

Camp Harkness Advisory Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2025

9:00 AM

Camp Office/ Teams

Present: Stan Soby, Shannon Aiello, Annmarie Poudrier, Betsie Danforth, Jackson Pierre-Louis, Bev Jackson, Cres Secchiaroli

Others: Brian K. Smith, Carrie Rogers, Laurie Allen, Ivana Chylinski

1. Call to Order: 9:11
2. Additions to the Agenda: None
3. Approval of Minutes: Annie motioned to approve April minutes as presented. Jackson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.
4. Camp Report :

The Camp is very busy today in celebration of IDD Awareness Day. This event has been proclaimed by the Governor and he will be in attendance. Activities include providers, State agencies, vendors, music and food. Displays and activities include tours of the Camp and resources available. Ivana gave the April report. Several summer staff members have started. Volunteers and maintenance workers are preparing for the upcoming summer season.

Day Visitors: 782

Events: Farmers with Disabilities, MS Walk

Master Gardeners: 10

Cabin Users: 4 families

5. Camp Harkness Foundation Report: Shannon gave update of activities. The reorganization is ongoing, new members are being added. The 3rd Annual Train Show is scheduled for November 9, 2025. The new logo on apparel will be for sale at today's event. A grant was awarded by the Community Foundation for a Nature Trail. Thanks to Vanessa for her hard work in writing the grant.

6. DDS Report: Cres reported things are very busy and good things are going on in the Legislative Session. Continuing to track Bills essential to our agencies. Pending labor action consuming a lot of our energy. Strike monitoring efforts have been started. DDS monitors to maintain services to avoid negative impact on individuals.

Cres outlined the three measures of the Modernization Project: Document management, digitize system. Modernize Incident Management, alleviate administrative burden. Case Management System, improve communication.

Cres shared he is awaiting the proclamation of the Unified Barbecue Program.

Volunteers are needed for South Region Program Review Committee (PRC) and Human Rights Committee (HRC).

7. Advocacy:

Stan reported on strike notices. The proposed budget still creates disparity.

8. New Business:

A. Next Meeting Date: June 26, 2025

9. Adjournment: 9:41

Betsie motioned, Annie seconded.