



## Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission

### August Meeting Minutes

**Date:** August 28, 2025

**Time:** 5pm – 6:30pm

**Location:** Zoom Link

**Guest(s):** Dr. Patrice McGhee (DHHS), Rosemary DiPietro (DHHS)

#### **Chair Steve Riley called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.**

- The chair welcomed guests, commissioners and the public.
- The chair performed the attendance roll call.
- The chair read the IDDC's purpose/mission.
- The agenda was approved as presented.
- The minutes from the June 18, July 2 (Ad hoc) and July 7 (Special) Commission meetings were approved as presented.
- Commissioners re-voted on officers as there was not a quorum of voting commissioners at the July 7, 2025 meeting when the vote was originally taken. Carmen Zahra appointed as the election confirmation person. Due to technical difficulties, Tracy Craig stepped in to serve in this capacity. Jake Didinsky withdrew his name for the position of chair. There were no nominations from the floor.
  - Nominees for chair: Steve Riley and Yvonne VanLowe. Nominee for vice chair: Sue Hartung. Nominees for secretary: Jake Didinsky and Yvonne VanLowe. Each candidate was given 2 minutes to speak. There were two questions about the voting process.
  - The newly elected officers of the IDDC for the next Commission year are Steve Riley (chair), Sue Hartung (vice-chair), and Yvonne VanLowe (secretary).

#### **Old Business**

- Status update on April 17th request to meet with the county executive to discuss County employment of people with IDD (email attached)
  - On 8/8/25 requested data was sent to the county executive's office.
  - Dr. McGhee reported that the county executive office requested examples of existing models of effective employment programs and did not state that a meeting would not be scheduled. The county executive office has received the follow up information. The IDDC can expect a meeting to be scheduled. Additionally, new human resources staff has been hired to focus on employment for people with disabilities.

- Jake moved to extend the IDDC meeting by up to 30 minutes. Sue seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- Committee Updates and Priority Recommendations
  - Community Engagement, Jake Didinsky, Chair. This committee did not submit a priority for discussion. However, the committee recommends that employment for people with IDD should be a priority. The committee is planning a townhall and plan to include employment as one of the topics.
  - Policies and Programs, Lisa Lorraine, Chair. The committee presented one priority. The IDDC urges the County to assign an implementation manager to coordinate the recommendations outlined in the 2023 Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) Workforce Task Force report. The priority is in alignment with a priority submitted by the Montgomery County Commission on Aging in 2024. The IDDC recommends the implementation manager position be placed in the County Executive's office.
  - Additionally, the committee is considering making a recommendation to the County to change the membership makeup of the IDDC to include more people with IDD. Commissioners suggested including people with IDD who are not members of the commission to attend committee meetings.
- Special Education, Yvonne VanLowe, Chair. The committee presented two priorities.
  - The IDDC proposes to develop and implement a virtual listening session followed by an in-person advocacy workshop tailored to the IDD community. The goal of the advocacy workshop is to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to effectively advocate for change, including understanding special education structures and processes within the County and policy advocacy.
  - The second priority is to create a collaborative workgroup with MCPS, the BOE and the greater Montgomery County community to explore communications standards for increased accountability to parents from school-based teams on progress reporting and define new progress reporting standards to proactively engage parents in planning and revising IEP goals if progress toward goals is either not emergent or not yet initiated by December.
- Vote on DSP Training resource. New resource created to promote interest in direct service provider roles. Jake motioned to adopt the training resource, having it posted in English and Spanish on the IDDC website and discuss next steps at the September meeting. John seconded. The motioned carried. The resource will be posted on the IDDC website and shared with InterACC and members and other DDA service providers.
- Feedback regarding Warren Harvey's 7/21/2025 reply regarding redetermination issues. Rosemary DiPietro shared that Warren Harvey is no longer working for the state and the Office of Eligibility Services has not provided clarification on who they are collaborating with regarding Medicaid eligibility across the state.

- Reappointment Process Underway (update). Crystel shared that the process has not started. Current commissioners whose terms are expiring are extended by 6 months or until the County Executive initiates reappointment.
- Rose Bud Thorn will be deferred until the September IDDC Meeting

### **New Business**

- New dates for upcoming meetings for the IDDC's 2025-2026 year reflect five in person and five virtual meetings.
- Commissioners approved the meeting dates as listed below. Discussion about locations will be discussed at September's meeting.
  - September 25, 2025
  - October 23, 2025
  - November 20, 2025
  - December 18, 2025
  - January 29, 2026
  - February 26, 2026
  - March 26, 2026
  - April 23, 2026
  - May 28, 2026
  - June 25, 2026
- Jake announced that he will resign from the Commission effective December 2025.

### **Public Comment**

None

**The meeting was adjourned at 7pm.**

### **Attendees Present**

#### **Voting Commissioners:**

Rick Callahan, Jillian Copeland, Miles Cox, Tracy Craig, Jake Didinsky, Susan Hartung, Lori Mitchell-Keller, Lisa Klem, Lisa Lorraine, Jenn Lynn, Swapnika Madhavaram, Margie Parrott, Steve Riley, Eric Salzano, Yvonne VanLowe, John Whittle, Carmen Zahra

#### **Non-Voting Commissioners:**

Onesta Duke, Justine Hack, Karla Nabors, Margie Parrott

**Commissioners not present:** Carmen Smith, Dorne Hill, Melita Bell, Najla Wortham

**Staff:**

Crystel Britto, Dr. Patrice McGhee, Rosemary DiPietro, Kim Mayo, Dale Tibbitts, Karen Gipson

**Members of the Public:**

Jay, JH, Atlas S, Michael Greenberg, Craig Pardini, Jia Hai, Lucy Harris