



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Commission
January Monthly Meeting

January 29, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location

Remote Zoom Meeting link

Attendance

Members Present

- Carmen Zahra
- Dorne Hill
- Jenn Lynn
- Karla Nabors
- Lisa Klem
- Lisa Lorraine
- Lori Mitchell-Keller
- Dr. Margaret Cage
- Melita Bell
- Najla Wortham
- Onesta Duke
- Rick Callahan
- Steve Riley
- Sue Hartung
- Swapnika Madhavarani
- Tracy Craig
- Yvonne VanLowe

Members Not Present

- Carmen Smith
- Eric Salzano
- Jillian Copeland
- John Whittle
- Justin Hack
- Miles Cox

Proof of Quorum

12 voting members of the Commission were present.

Staff Present

- Crystel Britto
- Alexandra Zilkoski
- Rosemary DiPietro
- Kim Mayo
- Dr. Patrice McGhee
- Betsy Luecking

Guests

- Gail Singletary
- IPad Brooke
- PT
- Venitha Pillay
- Charlotte Annan
- Bobby Soobrayan
- Steve Keener
- A Johnson
- Nasser Kuzbari
- Dee Sellers
- Ilyssa Rivera
- Marnie Brennan
- Mansi Gosalia

Guest Speakers

- Perrie Briskin, Deputy Secretary, Health Care Financing and Medicaid Director, Maryland Department of Health
- Community Members who shared their stories

Handouts

- January Meeting Agenda
- December Meeting Minutes
- IDDC Membership Proposal Letter
- Proposal for Community Awards
- Draft Letter to Councilmember Evans

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:04pm.

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Riley welcomed attendees and performed a roll call.

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The chair reviewed the IDDC's purpose.

The December meeting minutes were approved with an amendment to amend a name and clarify Lisa Klem's supporting role in crafting the letter to Councilmember Evans. The approval of the minutes was motioned by Rick C. and seconded by Lisa K.

Review and Approve Meeting Agenda

The approval of the agenda was motioned by Sue H. and seconded by Carmen Z.

Meeting Minutes Agenda Items

Speaker

1. Perrie Briskin (Deputy Secretary, Health Care Financing and Medicaid Director, Maryland Department of Health)
 - a. Lisa Lorraine, Chair of the Policies and Programs Committee, introduced the guest speaker and outlined the purpose of Deputy Secretary Briskin's attendance.
 - b. Deputy Secretary Briskin delivered brief opening remarks, emphasizing that improving the disability waiver eligibility process is her top priority.
 - c. Community Feedback: Six Montgomery County residents with IDD (and/or their support persons) shared their experiences with Maryland Medicaid eligibility and redetermination processes.
 - d. IDDC Members expressed concerns regarding the operations of the Eligibility Determination Division (EDD) and the effectiveness of eligibility and redetermination processes. Key issues included staffing shortages and high turnover rates, low pay for EDD staff, use of multiple, non-integrated databases, insufficient staff training on redetermination procedures, and the overall complexity of the process, including unclear instructions
 - e. Deputy Secretary Briskin thanked participants for sharing their experiences and committed to relaying these stories to the Department of Health.
 - i. Updates provided: Recent salary equity increase for EDD staff; HR1 legislation has strained eligibility teams; Governor's allowance supports full staffing for eligibility services; IT system improvements are underway to address multiple non-communicating eligibility systems
 - ii. Briskin will confirm how the department collaborates with other organizations to expedite waivers for individuals in crisis.
 - iii. She acknowledged the need for improved communication and education regarding the redetermination process.

- f. Partnership Opportunities: Discussion focused on how the IDDC can better support the Department of Health.
 - i. Briskin will take suggestions back to her team and follow up with the IDDC.
 - ii. Steve Riley offered the PCR website for community information sharing.

Old Business

- 1. Committee Updates
 - a. Policies and Programs, Lisa Lorraine, Chair
 - i. Vote on Final Draft of IDDC Membership Proposal Letter
 - 1. The letter was updated based on prior input to align with national DD Council membership guidance and includes a request that any legislation expanding IDDC membership be named after Jake Didinsky. Lisa will notify Jake before sending the letter.
 - 2. Motion to approve: Tracy moved, Jenn seconded. Motion approved. The letter will be sent to the County Executive and County Council.
 - ii. DD Day in Annapolis – February 18, 2026
 - 1. A draft advocacy letter focusing on the DD budget and Medicaid redetermination process will be sent to the IDDC for an email vote.
 - 2. Members planning to attend and advocate should notify Crystel in advance.
 - b. Special Education – Yvonne VanLowe, Chair (or Tracy Craig)
 - i. Virtual listening session scheduled for March 5 at 7 PM. Date/time approved by IDDC. Motion moved by Yvonne, seconded by Carmen.
 - ii. Draft flyer and registration survey shared for approval; Vote to approve motioned by Lisa L and seconded by Rick C. Commission approved finalization.
 - iii. Lisa requested interpretation services and Spanish translation for flyer and registration documents. Crystel will follow up.
 - c. Meeting with CE on County Employment of People with IDD (11/21/25): No update.
 - d. Reappointment Process: No update.
 - e. Recognition of Community Organizations – Sue Hartung: Motion to develop a recognition initiative approved (Sue moved, Jenn seconded).
 - i. Commissioners interested should email Sue and copy Crystel.
 - f. Vote to Approve Letter to Councilmember Evans: Motioned by Sue H, Seconded by Tracy. Approved; letter will be transmitted.

Public Comment

- 1) David Ervin (InterACC): Requested IDDC support for FY27 funding for the DD Supplement from the County Executive.
 - a) InterACC represents 41 providers and 5,000 DSPs delivering 7M hours of support annually.
 - b) FY27 request: \$23.6M (5.5% increase over FY26), primarily for DSP salaries.
 - c) CE's budget release: March 15, 2026.
 - d) David will work with Steve to draft a support letter for IDDC vote at the February meeting. Members with conflicts of interest will abstain.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be February 26th at 5pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.