

DRAFT - CROSS-DISABILITIES ADVISORY COUNCIL - DRAFT

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, MAY 28, 2026

1:01 p.m. – 4:00 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, 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 1:01 pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Role Call
- APPROVAL OF CDAC April Minutes
 - Kevin Miiller opened the floor for discussion on the “ND-CDAC Minutes 16APR26 DRAFT”
 - Motion: It was moved by Kayla Johnson and seconded by Jonathan O’Konek to approve the 16APR26 Minutes
 - Vote (Yes): Darcy Andahl, Kirsten Dvorak, Kyle Erickson, Andrea Hansen, Julianne Horntvedt, Kayla Johnson, Paul Kolstoe, Heather Lundeen, Katynka Morrissette, Jonathan O'Konek, Vicki Peterson, Kendra Vander Wal
 - Vote (No): none
 - Motion carried
- APPROVAL OF CDAC’s Guiding Principles – Service Array, Self-Direction, Virtual Supports
 - Kevin Miiller opened the floor for discussion on the “CDAC’s Guiding Principles on CDW Service Array and Modalities”
 - Motion: It was moved by Kirsten Dvorak and seconded by Jonathan O’Konek to approve the Guiding Principles
 - Vote (Yes): Darcy Andahl, Kirsten Dvorak, Kyle Erickson, Andrea Hansen, Julianne Horntvedt, Kayla Johnson, Paul Kolstoe, Heather Lundeen, Jonathan O'Konek, Vicki Peterson, Kendra Vander Wal
 - Vote (No): none
 - Motion carried

WELCOME ACTIVITIES

- Members talked about their awareness of different federal and state activities that may result in reduced Medicaid funding, which could have an impact on North Dakota's children's waivers modernization efforts.
 - Members reflect that even though the news on this topic may seem negative, there's still energy and interest in the modernization work.
 - Members requested to be kept up to date on federal and state activities as it happens.

CDAC'S ROLE IN THE WAIVER DRAFTING PROCESS

- Members talked and understood about how CDAC will contribute to drafting North Dakota's application for the Cross-Disability Waiver (CDW).
 - CDAC will continue sharing ideas about specific waiver topics and creating guiding principles as formal recommendations to HHS.
 - CDAC will review summaries of parts of the waiver and provide additional follow-up feedback on certain sections as needed.
 - This will contribute to a full draft that will move to official public comment.

RECAP OF PROVIDER STRUCTURE ON CDW

- Members reviewed a high-level recap of provider topics they discussed in April: provider qualifications and provider rates.
- Members reviewed an initial draft of their feedback during the April discussion on these topics, which was focused on participant choice in providers, provider availability, and choice of provider structure.
 - Members agreed with the initial draft of feedback and principles, which will inform guiding principles to be voted on in future CDAC meetings.

RECAP OF CASE MANAGEMENT ON CDW

- Members reviewed a high-level recap of case management topics they discussed in April: case management structure and Case Manager roles.
- Members reviewed an initial draft of their feedback during the April discussion on these topics, which was focused on support during eligibility, person-centered planning, and monitoring and safety.
 - Members agreed with the initial draft of feedback and principles, which will inform guiding principles to be voted on in future CDAC meetings. Members provided additional feedback on Case Managers' roles in monitoring and safety.

CDW SERVICE ARRAY AND MODALITIES GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Members reviewed the updated guiding principles that reflected their feedback from March and April.
- Members shared some additional feedback on final changes to make, then voted to formalize these guiding principles and share them with HHS.

CDAC's Guiding Principles on CDW Service Array and Modalities – Service Array

DRAFT

CDAC Feedback / Recommendation	A&M Notes
All people, especially people with disabilities and their families, deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. The CDW should provide person-centered supports that help people with disabilities and their families lead self-determined lives.	The CDW as a family supports waiver is intended to support families with the additional responsibilities of having children with disabilities and to help families prepare their children with disabilities for independence.
The CDW should offer the services from the ASD, MF, and IID/DD Waivers that the CDW target population is using today. This will reduce the risk of service disruption for existing waiver participants.	A&M is working with the state to review service utilization data and identify all services being used by the CDW target population.
The new waiver is an opportunity to look at the existing waiver services that would carry over to the CDW and tailor them to best fit the children on the CDW. This includes streamlining service definitions and understanding the impact across the CDW's target populations.	Some services that are on multiple waivers have different definitions depending on the waiver. This helps make the service fit better for different populations. CDW service definitions will be written with the waiver's specific target populations in mind. We will also look at any changes to service delivery options and rules that may make sense for the CDW.



CDAC's Guiding Principles on CDW Service Array and Modalities – Virtual Supports

DRAFT

CDAC Feedback / Recommendation	A&M Notes
There is a difference between virtual supports as a waiver service modality (e.g., case management visits that are held virtually instead of in-person) and technological devices / supports that are services themselves (e.g., assistive technology).	It is important to offer virtual supports as an option for service delivery when appropriate. Not every waiver participant may benefit from assistive technology or similar services.
It is important to make sure that there are mitigation plans and backup options when technology breaks or isn't working properly. This is important both for technological devices and when services are being delivered virtually.	It is important to plan for issues with assistive technology and / or virtual supports. This type of planning should continue to be included as part of the formal person-centered planning process. There may be opportunities to provide additional information about planning for back-up options.
The CDW should offer virtual supports when desired by the waiver participant but should balance virtual supports with requirements for in-person, "eyes-on" support.	Requiring certain in-person service delivery and / or case management support could help reduce the risk of isolating the waiver participant.



CDAC's Guiding Principles on CDW Service Array and Modalities – Self-Direction

DRAFT

CDAC Feedback / Recommendation	A&M Notes
<p>It is important for self-direction to be an option on the CDW, like it is an option for some services on ND's existing children's waivers today. The services on the CDW should maintain the same provider format as they currently do on ND's existing children's waivers today. Over time, lessons learned from the CDW could further enhance the provider format.</p>	<p>Self-direction is an important option for many families to have but may not be the right fit for every service or for every family. Services on ND's children's waivers today can either be 1) provider-managed only, 2) self-directed only, or 3) provider-managed or self-directed. Maintaining each service's same provider format from existing waivers on to the CDW promotes consistency and reduces the risk of service disruption for waiver participants when the CDW is launched.</p>
<p>Additional educational materials on the roles and responsibilities for self-directing could be helpful for families when deciding to self-direct. It can be more work to self-direct because there are additional things families need to do.</p>	<p>North Dakota is currently working on resources for enhancing educational materials about self-direction. Incorporating family and self-advocate perspectives on instructional materials can help make them more user friendly.</p>
<p>Families have expressed that they would like extra help when self-directing sometimes. Considering a Support Broker (someone dedicated to answering questions about self-direction and acting as an employer), a Family Navigator, or other related positions could be helpful for families.</p>	<p>A Support Broker can be helpful but does add costs to a waiver. This could also create more bandwidth for Case Managers who are receiving questions about self-directing that would be better directed towards a Support Broker or the Financial Management Services vendor. Other integrated supports, like family networks and advocacy organizations, also play an important role in sharing more nuanced information about self-direction.</p>

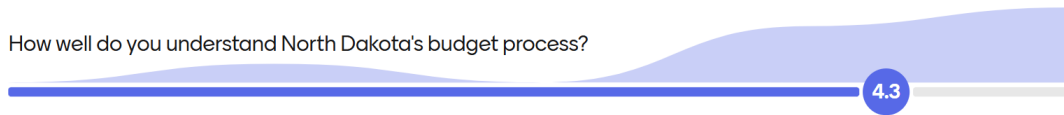


NORTH DAKOTA'S BUDGET 101

- Members reviewed some high-level information about North Dakota's state budget process, including where the state currently is in the development process and what federal and state activities might impact the final budget.
- Members shared additional information based on their unique expertise, including:
 - Specifics of the budget process and how funding can be allocated.
 - The differences in what services are covered under North Dakota's Medicaid State Plan and what services are covered in a home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver.
- Members discussed CDAC's role in advocating for the CDW in the budget:
 - CDAC is developing formal guiding principles for HHS to consider.
 - CDAC members as individual constituents and as members of other advocacy organizations can provide testimony to the state Legislature.
 - Members talked about the value of individual family stories and the impact it can have on what ends up in the state's final budget, based on their experience advocating for other policies in the past.
- Members completed two brief Menti survey questions to capture their understanding of the topic.

Let's do an understanding check!

How well do you understand North Dakota's budget process?



I don't understand at all

I completely understand

Do you have any follow-up questions about North Dakota's budget process?

No

No

Not necessarily! But it's what continues to worry me as we move forward.

Where does "value judgment" factor into the budget process? Call on Jon (or Paul 😊) for more clarification

Not generally but who will be the primary contact advocating in the budget for the waivers.

None

I worry all the convo about waste means this won't go forward. Especially with state budgets

Not about process. The budget does concern me both federally and state

Does CDAC plan to testify or have A and M testify about the importance of the waiver at the budget hearings during this next session?

...do ND waiver services have a lobbyist and how could that person help pass

I think clear communication will be important for the budget from DHHS

our recommendations ?

BUDGETING FOR THE CDW

- Members reviewed some initial information on how states budget for HCBS waivers, and what things need to be considered for the CDW's budget. These topics will be continued over the next few CDAC meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.