



## GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

### October 16, 2025 2027-2032 State Plan Development Workgroup INvision Team Meeting Summary

#### Meeting Logistics

Topic: ***DD Act Activities and State Plan Development***

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2025, 1-2:45 p.m. ET

Facilitator: Kate Barrow

Participants: Kate, Cierra, Robin, Desirea, Traci, Chris, Erin

[Watch the recording](#), Passcode: HkH%94UB

#### Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome & recap
2. DD act overview
3. Required activities & areas of emphasis
4. Self-advocacy & targeted disparity
5. Matching activity & Debrief: DD act activities in action
6. Wrap-Up & Next Steps Meeting Activities

#### What the Meeting Was About

The group learned more about the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act), which is the federal law that guides the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities (GCPD).

We talked about what the DD Act says, what it requires, and how it shapes Indiana's Five-Year State Plan (2027–2032).

#### Meeting Activities

##### 1. What We Learned Last Time

- The State Plan helps Indiana decide what goals to work on for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).
- Council members use data and public feedback to make decisions.
- *The first draft of the new plan will be shared for public comment by March 31, 2026.*



## 2. About the DD Act

- The DD Act is a law that makes sure people with disabilities can live, work, and take part in their communities.
- It supports *choice, independence, inclusion, and advocacy*.
- It also funds:
  - **GCPD (the Council)**: provides leadership and systems change.
  - **Indiana Disability Rights (IDR)**: protects the legal rights of people with disabilities.
  - **Indiana Institute on Disability and Community (IIDC)**: teaches and does research and people with disabilities.

## 3. Core Values of the DD Act

- **Choice**: People can make their own decisions.
- **Inclusion**: People belong in their communities.
- **Independence**: People have control over their lives.
- **Work and Purpose**: Everyone should have ways to contribute, like working, volunteering, or creating art.
- **Advocacy and Systems Change**: We can make laws and systems better.
- **Community Voice**: Everyone's needs and ideas matter.

## 4. Who the DD Act Serves

- People who have a developmental or intellectual disability that starts before age 22.
- The disability affects important life skills like learning, communication, and self-care.
- The group talked about late diagnoses (like autism found later in life) and how people may still need supports even if diagnosed after 22.

## 5. What the Council Does Under the DD Act

The Council funds projects that help improve systems through activities like:

- **Outreach and Training**: Teaching people new skills and sharing information.
- **Collaboration**: Helping state agencies work better together.
- **Systems Change**: Fixing rules and processes that make life harder.
- **Coalitions**: Bringing people together to speak up and make change.



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- **Pilot Projects:** Trying new ideas to see if they work.
- **Educating Policymakers:** Sharing information so leaders can make better decisions.

### 6. Self-Advocacy Requirements (The Three Musts)

Every state must support:

- A. Self-Advocacy Groups:** Led by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities.
- B. Leadership Training:** People with disabilities teaching other people with disabilities.
- C. Participation in Groups:** Making sure people with all types of disabilities are represented in leadership spaces.

*Example:* A Special Olympics athlete joined a Department of Health workgroup on tobacco and cancer prevention. He had support to take part fully, showing how shared leadership can make a difference.

### 7. Addressing Inequality (Targeted Disparity)

- The DD Act requires councils to notice and reduce unfair differences in access to services.
- This could include people of color, rural residents, LGBTQ+ people, or people who speak languages other than English.
- Indiana will focus on reaching racial and cultural groups who are often left out of disability data and leadership opportunities.

### 8. Building the State Plan

- The group looked at **Goal Area 1: Leadership and Advocacy.**
  - Support more self-advocacy groups.
  - Offer leadership and advocacy training.
  - Involve families and diverse communities.
- Members said goals should stay flexible to allow for new ideas like resume training or leadership coaching.

### Group Reflections

- Members said this training made the state plan easier to understand.



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- Cierra said systems change can take a long time and it's important to stay hopeful and focused.
- Kate reminded everyone that small wins build big changes over time.

### Next Steps

- Review the slides and notes from this meeting.
- Keep learning how the DD Act activities connect to the 5-Year Plan goals.
- Talk about how to make work plans and progress updates easier to share with the community.

### Next Meeting

- Tuesday, November 4, 2025
- Topic: *Performance Measures and Making an Impact.*
- Agenda:
  1. Why we measure performance
  2. What performance measures and indicators are
  3. What the Administration on Community Living asks DD Councils to Report
  4. Real-life examples
  5. Group Activity: What does success look like?
- Join the ZoomGov Meeting:  
<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1602915374?pwd=uXa6aA2CnEMjvFVApYrm3MPcKZ8nnP.1&jst=1>  
Meeting ID: 160 291 5374  
Passcode: 932237