

Down Syndrome Association of the Upstate

Board Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2026

Meeting Time: 6:01–7:24 p.m.

Attendance

Elizabeth Duncan, Gini Nichols, Marianne Schroeder, Stacey Scott, Christian Cisneros, Megan Miller, Renee Rubner, Will Franks, Allison Fleahman, and Jenny Lee Turner

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. Board members introduced themselves and welcomed Christian Cisneros.

Finance

The Board reviewed the organization's financial position as of January 31, 2026.

- Year-to-date income: **\$3,111.25**
- Year-to-date expenses: **\$1,832.46**
- Year-to-date programming expenses: **\$229.28**

The organization's financial position remains stable and the 2026 budget is on track.

January income included investment income, while expenses included several prior-year obligations, annual web-hosting fees, and board retreat expenses. Programming expenses are expected to increase as 2026 programs and family-support initiatives begin.

The Board was advised that nonprofit tax filings are expected to be completed well in advance of the May deadline. A previously planned external review of QuickBooks procedures will not move forward because of the accountant's availability.

Receipt and documentation procedures are functioning well.

The Finance Committee will meet after regular Board meetings going forward, allowing it to review questions and follow up as needed. The Board was also advised of a modest increase in monthly storage costs beginning in March.

Community Outreach

The Board discussed strengthening outreach to families receiving a new Down syndrome diagnosis.

DSAU is continuing to build relationships with Prisma Health and other community partners. Opportunities under discussion include providing DSAU information and resources to families and presenting information about DSAU services to hospital social workers and other professionals.

Identifying information regarding individual families has been omitted.

Education

The Education Committee discussed emphasizing research-based programs with potential for long-term benefit to DSAU families.

Potential programs and partnerships discussed included:

- Collaboration with the Children's Theatre, including opportunities to improve accessibility for participants with varying support needs.
- Continued opportunities through The Children's Museum of the Upstate.
- IEP-related consultation and family support.
- Heart Strings music programming.
- Literacy and supplemental learning resources, including **So Happy to Learn** and **The Learning Program**.
- A possible summer workshop to help families prepare for the upcoming school year, including IDEA-related education and resources for homeschool and traditional-school families.

The Education Committee will continue evaluating these opportunities.

BOOST

The Board reviewed the BOOST application process and procedures.

Information concerning individual applicants has been omitted from the public minutes.

Fundraising & Events

Planning continues for the **Chrome & Chromosomes** motorcycle fundraiser. The sponsorship packet has been updated and will be reviewed before distribution. Online registration will be available for motorcycle participants.

Board members will coordinate prospective sponsor outreach to avoid duplication.

The proposed golf fundraiser has been postponed until **Spring 2027**.

Planning for **World Down Syndrome Day** continues, including event promotion, RSVPs, activities, lunch, and the sale of existing DSAU merchandise.

Social Groups

The Board discussed the structure of DSAU social groups and whether age ranges should be adjusted to better meet member needs.

Current groups include:

- Birth–5
- Ages 6–12
- Ages 13–18
- Ages 19+

Social groups are expected to offer approximately four activities per year. The organization is also working toward consistent use of a centralized RSVP system for events.

DSAU continues exploring the development of a **county liaison network across all 11 counties** in its service area to strengthen outreach and connections throughout the Upstate.

2026 Planning

Each committee will establish goals for the year, including expected programs, communication timelines, identified needs, and other measurable priorities.

Committee members will develop programming plans and specific action steps for 2026.

Website & Communications

Events continue to be added to the DSAU website.

Each committee is responsible for reviewing the website content related to its work and submitting necessary updates or revisions.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded at **7:24 p.m.**

