

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.
Full Council Meeting Minutes
January 22-23, 2026

Thursday, January 22, 2026

Council Members Present: Enrique Escallon; Sarah Goldman; Eddie Hall; Yolanda Herrera; Danielle McGill; Carla Mercer; Lauren Modawell; Michael Sayih; Charlotte Temple; Kali Wilson; Arizona Jenkins; Robert Asztalos (APD); Leah Compagnone-Bolt (VR); Jennifer Zarcone (FCIC); Caitlyn Clibbon (DRF); Tracie Hardin (AHCA)

Council Members Absent: Denise Anderson; Christina Cordova; Elly Hagen; Dennis Hart; Victoria Zepp; Anna Simmons (DOH); Kira Houge (Elder Affairs); Jean Sherman (UCEDD); Patricia Bodiford (DOE)

Staff Present: Valerie Breen; Susan Kabot; Monica Moye; Chris Reeve; Jennifer Chung; Kristen Conlin; Jamie Mayersohn

Guests: Jim DeBeaugrine (FDDC Legislative Advisor); Personal care staff

The meeting was called to order by Eddie Hall at 9:09 a.m. Roll call was taken and quorum was established.

Committee Meetings

I. Public Policy Committee

Adoption of Agenda

Charlotte Temple made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; Yolanda Herrera seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the agenda was adopted.

Approval of Minutes

Charlotte Temple made a motion to adopt the December 10, 2025, minutes; Carla Mercer seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the December 2025 minutes were adopted.

2026 Legislative Report

Executive Director Breen advised that since September, she has met with several legislators and provided them with clarification on what the Council is, and that we are in Federal and State statute. Breen is trying to schedule as many legislators as possible to attend our DD Day lunch at the Capitol.

Jim DeBeaugrine advised that we are part of three branches in the Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights Act (federal law). There are the University Centers of Excellence and the Protection and Advocacy Centers (Disability Rights), and the Council is the resource for policy. He also advised that there are 61 bills proposed regarding disabilities, but we are actively following 37 of them.

Sarah advised that today we will be focusing on the 10 starred bills within the supplemental materials packet.

Bill prioritization

Lauren Modawell made a motion to adopt the presented Bill prioritization, with the following moved to active support, HB 109, SB 0152, HB 0411; Enrique Escallon seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the Bill prioritization was adopted.

Active Support Bills

**HB 0915/SB 1016- Medical Assistance Eligibility for Working Persons with Disabilities
Creates a new program allowing certain working individuals with disabilities to maintain Medicaid eligibility while earning additional income.**

Charlotte Temple made a motion to adopt HB 0915/SB 1016; Lauren Modawell seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and support for the bill was adopted.

During the discussions, Danielle McGill asked if this includes members who are on the waitlist for the waiver, and Jim advised that it is for those individuals who are currently enrolled in the waiver or the managed care pilot. Charlotte advised that it has been used for individuals who have been on the waitlist. Caitlyn advised that Disability Rights Florida has submitted a public records request, but that has been open for a year.

**HB 0453/SB 0556- Requirements for Standard High School Diploma
Expand the ways students can satisfy physical education and performing arts requirements for a standard high school diploma. Allow completion of 2 years of marching band to fulfill both the physical education and performing arts requirements instead of just one or the other. Permits students with disabilities to participate in the Special Olympics as a substitute for the physical education requirement.**

Charlotte Temple made a motion to adopt HB 0453/SB 0556; Caitlyn Clibbon seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and support for the bill was adopted.

Passive Support

****SB 0072/HB0615- Individual Education Plans
Requires timely evaluations, IEP meetings, and enhanced parent engagement for students receiving exceptional student education services.**

Lauren Modawell made a motion to adopt SB 0072/HB 0615; Carla Mercer seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and support for the bill was adopted.

****HB 0109/SB 0662- Corporal Punishment**

Prohibits school district employees for using corporal punishment on public school students.

Arizona Jenkins made a motion to adopt HB 0109/SB 0662 and move this Bill to active support; Carla Mercer seconded; none abstained. The motion carried and support for the bill was adopted and moved to active support.

During discussions, Arizona felt that schools should not be allowed to punish students and that should be handled at home. Caitlyn Clibbon asked if we were trying to eliminate bills from moving to active support, and Sarah advised that everyone should look at the icons sheet provided in the supplemental materials folder that gives the definitions of active and passive support. Caitlyn also advised that this should have been done long ago.

****SB 0152/HB 0517- Medicaid Provider Networks**

Requires Medicaid managed care plans to negotiate and pay dentists at or above agency rates while strengthening provider network requirements for dental services.

Caitlyn Clibbon made a motion to adopt SB 0152/HB 0517 and move to active support; Yolanda Herrera seconded; none abstained. The motion carried and support for the bill was adopted and moved to active support.

During discussions, Caitlyn made some points regarding dental services being important and a big issue that she sees at Disability Rights Florida (DRF). She feels that this bill would be best served in active support.

****HB 0411/SB 1652- Terminology Associated with Autism**

Updates the definition of autism to align with the most recent edition of the DSM and rename it to include autism spectrum disorder.

Caitlyn Clibbon made a motion to adopt HB 0411/SB 1652 and move the bill to active support; Yolanda Herrera seconded; none abstained. The motion carried and support for the bill was adopted and moved to active support.

During discussions there was dialogue back and forth about the bill. Robert Asztalos (APD) advised that the way the bill is written opens the eligible list up, and he advised that they are trying to keep the definition in but add more clarification about APD services, because it could create a conflict.

Danielle McGill asked if the Council could help APD with this bill, and Valerie Breen advised that if we are asked, we would provide assistance.

Valerie advised that if we are moving to the active category and supporting this bill, it does not mean we are working on the bill. Jim advised that we would work with all the parties involved to come up with acceptable language.

Going forward through the meeting votes did not occur on each bill and were adopted fully at the end.

****HB 0487/SB 0586- Repair of Mobility Devices**

Requires original equipment manufacturers to provide owners and independent repair providers with the necessary documentation, software, parts, and tools to repair mobility devices.

****HB 0859/SB 1170- Exceptional Students and Video Cameras in Public Schools**

Expand the use of video cameras and audio in self-contained classrooms upon a parent's request to ensure greater transparency and monitoring of special education services.

****SB 1088/HB 1099- Guardianship**

Prohibit guardians from restricting adult wards' contact except under certain circumstances and require notices regarding changes in residential settings and persons entitled to receive information and visits.

****HB 1405/SB 1570- Statewide Project for Missing Person with Special Needs**

Revives, readopts, and amends the missing persons with special needs statewide project to expand the distribution of personal devices for search-and-rescue efforts through multiple centers for autism and related disabilities.

****HB 1507/SB 1640- Medicaid Dental Pilot Program**

Establishes a 3-year Medicaid dental pilot program for persons with disabilities in Region B.

Danielle McGill asked what Region B was. There was discussion about it, and it was decided that it was the Jacksonville area, and it is based on the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) regions.

****HB 6003/SB 1700- Recovery of Damages for Medical Negligence Resulting in Death**

Removes the statutory bar preventing adult children and parents of an adult child from recovering damages in medical negligence wrongful death cases.

Jim advised that this bill has already passed through the House and it is not necessarily a disability bill, but there seems to be a lot of individuals who have disabilities who are impacted by this type of bill. It was passed and got vetoed by the Governor.

Valerie advised that the bills that are passive are being watched by the Council, and the ones that are active are going to be reported on. The passive bills will still receive reports but not as frequently.

Caitlyn suggested prioritizing the bills to change the definition of #4 because working at DRF, she receives a lot of calls regarding eligibility. The new bill changes the APD criteria to the current clinical criteria from DMS-IV to DMS-5; currently individuals must prove their eligibility. It is a real barrier because they are not familiar with the APD standards and the clients are getting their evaluations from psychologists and they are using DSM-5 criteria so there is a mismatch. She feels that if everything is aligned, it would be less stressful for the individuals applying for services.

Arizona asked questions regarding Disability Parking, Sarah asked if we should monitor this bill. Caitlyn will look up the bill number and provide it to the council.

Eddie asked for clarification on the definitions regarding active vs passive support regarding the bills.

Active- High priority legislation that aligns with the Council's public policy agenda.

For these bills, Council's leadership actively works with bill sponsors, committee staff and other legislators through one-on-one meetings and provides testimony to committees, as requested.

Passive- Legislation that is aligned with the Council public policy agenda.

For these bills, Council's leadership offers public support such as letters, visible support during committee hearings, and website listings without engaging in active support.

Eddie asked if we as a member were to go out and meet with our legislator and were supporting a bill that is not active but is passive for the FDDC, but he feels passionate about, and would that be allowed. Sarah advised that it would be fine to do that and feels that it is a passive move, and she advised that we want to do more grassroots advocacy.

Our Voice Matters is still the FDDC's main legislative platform

Danielle McGill and Enrique Escallon brought up the issue of federal legislation that would impact people with I/DD, especially medical insurance and the role of the FDDC in addressing them.

II. State Plan Committee

Adoption of Agenda

Sarah Goldman made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; Carla Mercer seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the agenda was adopted.

Approval of Minutes

Carla Mercer made a motion to adopt the December 10, 2025, minutes; Yolanda Herrera seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the December 2025 minutes were adopted.

Sue Kabot, Chief of Programs and Research, advised that she provided a copy of the public comment presentation provided at the State Plan Committee meeting on December 10, 2025 with the Council meeting materials.

Approval for Procurement for PIP and Fellows

There was no formal vote in approval for Procurement for PIP and Fellows.

Sue advised that staff met on Tuesday, January 21, 2026, to discuss PIP, PIP Plus, and Fellows. As staff, we made the decision on how we would handle these contracts moving forward since both PIP and Fellows contracts end of August. It was decided that we would complete amendments to extend our current PIP and Fellows contracts through the end of September to coincide with all the other contracts and our fiscal year. For the alternate PIP class (PIP plus) it was decided that staff; Jennifer Chung, Director of Programs, and Chris Reeve, Director of Programs, would run the pilot, and would accept individuals with moderate disabilities. The reason for this is there are a lot of unknowns with the pilot such as needing easy-read applications, hands-on activities, types of support, and what kind of support is needed.

Yolanda asked about the PIP Plus project and asked if there was an opportunity to make changes and referenced Robert Morgan. Danielle advised that they utilize the next Self-Advocacy Leadership Task Force Meeting to discuss this.

Arizona mentioned that financial support might be an issue as well as reimbursement rates, and Lauren mentioned AAC devices for those who cannot speak. Enrique, following up on Yolanda's comment, learned about the Robert Morgan program. Even though it's been continued without FDDC funding, it has not been met the need for those with the most significant disabilities.

Regarding the PIP Alumni, it would remain under Stacey Hoaglund, but we may want to provide a year's worth of activities in advance so she is aware and can plan.

III. Finance Committee

Adoption of Agenda

Enrique Escallon made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; Kali Wilson seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the agenda was adopted.

Adoption of Financials

Ben Moon from Thomas Howell Ferguson (outsourced CFO) presented the first quarter's accrual-based financial reports. Following the financial presentation, Enrique Escallon inquired about including a year-by-year financial review of the annual budgets. Moon explained that the financial reports are now on an accrual basis. As the fiscal years progress, side-by-side annual budget information will be available.

Escallon also inquired about the status of the updated FDDC Accounting Manual. Monica Moyer, Chief of Operations and Finance, shared that the FDDC Accounting Manual is in draft and will be updated going into the audit and will be presented to the Finance Committee for review and approval.

Enrique Escallon made a motion to adopt the Budget vs Actual and Profit and Loss, by class as presented by Ben Moon from Thomas Howell Ferguson; Charlotte Temple seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the Budget vs. Actual and Profit and Loss, by class were adopted, and moved to Full Council Recommendation.

Update: FDDC 2026 Financial Status

Monica Moyer provided an update advising that all reporting has been filed for the year. We also received the first notice of award for 2026 on December 12th. The audit is scheduled for mid-March, and it will be conducted by Law Redd again.

Presentation provided by Special Olympics

Full Council Meeting- January 22, 2026

Chair Hall called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., roll call was taken and quorum was established. *It was noted that Robert Aztalos (APD) had to leave due to another engagement.*

I. Adoption of Agenda

Arizona Jenkins made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; Kali Wilson seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the agenda was adopted.

II. Adoption of Minutes

Caitlyn Clibbon made a motion to adopt the September 2025 minutes; Enrique Escallon seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the September 2025 minutes were adopted.

III. Chair/Vice-Chair Report

Chair Hall has been following our politics to understand what our country is trying to accomplish just to stay on top of things. He mentioned that the Council should also be working with other groups and he is looking forward to DD Day at the Capitol to see our partners.

Vice Chair, Escallon, wanted to follow up on any legislative agendas on the federal level that would potentially impact the Council. Mentioning some of our biggest challenges are with IEPs and are on the educational level, but how can we get our concerns addressed when no one from that agency attends the meetings.

IV. Executive Director Report

Breen reported that ACL is being transitioned into the Department of Children and Families and they are also downsizing. But we are the only Council that can pull down our dollars directly from the Treasury. This allows us to have continuous payments/cash flow as funds are released.

State commitments- since 1996 when we became a non-profit organization, there was no tie in to us being a state agency. Before that, we were part of DCF as a state agency.

Statewide evaluation of pilot program- We were asked to give input into the program by AHCA to provide our thoughts and opinions.

Transportation- working with our state agencies to secure money for the pilot programs over the years.

Quality measures/competencies for support coordination/care coordination, settings- there has never been a study prior on the quality of support coordinators for IDD. For the last few years, we have worked with Mathematica, and Representative Tant is working on a bill now to encompass this.

Defining our Value, In the Past, In the Present.

Some of the items that have been found while downsizing our physical office represent activities that we are covering today but in a more expanded updated form.

Part 1 was asking to hire Jim DeBeaugrine, and he discussed the historic movement in Florida to create APD. Part 2, We had to initiate was a new State Plan (2022-2026) and complete public input on new 5 year plan (2027-2031). We will submit the new state plan to the federal govt in August for approval. Our Voices Matter: Preserve our Choice is the theme for our 2026 legislative platform.

- DD Day- we are hosting the event with other vendors, and we want to make sure that everyone is well educated on their choices as well as the legislators.
- We went serverless, we went paperless, changed phone system, and changed our Tallahassee headquarters.
- Federal annual programmatic and fiscal report is completed and submitted prior to December 31, 2025, deadline.
- Onboarded part-time Executive Administrator.
- Hired an external event coordinator for DD Day.

Starting our 2nd quarter

- Legislative session- Discussed Council members having a relationship with their legislator.
- Legislative Briefs- This used to be called Capitol Updates, and it was rebranded so everyone can be briefed on what we are tracking.
- Collecting stories and partners- We have always talked about people's stories and this year we have stories about Our Voices Matter.
- DD Day- The objective this year is to get the legislators to come down and meet with individuals at lunch.

V. **State and Sister Agency Reports**

Reports were provided by the following agencies:

- Valerie Breen provided the report from Agency for Persons with Disabilities for Robert Asztalos.
- Tracie Hardin provided the report from Agency for Healthcare Administration.
- Jennifer Zarcone provided the report from University of South Florida- Florida Center for Inclusive Communities.
- Caitlyn Clibbon provided the report from Disability Rights Florida.
- Leah Compagnone-Bolt provided the report from Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

VI. **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee did not formally meet due to the sake of time. However, they instead chose to move their recommendation for approval of the amended bylaws to the Full Council since all Council members were already present at the meeting.

Enrique discussed the various changes to the amended bylaws and went on to state that the major change was to add a secretary position and eliminate one of the Appointed at-large positions. The bylaws were provided as part of the supplemental materials packet that show the track changes.

Page 2 references the changes in the items

Page 4 references adding the Secretary

Page 5 defines the duties of the position and what we would vote on.

Bylaw Amendments

Enrique Escallon made a motion to adopt the Bylaw amendments as presented; Charlotte Temple seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the Bylaw amendment was adopted.

VII. Public Comment

Hall asked if there was any public comment from the floor. None was offered.

Hall adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Full Council Meeting- Friday, January 23, 2026

Council Members Present: Enrique Escallon; Sarah Goldman; Eddie Hall; Yolanda Herrera; Danielle McGill; Carla Mercer; Lauren Modawell; Michael Sayih; Charlotte Temple; Kali Wilson; Arizona Jenkins; Leah Compagnone-Bolt (VR); Jennifer Zarcone (FCIC); Caitlyn Clibbon (DRF); Tracie Hardin (AHCA)

Council Members Absent: Denise Anderson; Christina Cordova; Elly Hagen; Dennis Hart; Victoria Zepp; Anna Simmons (DOH); Kira Houge (Elder Affairs); Jean Sherman (UCEDD); Patricia Bodiford (DOE); Robert Asztalos (APD)

Staff Present: Valerie Breen; Susan Kabot; Monica Moye; Chris Reeve; Jennifer Chung; Kristen Conlin; Jamie Mayersohn

Guests Present: Jim DeBeaugrine (FDDC Legislative Advisor); Personal care staff

Hall called the meeting to order at 9: 01 a.m., roll call was taken and quorum was established.

I. Committee Recommendations for Full Council Discussion/Adoption

Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee met yesterday to review 11 bills proposed for consideration by determining initial dedication and involvement of staff to the level they would be involved in overseeing, being involved in and reporting on the bills. The ratings for classifying the bills

The committee is recommending to the full Council the adoption of the following bills for Active Support.

- HB0915/SB1016 Medical Assistance Eligibility for Working People with Disabilities
- HB0453/SB0556 Requirements for Standard High School Diploma
- HB0109/SB0662 Corporal Punishment

- SB0152/HB0517 Medicaid Provider Networks
- HB0411/SB1652 Terminology Associated with Autism

The committee recommends that all other bills starred in the Passive Support remain in that category.

The committee asked staff to investigate the use of disabled parking spaces by expectant mothers as it relates to the use of disabled parking places.

The Council volunteered to work with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to provide assistance on content for the Terminology Associated with Autism Bill.

All other passive support Bills remained in that category for now. Thirty-seven Bills were listed under monitoring. Council members were reminded that the current categorization of Bills could and would change over the course of the Legislative session. They were also told that they were free to advocate on behalf of bills that they supported even if they were not included in the active or passive support categories.

Danielle McGill and Enrique Escallon brought up the issue of federal legislation that would impact people with I/DD, especially medical insurance and the role of the FDDC in addressing them.

Sarah Goldman called for a vote on the recommendations of Active Support and starred Passive Support Bills to remain

Lauren Modawell made a motion to adopt all Active and Passive bills as presented; Enrique Escallon seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried, and the Active and Passive bills categorization was adopted.

State Plan Committee

No Recommendations

Finance Committee

The finance committee reviewed the financial statements with Thomas Howell Ferguson and recommended full adoption of the financial reports as presented. They are the Budget vs. Actual and the Profit and Loss by Class.

Enrique Escallon made a motion to adopt the financial reports as presented; Charlotte Temple seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the reports were adopted.

Executive Committee

No motions required

II. Our Voices Matter

The staff have put together an Our Voices Matter campaign, and we are the official host at DD Day. The FDDC will be the the full host and evaluate who would be on the second floor of the rotunda, and the criteria were revised to include a requirement to be a state-wide organization. We have always paid for council members, current PIP members and Fellows as part of FL SAND to attend DD Day. This year we are not having a formal dinner on Monday night, instead we are going to have a buffet dinner at the top floor of the Double Tree. All the rooms are booked at the Double Tree, and the buses are scheduled to arrive the next morning to take individuals to the Capitol. If someone signs up to be a partner by bringing 30 people with you, we will post you on our website and share your organization. The booths on the second floor will be open from 9-12, at which time lunch will be served in the Senate Portico from 12-1, and legislators will speak. Afterwards the booths will reopen until 2 p.m.

Kim Galban-Countryman introduced herself and Alex Dotson, who are working as our DD Day Event Coordinator, and shared some information regarding the day.

Before, During DD Day and Beyond.

Jamie shared the new website, Our Voices Matter, and the two forms for individuals to fill out to share their stories. They are linked on our website and can be submitted to us, and we will send them to legislators for those individuals who are unable to attend DD Day. The story pages will also be available at the booth.

Yolanda congratulated staff for the hard work because it covers all aspects of the day. She asked for some guidance because sometimes the legislators are not in their office, but there are only the aides there.

Eddie questioned whether we want to consider AI in regard to legislation and advised that maybe we could harness that to use as a Council for jobs and legislation. Enrique mentioned that he has only seen this on a federal level and it could possibly take away jobs.

Enrique asked if the website would have a dropdown added, and Jamie advised that it could probably be done by next week.

Valerie mentioned the Idelio Valdes Award (Self-Advocate) and the Bobbie Lake Award (Family Member). Shavaughn Barnes was selected for the Idelio award (17th annual). Judee Samuels was selected for the Bobbie Lake award (2nd annual).

III. Public Comment/Meeting Adjourned

Hall asked if there was any public comment from the floor. None was provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.