

# DakotaLink Advisory Council

## Zoom Meeting

### 9/30/2025

## Notes

The meeting began with the confirmation of a quorum and personal updates from members. Brett Burden announced staff changes, including the departure of Page Hudson and the appointment of James Honomichl as the new grant manager. DakotaLink is hiring a technician in Brookings and has a new technician in Sioux Falls. Updates included new technology like Meta glasses and low vision equipment. The group discussed potential outreach strategies, including TV ads and collaborations with other agencies. The next meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2025. The meeting concluded with the approval of the minutes and agenda.

## Action Items

- [ ] Schedule next meeting for Monday, December 15th at 1:00 PM MT / 2:00 PM CT.
- [ ] Investigate using Uplift Media and Giggle TV for advertising.
- [ ] Explore collaboration with Disability Rights South Dakota for marketing/outreach.

## Outline

### Meeting Kickoff and Roll Call

- Brett Burden initiates the meeting, waiting for others to join and share the agenda.
- Richard Moeller confirms a quorum of 12-15 members and suggests personal updates.
- Richard Moeller shares his background as a preschool teacher, tech for his church, and volunteer for historical programs.
- Brett Burden mentions the departure of Page Hudson and introduces James Honomichl as the new grant manager.

### Personal and Professional Updates

- Konnie Hoffman Ellis introduces herself as a YouTuber with a channel called "Gliding Through Blindness."
- James Honomichl shares his background from the Brookings office and his new role in grant management.
- Eric Weiss introduces himself as the Director of the Division of Rehabilitation Services.
- Lyle Cook introduces himself as part of the board for a few years.

## **Further Introductions and Updates**

- Kendra Gottsleben introduces herself as a professional at the Center for Disabilities.
- Tana Zwart introduces herself as a freelance media manager and active in the disability community.
- Mollie Keating introduces herself as a youth advocate and Assistive Technology Program Director.
- Jessica Sehnert introduces herself as part of the Division of Rehabilitation Services, not a voting member but helps with the Tech Act grant.

## **Additional Introductions and Updates**

- Morgan Beckman introduces herself as a rehabilitation quality and insurance program specialist.
- Beth Schiltz introduces herself as part of the Department of Education special ed programs.
- Kayla Kane introduces herself as a vocational rehabilitation counselor in Brookings.
- Amy Scepaniak introduces herself as part of the South Dakota Deaf Blind Project.

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes and Agenda**

- Brett Burden shares the minutes from the last meeting and requests approval.
- Richard Moeller calls for a motion to approve the minutes, which is seconded and approved.
- Brett Burden shares the agenda and requests approval, which is also approved.

## **DakotaLink Update**

- Brett Burden discusses staff changes, including the departure of Page Hudson and the hiring of James Honomichl.
- Brett Burden mentions a staff opening for a technician in Brookings and the hiring of Donelle Beynon in Sioux Falls.
- Brett Burden shares updates on new technology, including Meta glasses and smart glasses with transcription services.
- Brett Burden discusses new demo equipment for low vision and the potential for outreach advertising.

## **Discussion on Outreach and Advertising**

- Richard Moeller suggests mentioning the loan program in ads.
- Tana Zwart mentions the ADA festival in Sioux Falls and the potential for using a video made by Minco.
- Kendra Gottsleben suggests using Uplift Media and Giggle TV for outreach.
- Brett Burden considers the cost and target audience for different advertising methods.

## **State and National Updates**

- Brett Burden confirms funding for fiscal year 2026 and mentions potential additional funding from Congress.
- James Honomichl mentions the potential impact of a government shutdown on AT programs.
- Richard Moeller inquires about the funding source, and Brett Burden confirms it is under the Department of Education.

### **Public Comments and Additional Updates**

- Brett Burden mentions Glean as a note-taking app with transcription capabilities.
- Richard Moeller suggests looking at dates for the next meeting in December 2025.
- The group agrees on December 15 at 1 PM Mountain/2 PM Central for the next meeting.
- Richard Moeller calls for a motion to adjourn, which is seconded and approved.