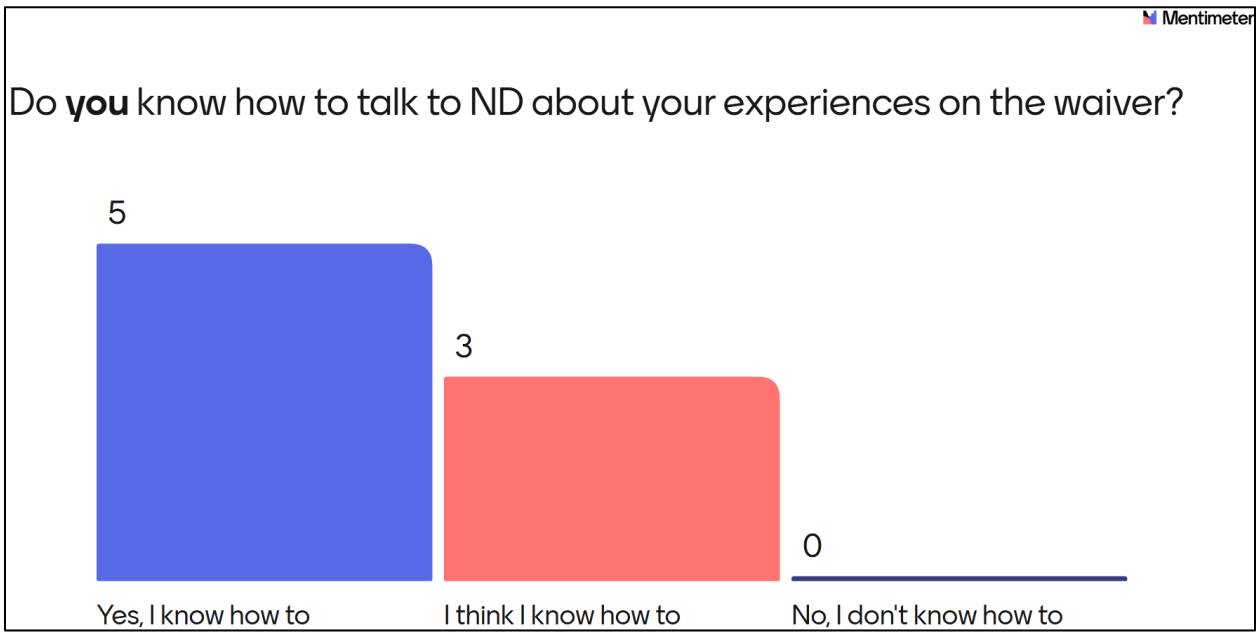
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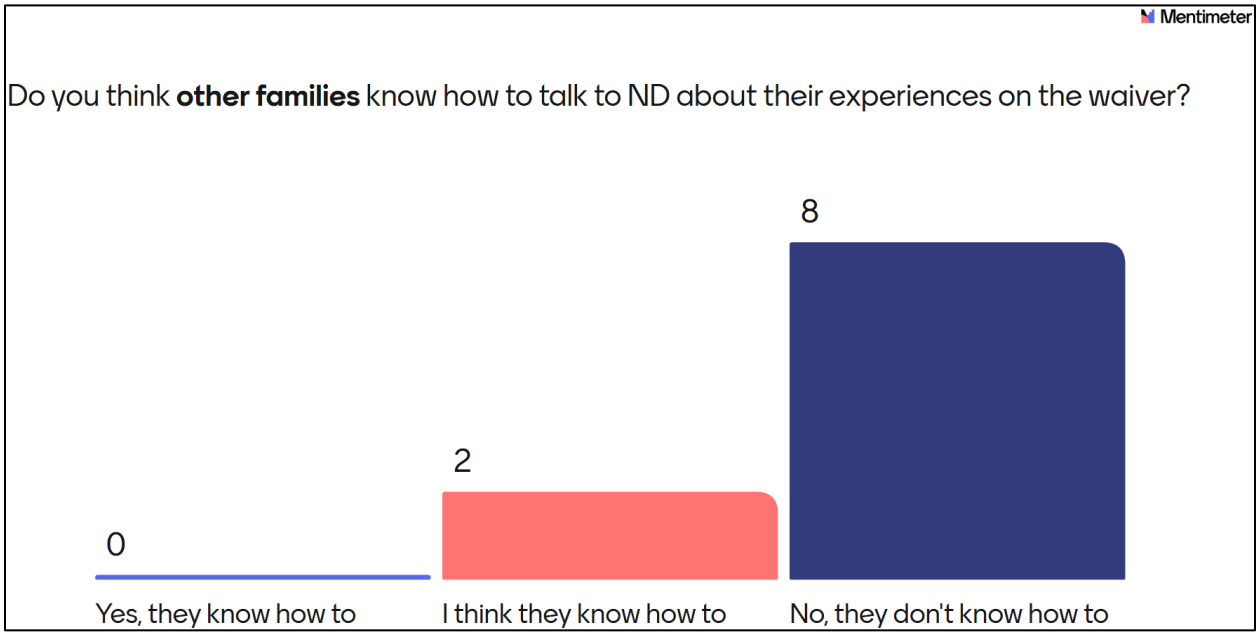
For families who aren't on waivers and might want to seek CDW services: **What** should they be **told** about the new waiver?

- The same stuff: who what where when why. If they aren't in services they need to know what this purpose is and who it's for
- Benefits to families in, how it's funded, role it supports families in ND, where to find information, who to talk to to learn more.
- what services and supports could become available? what happens if the child doesn't qualify? what actually happens over time?
- The why and how they came to that decision
- If you think you qualify, where do you go and who do you contact to apply. Also info on waitlists or caps so people's hopes don't get up
- Mostly qualifying criteria- and what it may NOY cover that people are commonly surprised is not covered.
- This may be a option for you, consider applying and see if this is a fit for your person.
- A detailed description of services available. Many families hear about services in the DD waiver and expect they will be the same in other waivers - like respite and in-home support.
- I also like the 5 Ws How do we get to the people that fell through the cracks that this is really for
- I think if people were denied before they may be reluctant to try again. So why is it worth your time to do so..

DEEP DIVE INTO THE CDW APPLICATION – APPENDIX A

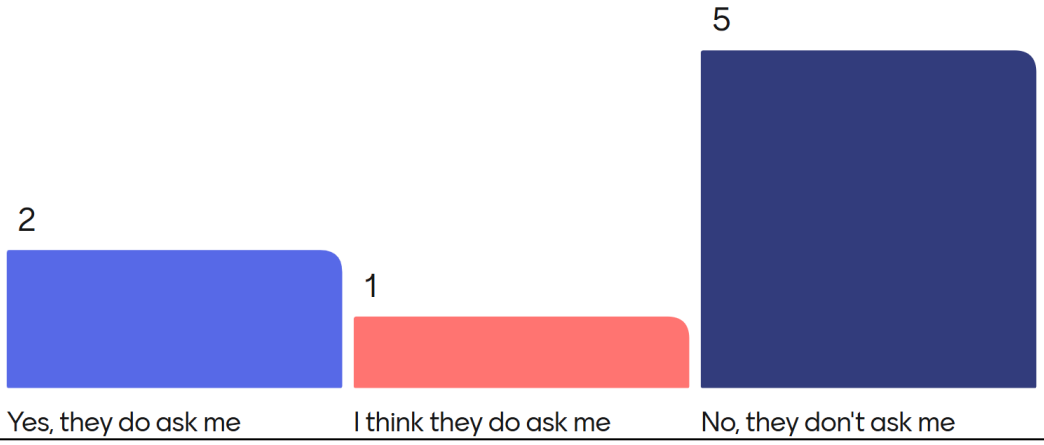
- Members received a detailed overview of the kinds of questions that are asked in the Appendix A of the HCBS Waiver Application, and what information CMS is looking for from states here.
  - Members also got to see what topics they've covered in the last year were related to this section.
- HHS wanted to gather CDAC's feedback about a specific part of the Introduction. CDAC's insight would help HHS keep writing the draft for that section.
  - Members completed a Menti survey to share this feedback.
    - The themes of their responses were that many families may prefer being polite / not wanting to "rock the boat" by sharing their experiences, or that the system can feel intimating, but also that self-advocacy looks different for everyone. How often Case Managers might reach out is also influenced by the kinds of services someone gets, some might not be asked to reach out as often as others.





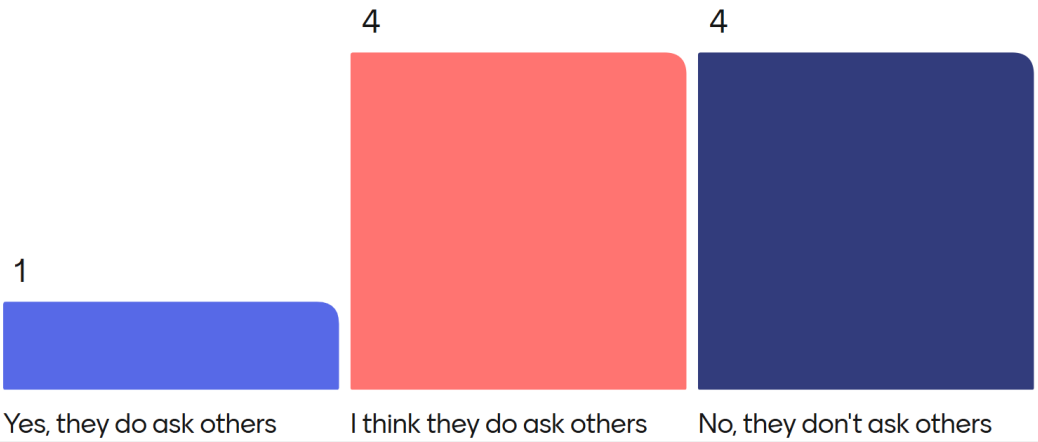
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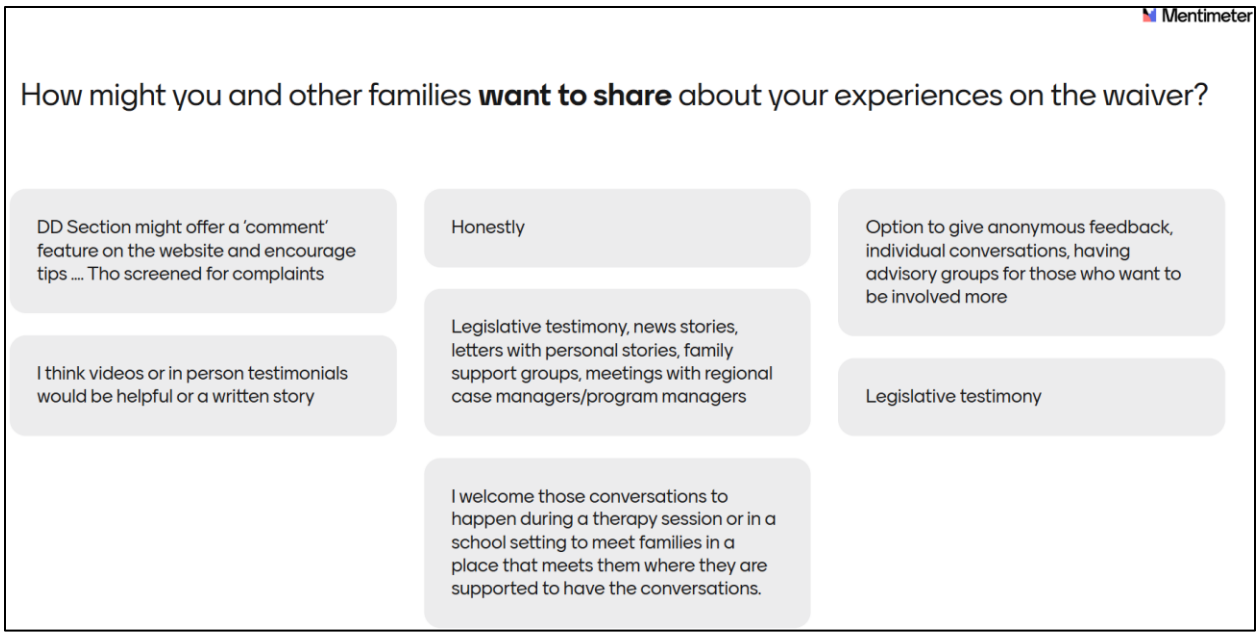
Do your **Case Managers** ask **you** about your experiences on the waiver?



Mentimeter

Do you think **Case Managers** ask **other families** about their experiences on the waiver?





ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

CDAC's Resources

- **Bismarck Legislative Working Group Meeting - Sept. 2026**
  - Saturday, September 19, 2026 at 10:00 am
  - Categories: Legislative- Working Committee
  - Learn about & discuss disability-related legislation

- **Fargo October 13th 10-3 at Dakota Medical Foundation**



- **October 14th at BSC Career Tech center 10-2 p.m.!**
  - Bismarck legislative Training RSVP: https://forms.gle/J2diYpieLbfR8CBB8



- **Bismarck Legislative Working Group Meeting - Oct. 2026**
  - Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 10:00 am
  - Categories: Legislative- Working Committee
  - Learn about & discuss disability-related legislation.