

Mar 6, 2025

WYAC In-Person Meeting

Invited Abigail Tucker Brian DeTavernier Liz Davis Nathaniel Williams
Szaber parker Zoey Hudgens

Attachments 📎 WYAC In-Person Meeting

Meeting records 🎙 Recording

Summary

Brian DeTavernier, Szabre Parker, Abigail Tucker, and Liz Davis (Nate absent) finalized the 2025 conference plans, including scheduling speakers Samantha Smith, Elliot Hinkle, and Dominic Syracuse (whose team-building session will leverage the rural health network), and addressing concerns about foster parent attendance, youth supervision, and funding. A new registration form, with an April 30th deadline, was created and published, incorporating details on housing, transportation, dietary restrictions, and guardian information for minors; Szabre Parker, Liz Davis, and Brian DeTavernier will meet to finalize the itinerary before the leadership meeting.

Details

- **Meeting Attendance and Agenda:** The meeting began with Brian DeTavernier, Szabre Parker, and Abigail Tucker present. Liz Davis joined later, while Nate was absent. Szabre Parker shared a conference schedule, which they could edit.
- **Conference Speakers and Activities:** They discussed scheduling three guest speakers: Samantha Smith, Elliot Hinkle (Saturday), and Dominic Syracuse (Friday, the 20th). Syracuse's presentation would include team building focused on mental health and cognitive behavioral therapy, and they planned to collaborate on the specifics. They also noted Syracuse's connection to the rural health network, which they hoped to leverage to gather resources for judges and the public via Wyoming 211.

- **Foster Parent Attendance and Housing:** Concerns were raised about foster parent attendance and shared housing arrangements, particularly based on Nate's email. Szabre Parker addressed these concerns, emphasizing that participation was optional and that the camping trip was cost-effective. They agreed to discuss these concerns further with foster care coordinators and the advisory council.
- **Youth Supervision and Behavior:** Szabre Parker expressed concerns about appropriate behavior and supervision, citing past incidents at legislative day meetings and the previous conference. They emphasized the need to clearly communicate expectations regarding appropriate conduct for all attendees, and to ensure that underage attendees were accompanied by guardians.
- **Registration and Funding:** Szabre Parker confirmed that no application had been sent out yet. They decided to create a new Google Form for registration, with a deadline of April 30th. Szabre Parker also announced that their \$500,000 funding request had been denied by the legislature due to federal budget constraints, prompting discussion about alternative fundraising strategies.
- **Finalizing the Registration Form:** They finalized the registration form to include attendee information, attendance dates, housing preferences (tent, cabin, or personal tent), transportation assistance, allergies, and age. For those under 18, the form required guardian information, with a clear process established for those lacking a guardian to contact Brian DeTavernier. They added a disclaimer emphasizing that under-18 participants must be accompanied by a guardian. They also added a section for those interested in helping prepare meals during the conference.
- **Mills Springs Ranch Details:** They added a section describing Mill Springs Ranch's facilities and accommodations, clarifying their rural nature.
- **Speaker Time Slots:** Liz Davis had already sent proposed time slots (between 1-4 pm, or 9-10 am/evening) to Samantha Smith for Saturday's presentations, awaiting their response to finalize the schedule. Samantha Smith is covering Elliot Hinkle's fees.
- **Dominic Syracuse's Fee:** They discussed Dominic Syracuse's speaking fee, acknowledging that he is willing to negotiate. His team-building and comedy presentation is intended to strengthen relationships among attendees.

- Alcohol Policy at Milspring Ranch** Szabre Parker, Brian DeTavernier, and Liz Davis discussed the allowance of alcohol at Milspring Ranch for the upcoming conference. Initial concerns were raised regarding the potential for retraumatization of youth with alcohol-related trauma. However, Szabre Parker argued that an outright ban wasn't necessary, suggesting responsible consumption and cleanup of messes. Liz Davis ultimately advocated for an alcohol-free event due to the presence of underage youth and the risk of irresponsible behavior, a position Szabre Parker eventually agreed with, suggesting that they would simply not mention the policy to avoid discouraging attendance or causing unnecessary controversy. They concluded that they would not explicitly prohibit alcohol but would rely on attendees' responsible behavior and the potential intervention of Brian DeTavernier should problems arise.
- Conference Registration Form** Szabre Parker and Liz Davis reviewed and finalized the 2025 in-person conference registration form . They made several revisions, including clarifying the question about attendance dates and adding questions regarding transportation, dietary restrictions, and assistance with meal preparation. They also added a section for roommate preferences, noting that they may not be able to accommodate all preferences . Brian DeTavernier later contributed to finalizing the form by suggesting an additional question on reliable transportation and specifying cabin and tent accommodations. The finalized form was published, and a plan to distribute it was made.
- Itinerary and Addressing Past Concerns** Szabre Parker proposed including a section in the conference itinerary that addresses concerns from the previous year's conference. Liz Davis questioned the necessity and potential effectiveness of this approach, suggesting that focusing on the current year's improvements might be more beneficial. Brian DeTavernier added that regardless of prior efforts to address issues, there would inevitably be new concerns raised given the nature of the event and participants. They decided to move forward with creating the itinerary while understanding that adjustments will likely occur and that they should focus on providing a positive experience for attendees. A follow-up meeting among Szabre Parker, Liz Davis and Brian DeTavernier was scheduled to finalize this itinerary before the leadership meeting.
- Szabre Parker's Investment Plans** Szabre Parker shared their plans to pursue day trading and investing to improve their financial stability . They expressed their desire for financial independence, aiming to achieve financial goals such as owning a house and car, while using the skills gained to fund higher education.

Liz Davis offered support and encouragement, acknowledging the potential risks and rewards.

Suggested next steps

- ☐ Szabre Parker and Brian DeTavernier will finalize the conference schedule, including times for Samantha Smith and Elliot Hinkle's presentations, and send it to Dominic Syracuse for feedback.
- ☐ Brian DeTavernier will schedule a meeting with the foster parent supervisor to discuss their thoughts on the conference housing arrangements.
- ☐ Brian DeTavernier will discuss with the advisory council concerns about foster parents sharing facilities with others.
- ☐ Liz Davis will verify the times sent to Samantha Smith and Elliot Hinkle and confirm their availability.
- ☐ Szabre Parker will create and send out the conference registration Google Form with Brian DeTavernier's input and feedback.
- ☐ Szabre Parker and Brian DeTavernier will discuss fundraising options to address the loss of \$500,000 in legislative funding.
- ☐ Szabre Parker will publish the conference registration form.
- ☐ Szabre Parker and Brian DeTavernier will revise the lodging preference question to clarify accommodation options (bunkhouses, cabins, tents) and the possibility of sharing, specifying capacities for each.
- ☐ Szabre Parker will address concerns from last year's conference in the itinerary, outlining complaints and implementing improvements.
- ☐ Brian DeTavernier will finalize the Friday schedule with Dominic.
- ☐ Szabre Parker, Brian DeTavernier, and Liz Davis will schedule another meeting to finalize the itinerary, incorporating feedback from Samantha, Elliot, and the other individual.
- ☐ Brian DeTavernier and Szabre Parker will discuss and determine the costs associated with setting up the conference venue the day before the event.

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