

Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.
Full Council Meeting Minutes
May 21-22, 2026

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Council Members Present: Denise Anderson, Christina Cordova, Enrique Escallon, Sarah Goldman, Elly Hagen, Eddie Hall, Yolanda Herrera, Arizona Jenkins, Danielle McGill, Carla Mercer, Lauren Modawell, Michael Sayih, Charlotte Temple, Victoria Zepp, Susan Nipper (APD), Cherie Hall (DRF), Leah Compagnone-Bolt (VR), Jennifer Zarcone (FCIC), Anna Simmons (DOH), Jean Sherman (UCEDD)

Council Members Absent: Kali Wilson, Patrica Bodiford (DOE), Frank Pate (AHCA), Kira Houge (Elder Affairs)

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Jean Sherman at 9:08 a.m. and the State Plan Committee began.

Committee Meetings

I. State Plan Committee

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Adoption of Agenda

Jean Sherman called for additions to the agenda, and none were presented. Tina Cordova made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented; Carla Mercer seconded. Sue Kabot made a correction to the agenda and stated that she was removing the vote for the Procurement timeline. All members voted in favor and the agenda was adopted.

Approval of Minutes

Jean Sherman called for a review of the minutes from 01.22.2026.

Sarah Goldman made a motion to adopt the minutes from January 22, 2026; Carla Mercer seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the minutes from January 22, 2026, were adopted.

Programmatic Budget Narrative for State Plan Year 1 (2026-2027)

Sue Kabot advised the committee that the Administration for Community Living (ACL) requires submission of only a Year 1 programmatic budget narrative for the new State Plan. As a result, the budget presented for approval covers only the 2026–2027 key activities. Jean Sherman clarified that the committee approves the budget one year at a time.

Sue stated that the budget narrative is an item requiring committee approval as part of the State Plan submission to ACL. She presented an overview of the proposed budget, explaining that funding has been allocated across each goal for cross-cutting activities, including consultant services and marketing/public relations support. During her review of the plan goals, Sue highlighted Goal 5, which addresses emergency preparedness and emergency issues, and noted that no funds have been allocated to that goal at this time.

Goal 1: Access to Services Budget

The committee reviewed and was asked to approve the Goal 1: Access to Services budget of \$600,000, plus \$92,875 in Cross-Cutting funds, for a total of \$692,875. Sue explained that Cross-Cutting funds support shared administrative expenses, including consultants and marketing/PR services.

The \$600,000 program budget includes:

- \$300,000 for a new web-based platform to be procured through an IFP.
- \$150,000 for the Case Management Assessment System.
- \$150,000 for dissemination of assessment tools for residential, adult day training, and employment services to evaluate service fit for individuals with IDD.

The web-based platform will be implemented by a new provider, while the Case Management Assessment System and Measuring Service Quality activities will continue through Mathematica Researching Provider Solutions will be conducted in-house.

Victoria requested additional details on how funds will be utilized. Sue and Monica noted that the budget was developed using the 70/30 funding model, with 70% allocated to program activities and 30% to administrative expenses.

Goal 2: Behavioral Health and Challenging Behaviors Budget

The committee reviewed and was asked to approve the Goal 2: Behavioral Health and Challenging Behaviors budget of \$675,000, plus \$92,875 in Cross-Cutting funds, for a total of \$767,875.

The program budget includes:

- \$300,000 to address the behavioral therapist shortage through a continuation project with the University of Florida.
- \$200,000 for the NADD Peer Mentor and IISP initiatives.
- \$175,000 for First Responders Training, to be procured through a competitive bid process with a new provider.

Enrique Escallon asked whether any unspent funds from the Training First Responders project could be reallocated rather than reverted. Sue explained that funding is distributed during the

first half of the year, and Monica noted that the council plans to fully expend the grant funds and does not anticipate any reversion of funds.

Yolanda Herrera commented that the challenge in her area is not a shortage of behavior analysts, but rather a lack of providers willing to serve adults in need of services.

Eddie Hall asked how the Cross-Cutting funds were distributed. Sue explained that the total Cross-Cutting allocation is divided equally among the four goals, consistent with federal guidance.

Goal 3: Aging Families Budget

The committee reviewed and was asked to approve the Goal 3: Aging Families budget of \$400,000, plus \$92,875 in Cross-Cutting funds, for a total of \$492,875.

The program budget includes:

- \$200,000 for the development of a Future Planning Toolkit and person-centered planning resources.
- \$200,000 for an Environmental Scan Technology project to identify technology strategies that support aging families and enable individuals to remain in their homes.

The Future Planning Toolkit and Environmental Scan Technology projects will be procured through a competitive bid process. The AGEDD follow-up project, which will be completed in-house.

Yolanda Herrera asked for clarification regarding the in-house project, including whether it would involve ensuring that local groups continue to meet. She also inquired about the concept of a "model" home. Sarah Goldman asked about funding for grassroots community training, **and Sue indicated that it may be considered in the second year of the plan.**

Goal 4: Self-Advocacy Leadership

The proposed budget for Goal 4 is \$370,000, with an additional \$92,875 in Cross-Cutting funds and \$155,000 on the FDDC budget.

This goal includes four projects:

- Florida SAN'D Fellows Leadership Program – \$300,000, continuing through a contract with Pathways Resolution.
- Partners in Policymaking (PIP) – \$65,000, continuing through a contract with Stacey Hoaglund. Staff clarified that while the project budget reflects \$155,000 on the FDDC budget, those funds support hotel costs, travel, supplies, and other program expenses that are administered in-house. The contracted amount of \$65,000 is solely for the PIP Coordinator salary.

- Partners Alumni Network – Currently under consideration to be managed either in-house or through a consultant.
- Partners in Policymaking Alternate Curriculum Pilot – \$5,000, to be completed in-house. The pilot will test adaptations to the alternate curriculum and identify participant support needs. Staff noted that the curriculum project produced the curriculum itself, and this pilot will help determine what additional accommodations or resources participants may require.

During discussion, Yolanda requested additional clarification regarding the alternate PIP Curriculum Pilot. Sue explained that the pilot will be used to assess necessary adaptations and participant supports before broader implementation.

Sue also reported that she met with Florida SAN'D this week. The organization requested assistance in reminding graduates to participate in the monthly Amplify calls, which are held on the first day of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Goal 5: Emerging/Emergency Needs

The committee discussed Goal 5 (Emerging/Emergency Needs), which remains budgeted at \$0.00. Victoria questioned why the goal was included without allocated funding. Sue explained that retaining Goal 5 in the State Plan allows funds to be reallocated, with ACL approval, to address future emergency or emerging needs. Without the goal in the plan, such reallocations would not be possible.

Elly Hagen moved to adopt the Programmatic Budget Narrative for State Plan Year 1, seconded by Tina Cordova. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions and was forwarded to the Full Council for a vote.

Cross-Cutting Activities Budget

The Cross-Cutting budget totals \$371,500 and includes:

- RBOA – \$140,000
- Linqua – \$30,000
- DD Day – \$22,500
- Public Policy – \$54,000
- State Plan Development – \$125,000

The overall proposed budget for State Plan Year 1 is \$2,416,500, consisting of \$2,045,000 in programmatic funding and \$371,500 in Cross-Cutting funds.

Jean Sherman called for a motion to approve the 2026–2027 Programmatic Budget Narrative for State Plan Year 1. Elly Hagen made a motion to adopt the Programmatic Budget Narrative, and Tina Cordova seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, with no abstentions. The motion carried, and the Programmatic Budget Narrative for State Plan Year 1 was forwarded to the Full Council for approval.

At 10:21 a.m., discussion of the State Plan was paused to move to the Finance agenda item, allowing Thomas Howell Ferguson representatives to present due to other commitments.

The meeting resumed consideration of the State Plan at 10:33 a.m.

Request to Purchase a Learning Management System

Chris shared that she looked at several LMS platforms. Ultimately the Talent LMS platform was chosen, and it consists of 400 seats.

Tina Cordova made a motion to adopt the purchase of the Learning Management System; Carla Mercer seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the purchase of the Learning Management System was adopted to move to the Full Council for vote.

II. Finance Committee

Roll call was taken and quorum was established.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Tina Cordova noted that she was not in attendance at the previous Finance Committee meeting and requested that the minutes be amended to reflect her absence.

Sarah Goldman made a motion to approve the January 22, 2026, Finance Committee meeting minutes as amended. Enrique Escallon seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, with no abstentions. The motion carried, and the January 22, 2026, meeting minutes were approved.

During discussion of the minutes, Enrique Escallon inquired about the status of the accounting manual referenced at the previous meeting. Monica Moya reported that the manual is still being updated. Once finalized, it will be incorporated into the audit update and reflected in future meeting minutes.

Adoption of Financials

Monica Moya turned the meeting over to Ben Moon of Thomas Howell Ferguson, P.A., who presented the financial reports, including the Profit and Loss Statement and the Budget-to-Actual Statement. Ben explained that the financial statements are prepared on an accrual basis and noted that expenses continue to be tracked and reported by class/grant under Grant 2501.

Ben also provided an update on the audit process, reporting that Thomas Howell Ferguson has submitted all requested documentation to the auditors and is working closely with them to complete the audit. The firm anticipates the audit will be finalized by the last week of June.

Enrique Escallon made a motion to approve the Budget-to-Actual Financial Statements and forward them to the Full Council for consideration. Charlotte Temple seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, with no abstentions. The motion carried, and the Budget-to-Actual Financial Statements were approved for submission to the Full Council.

Carla Mercer called for public comment. Hearing none, she adjourned the Finance Committee meeting at 10:32 a.m.

At 10:33 a.m., the meeting returned to the State Plan agenda for final discussion and consideration.

III. Executive Committee

Eddie Hall called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Adoption of Agenda

Yolanda Herrera made a motion to adopt the agenda, and Elly Hagen seconded the motion. All members voted in favor, with no abstentions. The motion carried, and the agenda was adopted.

Approval of Minutes

The Council considered approval of September 11, 2025, February 23, 2026; March 2, 2026; and April 22, 2026, meeting minutes.

Elly Hagen made a motion to adopt the minutes from September 11, 2025; Jean Sherman seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the minutes from September 11, 2025, were adopted.

Elly Hagen made a motion to adopt the minutes from February 23, 2026; Yolanda Herrera seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the minutes from February 23, 2026, were adopted.

Elly Hagen made a motion to approve March 2, 2026, minutes, seconded by Carla Mercer. Discussion of the March 2, 2026, minutes ensued. Tina Cordova requested clarification on statements included in the record, noting she was not part of the Executive Committee at the time and had not previously had access to the underlying information. She questioned the status of Valerie Breen's contract and whether a buyout was still under consideration. Carla Mercer stated that, based on her attendance at prior meetings, the matter appeared to have been tabled. Elly Hagen reported that Valerie had withdrawn her buyout request, while Monica Moya indicated uncertainty regarding who had received that communication. Danielle

McGill asked about next steps should Valerie not renew her contract after September, and Eddie Hall stated that the Council would appoint an Interim Executive Director and begin a search for a permanent Executive Director if needed.

Members further discussed related context, including Valerie Breen's employment status and succession planning, with confirmation that contract discussions had been tabled and that Valerie was expected to continue through her current term ending September 2026.

Separately, discussion included updates provided by Greg Stewart, legal counsel, regarding the hearing process involving Enrique Escallon. He noted that procedural discrepancies in draft correspondence led to delays, resulting in the matter being postponed and tabled. Enrique Escallon requested full Council access to meeting recordings and stated his desire for the matter to be addressed by the Full Council.

Enrique Escallon requested full access to meeting recordings and stated he wished the issue to be addressed by the Full Council. He also raised concerns regarding receipt of legal correspondence and preparation time for response.

All members voted in favor to adopt the March 2, 2026, minutes; none abstained. The motion carried and the minutes were adopted.

Carla Mercer made a motion to approve the April 22, 2026, Executive Committee and Full Council minutes, seconded by Elly Hagen. All members voted in favor, none abstained. The motion carried and the minutes from April 22, 2026, were adopted.

Eddie Hall adjourned Executive Committee Meeting at 11:31

Full Council Meeting- May 21, 2026

Chair Eddie Hall called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m., roll call was taken and quorum was established.

Eddie Hall referred to supplemental folders for updated Agenda and asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

I. Adoption of Agenda

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

II. Adoption of Minutes

Jennifer Zarcone made a motion to adopt the January 2026 minutes; Lauren Modawell seconded. Enrique Escallon states that the meeting after the Jan Council meeting was a continuation rather than a separate meeting. Jim DeBeaugrine stated that is a question for the attorney and the question was noted.

All members voted to adopt the minutes as written, none abstained. The motion carried and the January 2026 minutes were adopted.

Jennifer Zarcone made a motion to adopt the April 2026 minutes; Lauren Modawell seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the April 2026 minutes were adopted.

III. Chair/Vice-Chair Report

Eddie Hall reported ongoing communication with Valerie and noted challenges due to her absence but stated he had maintained good communication with Jim DeBeaugrine. He emphasized the Council's continued focus on serving individuals with disabilities.

Jean Sherman, attending her first meeting as Vice Chair, reaffirmed her commitment to the Council's mission and expressed the need for a clear plan and timeline to address outstanding matters. While acknowledging Valerie Breen's illness as a valid reason for delay, she stated that unresolved issues should not remain pending indefinitely and requested that a plan be established before the September meeting.

Eddie Hall called for a working lunch and advised that Greg Stewart would provide follow-up regarding Sunshine Law questions. The Council also discussed convening an Executive Committee meeting prior to September; no date was set.

IV. Sunshine Law, Public Records, Code of Ethics Refresher Training

Greg Stewart from Nabors, Giblin and Nickerson was recognized.

Council members discussed matters previously addressed by the Executive Committee, including the pending hearing involving Enrique Escallon and questions regarding Dennis Hart's resignation. Enrique noted that he possessed a February 10 email indicating Dennis Hart's resignation and questioned why Dennis continued to participate in meetings. Greg Stewart stated that he interpreted the email as notice of a forthcoming resignation rather than an immediate resignation.

Jean Sherman asked about scheduling the postponed hearing involving Enrique Escallon, and Elly Hagen requested an update on the matter. Greg Stewart advised that the applicable policy requires a hearing request within 15 days, which Enrique had timely submitted, but does not establish a deadline for conducting the hearing. Tina Cordova suggested preparing a timeline summarizing Executive Committee discussions and actions to keep Council members informed. Eddie Hall reported that Valerie Breen remains on FMLA leave through July 31, 2026.

Discussion also addressed the postponement of Enrique's hearing with Eddie Hall asking Greg Stewart to clarify. Jim DeBeaugrine took the lead and explained that the hearing was delayed because multiple versions of the proposed letter existed and the Council wanted to finalize a single draft before proceeding. Jean Sherman and Victoria requested clarification regarding

approval of the final letter. Greg Stewart advised that the letter would ultimately require action by the full Council before being forwarded to the Governor.

Enrique Escallon stated that he believed the allegations against him were inaccurate and expressed concern about the time, expense, and division resulting from the matter. He stated that he would consider resigning but requested a vote of confidence from the Council regarding his continued service. Enrique subsequently made a motion requesting a vote of confidence, which was seconded by Yolanda Herrera.

Jim DeBeaugrine asked that the motion be clarified and restated for the record. He explained that the Council does not have the authority to remove or retain a member through a vote of confidence, that the hearing process would continue regardless of the outcome, and that the proposed vote was non-binding. At Eddie Hall's request, Jean Sherman restated the motion as a vote of confidence regarding Enrique's continued service, with Enrique indicating that he would resign if the Council expressed no confidence in him.

During discussion, Tina Cordova asked Enrique whether he would consider stepping down in lieu of a vote. Enrique responded that he would not resign because he believed the allegations were inaccurate or based on incomplete information. Tina stated that the matter was causing further harm to the Council and requested that Enrique resign; Enrique stated that he would consider the request. Elly Hagen stated that the situation had become difficult for the Council and reiterated that the hearing process would continue if Enrique remained. Charlotte Temple expressed concern that the matter had not been fully investigated and warranted additional review before being escalated to the Governor. Jim DeBeaugrine responded that the proposed letter was intended to be factual and that any decision regarding further investigation would rest with the Council.

Prior to the vote, Enrique stated that he would resign if the record reflected that the January meeting was a continuation meeting rather than a new meeting. He also expressed concern regarding discussions about the matter that occurred outside the meeting. Greg Stewart requested that any resignation be submitted in writing and noted that the investigation process would continue as appropriate. Jean Sherman and Elly Hagen expressed opposition to the vote of confidence motion. Enrique Escallon made a motion requesting a vote of confidence from the Council for him to continue serving on the Council. Yolanda seconded the motion. Jean Sherman and Elly Hagen stated their opposition to the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, resulting in 6 votes in favor, 7 opposed, and 5 abstentions. Following the vote, Enrique Escallon stated that he would send a resignation letter, though not immediately. Results of the vote are as follows:

Yes Votes	No Votes	Abstained from Voting	Absent – Did Not Vote
Enrique Escallon Yolanda Herrera Carla Mercer Charlotte Temple Cherie Hall Arizona Jenkins	Tina Cordova Sarah Goldman Elly Hagen Eddie Hall Lauren Modawell Michael Sayih Jean Sherman	Denise Anderson Susan Nipper (APD) Leah Compagenone-Bolt (VR) Jennifer Zarcone (FCIC) Anna Simmons (DOH)	Danielle McGill Victoria Zepp

Sunshine Law, Public Records, Code of Ethics Refresher Training

Greg Stewart of Nabors, Goblin and Nickerson shared a Sunshine Law, Public Records, Conflict of Interest and Ethics Refresher Training.

V. Aging Summit Discussion and Next Steps

Jennifer Chung, Director of Programs, shared updates on the Aging Summit. There was a total of 61 participants, 16 FDDC Aging Caregiver Task Force, Executive Committee Council Members & Staff, 5 Margaret Lynn Duggar Associates Staff, 3 Federal speakers, 3 Partners in Policymaking, 34 Communities of Practice members (14 I/DD Network, 20 Aging Network).

VI. Project Presentation- Access to Services (ASK)

Diane Beaver, Mathematica, Inc. presented on the ASK Research Hub.

VII. New Business/Public Comment

Eddie Hall asked whether there was any new business or public comment from the floor.

Cherie Hall, Disability Rights Florida, stated that there appeared to be an assumption that Valerie Breen would not seek a contract extension beyond September and suggested that the Council establish an Executive Director search committee. Eddie Hall responded that the matter would be placed on the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting.

Tina Cordova suggested that the Executive Committee meet on a monthly basis. Jim DeBeaugrine added that the committee should outline a process and present it to the full Executive Committee for consideration.

Yolanda Herrera raised a question regarding the need for an Interim Director and asked whether the organization could function temporarily without a Director. Jim DeBeaugrine responded that there would likely be a need for an Interim Director.

Eddie Hall then called for any additional public comment, and none was offered.

Eddie Hall adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm

Full Council Meeting- Friday, May 22, 2026

Council Members Present: Denise Anderson; Christina Cordova; Enrique Escallon; Sarah Goldman; Elly Hagen; Eddie Hall; Yolanda Herrera; Arizona Jenkins; Carla Mercer; Lauren Modawell; Michael Sayih; Charlotte Temple; Susan Nipper (APD); Cherie Hall (DRF); Anna Simmons (DOH); Jean Sherman (UCEDD); Leah Compagnone-Bolt (VR); Victoria Zepp

Council Members Absent: Danielle McGill; Kali Wilson; Frank Pate (AHCA); Jennifer Zarcone (FCIC); Patricia Bodiford (DOE); Kira Houge (Elder Affairs)

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

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

Hall called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m., roll call was taken and quorum was established.

I. Update on 5-Year Plan and Procurement

Sue Kabot reported that the public-facing Five-Year State Plan is scheduled for submission to the federal government by August 15, 2026. All goals, objectives, and Year 1 scopes of work have been completed, and Year 1 allocations were approved by the State Plan Committee. Sheila Gifts will enter the plan information into the federal system. Sue also noted that the Community Resource Assessment (CRA) template was not received until May 18 and work on finalizing the CRA would begin immediately.

Monica provided an update on the procurement schedule, noting that Invitations for Proposals (IFPs) are scheduled for release in June and July 2026, including an IFP for the ASK Project web-based platform. Chris Reeve explained that a review committee will be established to evaluate and score proposals, with recommendations returning to the State Plan Committee.

Discussion followed regarding the ASK Project. Yolanda Herrera requested clarification, noting her understanding that the project had previously been completed. Sue Kabot explained that the project has evolved from a resource collection effort into a broader web-based platform, with content development temporarily paused until the platform is completed. Jamie further explained that the project began approximately one year later than planned after the original IFP did not result in a contract award. The project was subsequently assigned through a sole-source process and was always intended to span portions of two State Plan cycles due to its technical complexity and evolving technology, including advancements in artificial intelligence.

Council members discussed procurement oversight and project timelines. Chris Reeve reported that a review committee is being formed and Sue Kabot noted that the committee will include individuals with information technology and developmental disabilities expertise. Tina Cordova asked whether the ASK Project would be hosted on the Learning Management System (LMS), and Chris responded that a separate platform would

be used. Monica emphasized the importance of clearly defined procurement requirements, performance measures, and accessibility standards. Chris confirmed that accessibility, artificial intelligence considerations, and protections for vulnerable populations would be incorporated into the procurement process.

Yolanda Herrera requested that the Council receive regular updates regarding procurements and project timelines. Monica stated that procurement schedules could be shared and that updates would be provided throughout the review and selection process. She also reminded members that a "cone of silence" would apply during procurements. Jim DeBeaugrine explained that the cone of silence prohibits communication between vendors and Council members or staff during designated periods of the procurement process to ensure fairness and prevent undue influence.

Sue Kabot stated that the goal is to have all procurements completed and implementation ready for the start of the fiscal year on October 1, 2026.

The meeting briefly recessed for five minutes to reconnect the Zoom meeting.

II. Tour of the Redesigned FDDC Website

amie Mayersohn presented a partially redesigned version of the website.

Eddie Hoall asked if all products would be translated into Spanish, with Jamie stating that anything for the supervisors would not be translated but for the individuals it would be.

Arizona asked if everything would be compliant on the site and if there would some form of virus protection.

III. Standing Committee Recommendations for Council

State Plan Committee

Programmatic Budget Narrative for State Plan Year 1 (2026-2027) & Request to Purchase a Learning Management System

Cherie Hall made a motion to adopt the Programmatic Budget Narrative for State Plan Year 1 and the Request to Purchase a Learning Management System; Sarah Goldman seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the Programmatic Budget Narrative for State Plan Year 1 and a Request to the Full Council adopted purchase a Learning Management System.

Jean Sherman presented the State Plan Committee report as follows:

The State Plan Committee met at 9:00 am. All members of the State Plan Committee except for Kali Wilson were present. Minutes from the January 22, 2026, meeting were approved. The Year 1 \$2,416,500 for Goals 1–4 plus cross-cutting activities was approved by the Committee. Three bids for a Learning Management System were considered and a recommendation to approve the bid from TalentLMS for \$5,174 was approved.

Finance Committee

Monica Moya presented the Finance Committee report as follows:

Recommend Full Council adoption of the Budget to Actual *and* Statement of Activity by Class for 10/1/2025-3/31/2026.

Eddie Hall called for a motion to adopt the Budget v Actual Financials.

Arizona Jenkins made a motion to adopt the Budget vs. Actual Financials; Yolanda Herrera seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the Budget vs. Actual Financials were adopted by the Full Council.

Executive Committee

Eddie Hall presented the Executive Committee Report as follows:

The Executive Committee met on May 21, 2026, at 10:20 am. The minutes from the September 11, 2025, February 23, 2026, March 2, 2026, and April 22, 2026, were reviewed and approved. A discussion was held regarding the postponement of the Council member hearing and when the hearing would be rescheduled. Enrique Escallon said that he was willing to resign if the Council did not have confidence in his ability to continue serving. The vote of confidence was held. The Council voted “no confidence” with seven no votes, six yes votes, and four abstentions.

Eddie Hall asked for motion to accept the report.

Lauren Modawell made a motion to adopt the Executive Committee Report; Denise Anderson seconded. All members voted in favor; none abstained. The motion carried and the Executive Committee report was adopted by the full Council.

IV. Legislative Outcomes Report

Jim DeBeaugrine and Sarah Goldman shared a brief overview of items and bills that passed versus failed during the legislative session.

A legislative update was provided regarding bills passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

The Council reviewed HB 915/SB 1016, which codifies the Working People with Disabilities Program. The legislation allows individuals with developmental disabilities to earn up to 550% of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Federal Benefit Rate and maintain up to \$13,000 in cash assets while retaining Medicaid eligibility. During discussion, Sarah spoke in support of the bill based on her experience as a working person with disabilities. Eddie Hall asked how ABLE accounts would be affected, and Sarah explained that while individuals may utilize ABLE accounts, the funds are not protected for Social Security purposes. Charlotte Temple noted that the legislation also affects case management and long-term care services.

Additional legislation reviewed included:

- HB 453/SB 556, allowing participation in Special Olympics to satisfy physical education graduation requirements and permitting two years of marching band participation to satisfy both physical education and performing arts requirements.
- SB 418/HB 365, establishing the Blue Envelope Program for individuals with autism and requiring autism-specific training for law enforcement officers.
- SB 1405/SB 1570, reestablishing the Project Leo program through the CARD Centers to provide tracking devices for individuals at risk of elopement and appropriating funding to participating universities.
- HB 851/SB 206, requiring at least one professional development opportunity for instructional personnel and administrators on supporting students with autism spectrum disorders.

Council members also discussed Medicaid waiver programs. Susan Nipper clarified that clarification regarding individuals who choose to leave one waiver program and later return to it, and discussion followed regarding available options within the Medicaid managed care system.

Sarah Goldman noted that a significant number of legislators will be leaving office this year, creating a need to educate newly elected lawmakers on disability-related issues and Council priorities.

Bills that Failed

HB 109 / SB 662- which would have prohibited the use of corporal punishment on public school students by school district staff, neither bill was heard in a committee.

HB 517 / SB 152- would have required that managed care plans pay at least agency rates for dental care and established minimum standards for certain types of specialty cases such as sedation and anesthesia. The House passed its version to the Senate where it died in the Senate Rules Committee, The Senate version did not receive a hearing.

HB 411 / SB 1652- would have updated the definition of Autism to match the current definition in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. The House bill was amended in its first committee to remove the language related to the definition of Autism, but it died in its second committee. The Senate version was not heard in a committee.

SB 72 / HB 615- Would have established deadlines for Individual Education Plan (IEP) development, would have required parental notification if IEP services were missed, would have required that parents were allowed to review service logs and other information in the IEP within 15 days of the request, and required IEP orientation. The House passed its version of the bill. The Senate version was not heard in a committee. The parental notification requirements and parental access to IEP provisions were included in the final version of HB 1279 by Kincart-Jonsson which passed the Legislature.

HB 487 / SB 586- Would have required original equipment manufacturers to provide owners and independent repair providers with the necessary documentation, software, parts, and

tools to repair mobility devices. The House version passed all committees but were never considered by the full House. The Senate version was not heard in a committee.

V. DD Day 2026 Outcomes:

Kim Galban-Countryman served as our Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day Coordinator for the 2026 DD Day. She shared our goals vs. results. For attendance we planned 200, and our actual was over 214, for exhibitors we planned for 20, but only had 14 exhibitors, for partners we planned for 4 and only had one.

VI. State Agency/Sister Agency Reports

- Susan Nipper provided the report from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities.
- Leah Compagnone-Bolt provided the report from Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Anna Simmons provided the report from the Department of Health, Children's Medical Services.
- Jean Sherman provided the report from the University of Miami-Mailman Center.
- Monica Moya presented the report on behalf of Jennifer Zarcone University of South Florida- Florida Center for Inclusive Communities.
- Cherie Hall provided the report from Disability Rights Florida

VII. Public Comment

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

Reminder about the September council meeting, and election information will be forthcoming.

Eddie did receive notice from Enrique that he enjoyed being a part of the council, but he will be receiving the letter of resignation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.