



**GOVERNOR'S
COUNCIL FOR
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES**

Council IN Community: We're Here All Year!

Princeton Summary

COUNCIL IN COMMUNITY: WE'RE HERE ALL YEAR

Summary of Council IN Community
Arc of SW Indiana - Princeton, IN
Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Abstract

This Council IN Community session, hosted by the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, provided an overview of the Council's mission, State Plan, and the DD act.

Participants shared personal strengths and challenges, highlighting the need for greater community education, accessible services, and advocacy. Input from this session will help guide the Council's future State Plan and engagement efforts.

Kate Barrow, Executive Director

kbarrow@gcpd.in.gov





Why Was Council **IN** Community (CINC) held?

The Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities (GCPD) hosted a virtual training session titled Council and Community. This session was designed to inform participants about the Council's mission, vision, activities, and the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Act. It further sought to create a space for dialogue on personal strengths, community inclusion, advocacy, and barriers experienced by people with disabilities and their families in Indiana. This report summarizes input gathered during a Council in Community session held at the Arc of SW Indiana in Princeton. It is a day center serving adults with developmental disabilities. All participants were individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and/or support professionals.

Developing a Shared Vision for Indiana

The information collected from every *Council **IN** Community: We're Here All Year!* will be summarized and shared with attendees, posted on the Council's website, and shared with the attendees to make sure GCPD staff have accurately captured the themes, ideas, and outcomes from the learning journey.

The Council will use this information to help shape the goals and objectives for the 2027 - 2032 State Plan, identify program areas, and develop strategies to increase community capacity so that every Hoosier with ID/DD across the lifespan has the freedom and opportunity to live, work, play, learn, and contribute to this great state.

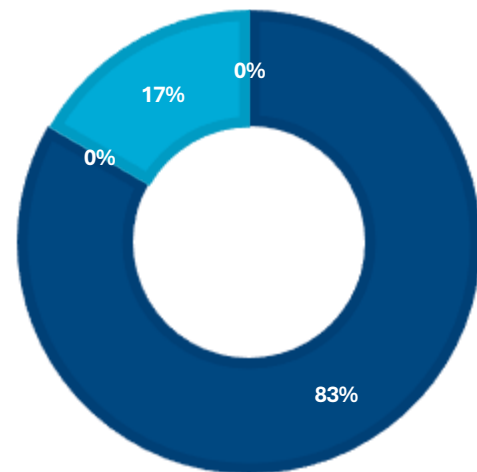




Who Attended?

REGISTERED ATTENDEES

- Person with ID/DD
- Parent, Immediate Family Member, or Guardian of a Person With ID/DD
- Professional in the ID/DD Field
- Community Supporter





What Happened at **CINC**?

Objectives

- Introduce participants to the Council's mission, vision, and current five-year state plan.
- Provide an overview of the DD Act and its significance in Indiana.
- Encourage participant dialogue about personal and community strengths, barriers, and opportunities for inclusion.
- Gather input to inform Council reports, advocacy priorities, and community engagement strategies.

Participant Engagement and Input

Participants contributed valuable insights related to relationships, personal strengths, and barriers experienced in daily life and within systems of support. During the engagement session, participants used the Charting the LifeCourse Integrated Supports Star to share their goals, personal strengths, valued relationships, and the barriers they face. These authentic perspectives provide critical insight into community needs and aspirations. Highlights of participant input include:

Personal Strengths, Relationships, and Social Connectivity

Participants engaged through visual tools and facilitated conversation, contributing drawings, written reflections, and open sharing about their lives. Themes reflect what matters most to participants in the areas of relationships, community involvement, daily living, and dreams for the future.

Representative participant quotes include:

- "Going shopping", "Go to the concert", and "Go dancing".
- "I am proud of my home and friends and my staff at work."
- "I like shopping for clothes."
- "Really good at making friends. My music."
- "Talking to my girlfriend."
- "My love, my girls." (written beside a drawing of a house)
- "Hang out with friends. Sister."
- "I want a job, get married."
- "Want to get married, become a mom/parent."





- "I want to learn to read (Twilight books). Learning how to read is hard."
- "More exercise – to lose weight & make me stronger."
- "Please have a great day! Love, Heather " (with a hand-drawn dog)
- "I'm a happy person and love to have a good time."
- "How strong I've had to be in very difficult situations."
- "Good at being the person people go to when they need a shoulder to cry on."
- "My dogs, baby, husband, house, car, and job are important to me."
- "Money or the knowledge of how to do it affordably and successfully are what is stopping me."
- "Transportation and enough staff."
- "Movies → money."
- "Picking own clothes to wear."
- "Home phone."
- "Trudy (Trudy is sister-in-law)."

Celebrations and Strengths

Participants voiced pride in their ability to self-advocate, build strong friendships, and contribute to their homes and communities. Several mentioned feeling accomplished in activities like the Special Olympics, working with support staff, and engaging in hobbies that bring them joy and purpose.

Challenges and Barriers

Participants highlighted specific barriers preventing them from reaching their goals, including lack of transportation, limited staff support, financial strain, and insufficient opportunities to build meaningful relationships. For some, not having help to learn to read or to find a job remains a major challenge.

Connect & Contribute

To continue to foster community input and collaboration into Council work; the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities frequently hosts virtual and in-person learning and discussion opportunities across the state. Participants are encouraged to read and share this Council **IN** Community session summary and, if interested, connect with Council Members and staff for more information about other Council funded programs and activities.

