



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission

September 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location

401 Hungerford Dr. Conference Room 1A/1B
Rockville, MD 20850

[Remote Teams/Zoom Meeting link](#)

Attendance

Members Present (In-person and remote)

- Melita Bell
- Margaret Cage
- Rick Callahan
- Jillian Copeland
- Miles Cox
- Tracy Craig
- Jake Didinsky
- Onesta Duke
- Justin Hack
- Susan Hartung
- Lori Mitchell-Keller
- Lisa Klem
- Lisa Lorraine
- Jenn Lynn
- Karla Nabors
- Steve Riley
- Yvonne VanLowe
- John Whittle
- Najla Wortham
- Carmen Zahra

Members Not Present

- Swapnika Madhavaram
- Eric Salzano

- Carmen Smith

Proof of Quorum

Fifteen voting members of the Commission were present.

Staff Present

- Crystel Britto
- Kim Mayo
- Karen Gipson
- Dale Tibbetts

Guests

- Armaleris O
- Dr. Lisa Gaillard-Jones
- Jada
- Kirsten Davidson
- Nicole A
- Patricia Trujillano Benavides
- Salvador (interpreter)
- Stacey Ibekweh

Guest Speakers

- None

Handouts

- September Agenda
- August Meeting Minutes
- Draft Priorities
- DDA Listening Session Information

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:07pm.

Welcome and Introductions

The Spanish language interpreter, Salvador introduced himself virtually in English and Spanish. The Chair performed the attendance roll call, read the IDDC's purpose/mission, expressed appreciation for Margie Parrott's service to the IDDC as the MCPS representative and welcomed Dr. Margaret Cage, the new MCPS Representative to the IDDC.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the August 28, 2025 Commission meeting were approved with a correction to the spelling of "Interacc."

Review and Approve Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addition of the Special Education Committee's request to add a vote on their data request to MCPS.

Meeting Minutes Agenda Items

1. Old Business

- a. Jake moved to defer the Rose, Bud, Thorn exercise. Rick seconded. The motion passed.
- b. Status update on April 17th request to meet with the CE to discuss County employment of people with disabilities. Crystel shared that the County offered two potential meeting dates, October 1 and October 14 at 5pm in person or virtually. Crystel will ask the County for two new dates as Oct 1 is Yom Kippur and Sue Hartung is on vacation October 14.
- c. The chair appointed Jake Didinsky to present the Commission's priorities to the HHS Committee on 10/22/25.
- d. Lisa and Yvonne briefly highlighted the priorities previously presented by their committees. The priorities include (1) asking the County to assign an implementation manager to be responsible for the 2023 home and community based services recommendations by the HHS Workforce Taskforce; (2) partnering with MCPS and MANSEF to provide members of the IDD community with education and training via a workshop to assist them with advocacy efforts and; (3) creating a workgroup with MCPS to increase communication and proactively highlight and address lack of progress towards IEP goals.
 - i. After discussion Yvonne moved, and Lisa seconded a motion that the commission approve the three priorities with the understanding that two documents will be shared with HHS. One document will include the three priorities that will be as written and a new document will reflect a condensed version of the three priorities for the verbal testimony to the HHS committee. The motion was approved by the commission. The special education committee will combine and condense its two priorities, and the Policy and Programs Committee will provide a summarized version of its priority for the verbal testimony. The updated language will be submitted to Crystel and Jake.
- e. The DSP training resource is posted on the Commission's website. As previously voted, it is needed to translate the document into Spanish. The document is owned by Jubilee.
- f. The Committee heard comments from community members about their experience with the Eligibility Determination Division (EDD) of Maryland Department of Health. The Program and Policies Committee extended invitations to community members to share their stories.
 - i. Lillian. Found out she was no longer eligible for Medicaid when she tried to pick up her medication (medicine she's been taking most of her life) at CVS. Her mother had to pay for the medicine.

- ii. Elaine. Moved and submitted a change of address with the post office. She never received the redetermination paperwork. She needed emergency room care and incurred \$1,000 bill which she could not afford to pay.
 - iii. Kirsten/Carolyn. Removed from the Medicaid waiver program in May even though the redetermination paperwork was submitted. Appealed and was reinstated approximately 1 month ago. Stressed the importance of the waiver to her wellbeing.
 - iv. Nicole. Has a 10yr old daughter who is medically frail. Her in-home nursing services were stopped abruptly. Daughter had a tracheostomy and was recently decannulated.
 - v. Christian/Kay. Has been received the Medicaid waiver since 2003. Wavier services were denied in Aug 2025. She has lost essential support.
 - g. The commission discussed next steps after listening to the experiences of the community members.
 - i. Follow up discussion by commissioners. The DDA is very aware of the eligibility and redetermination backlog issue. There are currently 20 DDA staff dedicated to this issue, however there are 30,000 in the redetermination process. This is a capacity issue.
 - ii. Steve shared that he attended a DDA Roundtable meeting on 9/25/25 and confirmed that DDA is very aware of the issue. The next listening session is 10/23/25. He encouraged commissioners and community members to attend the meeting.
 - iii. Why is this not a priority for the IDDC? Is there anything that can be done at the county level to address this issue? This is primarily a state and federal issue.
 - h. Reappointment Process. No update currently, therefore commissioners' terms continue until the reappointment process begins.
 - i. Discussion around upcoming IDDC meeting locations and formats. The commission approved a motion for the IDDC to hold four (4) in person/hybrid meetings each program year.
2. New Business
- a. The commission approved the special education committee's MCPS data request. The committee will leverage the memorandum of understanding/MOU that HHS has with MCPS to obtain data at no cost.
 - b. The commission approved a motion to extend IDDC meetings from 1.5 hours to up to two hours going forward.
3. Public Comment
- a. The owner of Loving Support Center (DDA approved provided) commented that the meeting was insightful.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be October 23 at 5pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42pm.