



**Minutes
Increased Advocacy for Youth with Disabilities
Council Subcommittee
May 30, 2025**

Minutes of the Increased Advocacy for Youth with Disabilities Council Subcommittee meeting held on May 30, 2025, 1:00 p.m., Hybrid Meeting - Tempe City Hall, 31 E. 5th St., and virtually through Microsoft Teams.

Members Present:

Councilmember Berdetta Hodge – Chair
Mayor Corey Woods – Subcommittee Member

City Staff:

Keith Burke, Deputy City Manager
Lisette Camacho, Deputy City Manager
Greg Ruiz, Chief Deputy City Manager
Monique Perry, ADA Accessibility Coordinator
Eric Anderson, City Attorney
Kris Baxter-Ging, Communication and Marketing Director
Johnathan Shuffield, Government Relations Director
Shawn Wagner, Deputy Community Services Director
Tanya Chavez, Mayor/Council Chief of Staff
Mariana Peña, Mayor's Assistant
Vanessa Lopez, Council Assistant

Stakeholders:

Amanda Steele
Genevieve Vega
Jenniffer Jarvis

Agenda Item 1 – Public Appearances

No public appearances.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of the April 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Mayor Woods motioned for approval of the April 25, 2025, subcommittee meeting minutes, seconded by Councilmember Hodge. Unanimous vote to approve.

Agenda Item 3 – Shine Bright Health Representatives

- Speakers were unable to present due to a scheduling conflict. Information will be passed onto the Commission on Disability Concerns.

Agenda Item 4 – Legislative Update

State Government Update

- There has been little movement in the state legislature since the last meeting.
- Progress remains slow due to a budget impasse between the House and Senate.
- If the chambers cannot present a unified budget to the Governor, negotiations may continue to stall. One chamber could potentially negotiate directly with the Governor if no consensus is reached.

Federal Government Update

President's FY26 Budget Proposal (Released May 2)

Education

- Proposed \$4.5B cut to various K–12 programs, effectively converting them into a block grant.
- Maintains funding for Title I and IDEA but shifts decision-making power to states.
- Proposes elimination of:
 - Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (citing ideological concerns)
 - Childcare support for college students
 - Significant reductions to English language acquisition and migrant student support

Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- \$27B cut to rental assistance programs (including Housing for Persons with Disabilities), with shift to a state-controlled block grant.
- \$527M cut to homeless assistance programs, also converted into a block grant.
- Elimination of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships.

Health and Human Services (HHS)

- Elimination of Community Services Block Grant and Preschool Development Grants.

House Passage of Budget and Tax Cuts Bill (May 22)

- Passed 215–214; two Republicans joined all Democrats in opposition.
- Over 10 years:
 - \$1T in cuts to Medicaid, SCHIP, and SNAP
 - ~\$500B in Medicare cuts due to sequestration impacts
 - ACA marketplace subsidies reduced; could result in 14M losing health insurance and 3M losing food assistance
 - New work requirements for able-bodied Medicaid recipients (effective Dec 2026); currently 70% of recipients are working
 - Medicaid expansion recipients will need to renew eligibility twice per year
 - Restricts states from using provider taxes to raise Medicaid matching funds

Education & Disability Services

- Elimination of subsidized student loans; interest would accrue while students are in school, increasing loan balances by ~15%.
- Potential impact on Part C Early Intervention programs (infants/toddlers with disabilities) due to reduced Medicaid support used by states to fund these services.

Agenda Item 5 – Finalize Resource Guide

- Edits submitted by stakeholders have been implemented by the Communications and Marketing Department.
- Councilmember Hodge emphasized that the resource guide is a living document and will now be maintained by the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Office.
- Stakeholders are encouraged to continue submitting updates and information as needed.

Agenda Item 6 – Council Subcommittee Next Steps

Councilmember Hodge shared that the subcommittee's work has reached a transition point and will now be handed off to the Commission on Disability Concerns for continued oversight. She reviewed the subcommittee's goals and accomplishments, noting that while significant progress has been made, the work will continue.

Goal 1: Investigate the feasibility of appointing or hiring a Family Advocate to support families of youth with disabilities

- *Outcome:*
Met multiple times with state representatives and the federal lobbying firm Ballard Spahr. These discussions confirmed that there are currently no available state or federal funds to support the hiring of a Family Advocate. However, Councilmember Hodge will continue to explore various funding opportunities.

Goal 2: Assess existing City of Tempe training programs and curriculum for alignment with the needs of disabled youth and their families

- *Outcome:*
Input was gathered from various City departments on current training programs. Stakeholders had the opportunity to engage with staff and provide feedback on potential improvements.

Goal 3: Develop a comprehensive Resource Guide tailored to families navigating services for disabled youth

- *Outcome:*
The subcommittee received presentations from key organizations and created a Resource Guide to assist families. Presenting organizations included:
 - Arizona Association for People Supporting Employment First (AZAPSE)
 - Tempe Chamber of Commerce
 - The Centers for Habilitation (TCH)

Goal 4: Transition Services

- *Outcome:*

While not directly within the City's scope, community partners are available to support transition services. This work aligns with the efforts outlined in Goal 3.

Agenda Item 7 – Future Agenda Items (Councilmembers Only)

None.

Mayor Woods made a motion to close the Increased Advocacy for Tempe Youth with Disabilities Council Subcommittee, seconded by Councilmember Hodge.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Vanessa Lopez, Council Assistant, (480) 350-8597

Reviewed by: Tanya Chavez, Mayor and Council Chief of Staff, (480) 858-2215