

CROSS-DISABILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, AUG 27, 2026

1:00 p.m. – 3:04 p.m.

Cross-Disability Advisory Council Members Present: Darcy Andahl, Kirsten Dvorak, Kyle Erickson, Andrea Hansen, Kayla Johnson, Paul Kolstoe, Heather Lundeen, Kevin Miiller, Iman Moore, Jonathan O’Konek, Vicki Peterson, Lorena Poppe, Danielle Robbins, Kendra Vander Wall

Cross-Disability State Agency Representatives Present: Jackie Adusimilli, Kathy Barchenger, 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 1:00 pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Roll Call
- APPROVAL OF CDAC JUL Minutes
 - Kevin Miiller opened the floor for discussion on the “ND-CDAC Minutes 23JUL26 DRAFT”
 - Motion: It was moved by Darcy Andahl and seconded by Kayla Johnson to approve the 23JUL26 Minutes
 - Vote (Yes): Darcy Andahl, Kirsten Dvorak, Andrea Hansen, Kayla Johnson, Paul Kolstoe, Jonathan O’Konek, Lorena Poppe, Danielle Robbins, Kendra Vander Wall
 - Vote (No): none
 - Motion carried

WELCOME ACTIVITIES

- Members talked about answers to some of the questions they submitted after the June CDAC meeting. These questions reflected anything they wanted a reminder on or still didn’t know well after a year of serving on CDAC.
 - These questions were about what Level of Care (LOC) changes are happening to the Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities / Developmental Disabilities (IID/DD) Waiver.
 - LOC refers to the assessment done to evaluate whether someone’s functional needs due to their disability could make them eligible for the waiver. There are many other factors that ultimately determine whether someone qualifies for and can be served on the waiver.

LOC REFRESH – NORTH DAKOTA’S (ND) WORK

- Members revisited one of ND’s primary goals, which is to modernize how people’s eligibility for the IID/DD Waiver is assessed.
 - CDAC’s role in this work was to provide input on the functional needs that should be included.
 - CDAC helped ND by providing guiding principles on the LOC assessment process.
- Members confirmed that there is no need to change ND law or statute because of this work.
 - ND is not changing the definition of what a disability is or what conditions are considered disabilities.
 - Documenting changes to how LOC is done – meaning, how ND looks at whether people are eligible for the waiver – is captured in eligibility process documents, like the waiver application, not in statute. This is true across states.

LEVEL OF CARE REFRESH – EXAMPLES OF ASSESSMENT TOOLS

- Members revisited the different kinds of assessment tools that can be used for evaluating someone’s eligibility for a home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver.
 - States tend to use tools that are either homegrown (i.e., made by the state themselves) or are national (i.e., built by a separate organization for multiple states to use).
 - Tools also tend to either be built to assess one specific disability’s functional needs, or they can be built to assess multiple different disabilities’ functional needs.
- Members discussed ND’s decision to test out the interRAI, which is a national and cross-disability tool, as the new LOC tool for the IID/DD Waiver and the CDW.

LEVEL OF CARE REFRESH – CDAC’S GUIDANCE

- Members were shown a map of how their input to ND in the last year tied directly to the considerations ND thought about when choosing the interRAI as the new LOC assessment tool they wanted to test out.

LEVEL OF CARE – NEXT STEPS DISCUSSION

- Members talked about the pilot that ND is planning for.
 - Before implementing a new LOC tool, ND needs to test it to make sure it works the way they expect it to.
 - That means for a few months, some people will have to take two assessments – this allows ND to collect data on both assessments, and see how their results compare.
 - During this test, the interRAI won’t be used to make any eligibility decisions. The original tool the IID/DD Waiver uses – the PAR – will still be the tool used for eligibility decisions.
- Members completed a few Menti survey questions to document their thoughts on challenges that might come up with this pilot, and what families would want to know about the pilot to feel more informed.

What challenges might the test period pose for families?

Transparency of the process is important. Timelines and a clearly laid-out process.

Time. Time. Time. And ... Time

It would add one more thing to do and may cause confusion.

Confusion possibly on what trial means and what the future look like (such as will funding remain and supports continue).

Time Stress about a new tool and maybe they won't qualify Stress on child if they have to do more or answer more questions A delay in services

The time commitment or maybe experiencing the duplication of questions/answers?

Understand the benefit of going through the process vs. not.

Will they have a choice to be in/out of sample as repetitive questions will be frustrating

What are some things they can rely on or resources they can tap into in the meantime?

Benefit of participation.

After the trial period, will they stay on the waiver.

Testing time, staff also learning and learning.

What information would the **general public** want to know?

The benefits of a waiver,

What is the waiver?

Why is it not common knowledge?

Will the InterRI results affect disability determination if it conflicts with the PAR?

Where does a person learn about the waivers?

How you came to pick this assessment.

* We are piloting this *Will this affect my current eligibility *Info session on the tool

Be transparent what each test does.

What the assessment is and why we are trialing this for the cross disability waiver.

Will this save \$\$

Honesty in length of time and how intensive the process actually is

What is the result of the process?

We are all in our own silos of services we are providing and forget others do not have the info

A good infographic 1/2 pager

Learning the eligibility requirements early on is important also.

What waivers our

What information do **you as CDAC** need?

I would like to see a big layout or timeline of all of the components put together.

I full picture of the action items that need to be done.

Public comments

Will this process result in someone potentially losing a service they have now? And how can that fear be addressed?

Some samples of other work plans so to speak for other teams like CDAC.

A timeline would be great; locations where these will be available; also if an FAQ is made, make it clear that there will be no reprisals if someone chooses to opt out of the pilot

A side by side of what CDAC looks like compared to other waivers.

Do we need a cutoff of what would make this less useful than keeping current system (PAR)

See all the information

A flow chart of steps for the testing, and how CDAC'S steps in the process.

Culturally relevant materials and alternatives would be good.

Possible collaboration with legislators and possibility of a lunch and learn or social opportunity.

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

- Members discussed the “CDAC Public Comment Policy RevJUL2026”
 - Add CDAC’s appreciation to the beginning of the document
 - Add comment about someone will be able to work with an individual to capture and present comments
 - Discussion around lengthening the speaking time

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.