

DRAFT - MINUTES	
Committee	UTAH INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION
Date, Time	Thursday, July 16, 2026, 2 PM – 4 PM
Location	370 E South Temple, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, UT 84111. Also, virtually via Zoom.
Commissioners Present	Margaret Lindsay, Michael Zimmerman, Paul Dodd, Aaron McKnight, Michael Drechsel, Sen. Todd Weiler.
Commissioners Excused	Chair Kwarm, Rep. Stephanie Gricius, Richard Mauro, Mary Corporon, Kendall Thomas, Wally Bugden, Lorene Kamalu, Tom Ross, Pam Vickrey
Staff	Matthew Barraza, Daniel Lancaster, Katriina Adair, Zoraya Gappmaier
Guests	Naoafioga Lolomatautama, a high school student
Agenda Item	Welcome & Introductions
	Executive Director Matthew Barraza excused Chair Kwarm and welcomed the attendees. Everyone introduced themselves.
Agenda Item	Approval of Minutes
	Approval of minutes was postponed until the next meeting.
Agenda Item	Staff Updates
	Matthew Barraza told commissioners that after a successful recruitment process, he is close to making an offer to fill the data analyst position left vacant when Leslie Howitt accepted another position a couple of months ago. He also informed the commissioners that Ben Miller, IADD deputy chief appellate attorney, has accepted another position and is leaving.
Agenda Item	IDC Strategic Plan Review
	Matthew Barraza explained that the commission collaborated in 2022 with a facilitator to create a 5-year strategic plan with goals and priorities. Each year, he reviews progress to ensure the agency is staying on track. The plan is built on two pillars: Core System Principles and Advocacy. The first pillar focuses on helping systems implement standards for effective representation. The second pillar focuses on relationship building with local and state government decision-makers, attorneys, and other interested parties. The vision of the plan is to move from no state

responsibility for indigent defense--which was the case before the IDC was created--toward a shared responsibility between state and local governments.

Matt highlighted progress toward implementing several goals related to the Core System Principles:

- 1) Institute managing defenders with reduced or no caseloads: 80%
- 2) Create a grant monitoring protocol: 100%
- 3) Distribute state funding fairly and equitably: 60%
- 4) Measure quality representation by creating checklists and training attorneys on how to use them: 80%

Other objectives related to Pillar I that the IDC continues to work on include reaching ABA caseload standards and increasing defender compensation to achieve parity with prosecution.

Progress toward implementing Pillar II objectives includes hiring Zoraya Gappmaier as the training attorney and doubling the training program's scope. Zoraya commented on the success of the specialized continuing legal education (CLE) sessions held two or three times a month and complimented attorneys in and out of Utah for being willing to act as presenters and share their expertise. In response to Commissioner Lindsay's question, Zoraya clarified that recordings of the CLEs and other materials are available to attorneys who are unable to attend the live sessions due to conflicts with court hearings. Commissioner Weiler emphasized that self-study Bar CLE credit hours are limited to six per year. Matt added that the training program is expanding to provide in-person, small-group trainings to meet local needs better. Zoraya then talked about a recent successful training she and Daniel Lancaster provided to educate attorneys in Carbon County on utilizing investigators and experts, including forensic social workers, effectively in their cases. Daniel concurred with Zoraya's remarks about the importance of educating attorneys and raising awareness of the use of experts, particularly forensic social workers who can connect clients to meaningful treatment programs. As a result, attorneys' conceptualization of casework changes from focusing on a short-term solution to focusing on clients' long-term success and ultimately the safety of the community.

Matt closed his report by saying that overall, the IDC has implemented about 80% of the elements along the spectrum toward more state responsibility. He suggested that since there are only a couple of years left in the current plan, it is time to begin planning the successive strategic plan, perhaps this fall. Senator Weiler suggested Van Nguyen as a possible facilitator besides Lisa Vavonese who facilitated the original

	development process. Commissioner Lindsay agreed that a new facilitator might be appropriate and beneficial because the framework was already put in place when the current plan was developed. Matt Barraza will reach out to possible facilitators and report back to the commission.
Agenda Item	Open and Public Meetings Act Training
	Matt played a 7-minute video prepared by the State Auditor's Office on the Open and Public Meeting Act.
Agenda Item	Public Comment
	None
Next Meeting	Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 2 PM.
Adjourn	Commissioner Lindsay moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at about 3:15 PM