



# MILL LEVY ADVISORY COUNCIL

<http://bit.ly/mill-levy-advisory-council>

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## What is the role of the Mill Levy Advisory Council?

The Denver Human Services (DHS) Mill Levy Advisory Council serves as the voice of residents in the City and County of Denver. It reviews current needs and gaps in existing services to make recommendations for essential services and bold innovations to the executive management team at DHS on the administration and dispensation of dedicated mill levy dollars to best serve residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

The mill levy dedicated to serving people with I/DD in Denver was approved in 2003 by nearly 70% of voters, and was further defined in a 2017 companion ordinance.

## What are the values guiding the council, as identified by members?

The council's stated values are courage, loyalty, empowerment, and sustainability.

- **Courage:** Be courageous, go beyond the ordinary to push boundaries and create something workable.
- **Loyalty:** Maintain good relationships and trust. Demonstrate commitment to the process, to individuals and families with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to the greater Denver community.
- **Empowerment:** Be responsive to needs in a way that empowers and includes people.
- **Sustainability:** Build something that lasts beyond the money we spend on it.

Through these values and their work, the council strives to build faith, trust, and hope with the Denver community.

## How often does the council meet?

The council must hold at least four meetings per year and may schedule additional meetings or executive sessions based on needs to meet council goals. Meetings are announced on the DHS website, [denvergov.org/humanservices](http://denvergov.org/humanservices), supported by social media posts and stakeholder outreach.

## How does the council make recommendations?

After discussion, review, and public engagement, the council may vote to make statements of recommendation to DHS about priority needs identified throughout the discovery process. Potential bidding opportunities that result from this process can be found on the DHS website.

## What supports are in place to minimize the possible duplication of services?

DHS is aware that the system that supports people with I/DD is varied and complex. DHS' mill levy program manager works as a liaison to the community of existing providers and services, including the Denver Community Centered Board (CCB), Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS).

Additionally, all members of the council scan for and identify existing efforts that seek to address the needs of Denver residents with I/DD. As the CCB for Denver and a contractor with DHS through mill levy dollars, the mill levy programs of RMHS are of particular interest to the council.

The council structure accounts for this by holding two unique members:

- A CCB delegate that serves as a non-voting member. This person is a source of information from RMHS to the council as it relates to current programs and potential historical or institutional knowledge.
- The council elects one of its own members to sit on the RMHS Community Advisory Council, which meets to discuss mill levy programs and other related community topics.

# MILL LEVY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS



**Dr. Ann Pierce (co-chair)** · *Denver Human Services, retired*

Dr. Barbara “Ann” Pierce, a former intake supervisor with Denver Human Services, has spent the last two decades working directly with children and families. Her work in mental health is grounded in leadership, education, and empowerment. She has an extensive background in psychotherapy, clinical supervision, and trauma. Dr. Pierce is guardian of her oldest brother, who has an intellectual and developmental disability. She recognizes the great need for advocacy, and is driven to make a difference in the lives of those who cannot advocate for themselves.



**J.J. Tomash, Ph.D., BCBA-D (co-chair)** · *BehaviorSpan*

Dr. J.J. Tomash, CEO and owner of BehaviorSpan, has studied and applied behavior analysis for over 16 years. He has worked in virtually every setting where an individual might need help. He has spoken at several international conferences, published multiple articles in peer-reviewed journals, and received research awards. Through his academic and practical studies of behavior analysis, Dr. Tomash has acquired a deep respect for behavior analysis as a tool to improve people’s lives. He hopes to help create programs that will dramatically improve lives well into the future.



**Tim Lomas, GISP (RMHS CAC member)** · *Boulder County*

Tim Lomas, a geospatial solutions engineer at Boulder County, has spent years navigating the school systems, IEPs, care providers, doctors, therapists, and more. His oldest son has autism and has been with Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS) since 2007, thus accessing the mill levy program firsthand. Lomas’s interest in the Mill Levy Advisory Council began when he learned that DHS planned to program additional funds through community participation. Lomas is cross-appointed to serve on RMHS’ Community Advisory Council as a voting member.



**Betty Lehman** · *Lehman Disability Planning*

Betty Lehman, disability advisor for Lehman Disability Planning, has served 30 years as an advocate for individuals with special needs and their families. She spearheaded 14 state statutes, creating hundreds of millions of dollars in funding. Betty has supported hundreds of families to develop their lifetime plans with realistic forethought, defined values, and goals for the entire family. Lehman authored Special Directions®, a parent perspective planning tool which include philosophies, knowledge, and advice for their child’s quality of life.



**Kendall Rames, MA, LPC** · *Urban Peak Denver*

Kendall Rames, deputy director of Urban Peak Denver, is a licensed therapist who has worked with adolescents and young adults for over 30 years in various residential treatment centers. She has spent the last 17 years at Urban Peak, where she has encountered a significant lack of clinical, developmental, and age-appropriate services for youth and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Rames seeks to identify any barriers to services and advocate for changes that can have a positive impact for individuals and their families.



**Lauren Weinstock** · *Artist/Writer/Advocate*

Lauren Weinstock has worked with children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families, since she was 13 years old. She has been a job coach, an apartment living coach, and an advocate. She loves searching for resources and connecting people to them, as well as helping others learn how to access what they need. Lauren is a mother of five. Her middle son has Down syndrome, hearing loss, and severe articulation disorder. She joined the Mill Levy Advisory Council to be a resource and disseminate information to help others.



**Kate Williams** · *Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council*

Kate Williams is executive director of the Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council and serves on the RTD Board of Directors. She is a long-time disability advocate. In her past, she worked as an area resource coordinator for the American Council of the Blind and before that, she ran a national sports center for the disabled. Williams is passionate about supporting current advocates to expand their circle of influence, and hopes to bring issues with equity for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to the mainstream.



**Jennifer Beck (non-voting member)** · *Rocky Mountain Human Services*

Jennifer Beck, director of communications and outreach at RMHS, serves on the Mill Levy Advisory Council as the Denver CCB delegate and is a non-voting member. Her background and expertise is in nonprofit communications. Before joining RMHS in 2018, she was national director of development communications at National Jewish Health for eight years. Beck looks forward to learning and contributing to conversations to support the Mill Levy Advisory Council’s work to create a more inclusive Denver community.