

MEMORANDUM – DENVER COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

TO:	City Council
FROM:	Office of Boards & Commissions
DATE:	5/7/24
PURPOSE:	Appointments for Denver Commission for People with Disabilities
PROCESS:	City Council Confirmation

CURRENT BOARD STATUS

Staff Liaison: Lorrie Kosinski, HRCP

Scope of Board/Commission:

The mission of the Denver Commission for People with Disabilities (DCPD) is to promote and enhance equality for people with disabilities through empowerment, advocacy, and education by working with community members, as well as City and County of Denver officials and employees who have the ability to effect change.

Appointment Process:

The Mayor appoints up to 21 members and City Council confirms appointments for a term of 3 years.

Mayor Mike Johnston has approved the below appointments

Appointment Candidates:

Stephanie Crookston (Female, Caucasian)



Bio: Program Manager, Project SEARCH – UC Health (2017-Present), Mental Health Center of Denver (2013-2017), Denver Juvenile Court (2010-2013). Project SEARCH is an employment training program for high school students with significant disabilities. The program is dedicated to workforce development that benefits the individual, community and workplace.

Term: 06/1/2024 - 05/31/2027 or until a successor is duly appointed

Dedra Prester (Female, African American)



Bio: HR Professional Leader: Gusto (2024-Present), Crocs (2023-2024), Delt Services (2022-2023), DISH (2009-2022)

Term: 06/1/2024 - 05/31/2027 or until a successor is duly appointed

Christine Humphrey (Female, African American)

Bio: VHA Office of Community Care (2020-Present), Rocky Mountain Regional Medical Center VA (2014-2019). Christine makes legal determinations on eligibility for Civilian Health and Medical Program Veteran Administration (CHAMPVA) / Foreign Medical Program (FMP). Expertise in local and federal VA policies pertaining to veteran rights including healthcare, housing, and caregiver programs.

Term: 06/1/2024 - 05/31/2027 or until a successor is duly appointed

Ty Smith (Male, Caucasian)



Bio: Ty Smith is a peer (Person with a disability), policy maker, and advocate - specializing in the mental health system, quality of life measures, and trauma-informed care. Ty Smith grew up in the mental health system – because of that, he was exposed to many other systems. He has experienced all sorts of traumas and setbacks and was told numerous times that he had no future other than jail. Ty persisted and worked hard to change his prescribed destiny and since then he has created and implemented Youth Voice, a cross-disability coalition that focused on creating youth subject matter experts and providing training for effective policy and advocacy activities. Ty has more than 17 years as a state and federal public health policymaker and eight years as a peer provider in the Colorado behavioral health system and has his Bachelor of Science, Administering Nonprofits for Youth. He sits on the Colorado Statewide Independent Living Council (CO SILC) and numerous other councils and committees. Ty Smith is currently employed at Atlantis Community Inc. as the Independent Living Specialist.

Term: 06/1/2024 - 05/31/2027 or until a successor is duly appointed

CURRENT BOARD

TERM END DATE

Brandon Selinsky, Denver (M)(C)	09-30-24
Wade Balmer, Denver (M)(C)	09-30-24
Joanne Stranahan, Commerce City (F)(AA)	09-30-24
Elena Mendoza, Denver (F)(H)	09-30-24
Kyle Weil, Denver (M)(C)	09-30-25
Timothy DaGlau, Denver (M)(C)	09-30-25
Timothy Dodd, Denver (M)(C)	09-30-25
Alicia Cooper, Denver (F)(Two or More Races)	09-30-25
Karen Roberts, Denver (F)(C)	09-30-25
Chelsea Elder, Westminster (F)(C)	09-30-25
Megan Catalfomo, Denver (F)(C)	09-30-26
Danny Combs (M)(C)	09-30-26