Guiding Principles
We believe:

all people can contribute to society
all people rely on and need the support of each other
all people are accountable for their actions, including the right to risk success or failure
all people are responsible to become a contributing member of their community
all people are valuable and worthy of dignity and respect
there is richness in diversity
all people have the right to have their voice heard

Vision Statement
“A world where everyone has access to what they need to get what they want from life.”

Mission Statement
The Utah Developmental Disabilities Council will advocate, build capacity and encourage systems change to support people with disabilities and their families to fully and independently participate in their communities

-Adopted September 8, 2015
1970 Congress creates Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Amendments, introducing the term “developmental disabilities” into law and including more individuals with disabilities.

1971 Governor Calvin Rampton establishes the Governor’s Advisory Council for Handicapped and Developmentally Disabled Children.

1971 Disability agencies propose the Council create an organization to accept state aid (DDSA).

1972 Ineda Roe appointed as Executive Director of the Council.

1975 UDDC leads advocacy efforts against a set of proposed fees to access disability services.

1976 Council is renamed as Utah Council for Handicapped and Developmentally Disabled Persons.

1977 The Task Force on Institutional Options and Community Alternatives is created to propose plans to move institutionalized individuals into community supports.

1979 “In the word ‘disability’ there is always ‘ability’.”

LaMar Kap
Council Member, 1977

1980 The Council and Utah Transit Authority work together to make accessible transit.

1980 Carmen B Pingree—educator, community advocate, and namesake of the Carmen Pingree Autism Center for Learning—is elected as Council Chair.

1985 Council creates Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities to advocate at legislative level for systems change.

1986 Dr. Fran Morse appointed as Executive Director of the Council.

1970s

1980 Carmen B Pingree—educator, community advocate, and namesake of the Carmen Pingree Autism Center for Learning—is elected as Council Chair.
1990 The DD Act is amended to include language supporting interdependence, inclusion, and recognition of contributions of individuals with disabilities

1990 President George H.W. Bush signs the Americans with Disabilities Act

1993 Council helps form the Uintah Basin Disabilities Council in Vernal, to serve rural individuals

1992 The Council begins managing the Access Utah Network, a referral network of services for all disabilities. It was later used during the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games.

1993 Council and ARC of Salt Lake City form People First of Utah as a social network for self-advocates

1994 Council funds Partners in Policymaking Advocacy Training Program for families and self-advocates to learn how to impact legislation

1994 The DD Act is amended again to include an emphasis on individual dignity, personal preferences, and cultural differences

1995 Council is renamed as Governor's Council for People with Disabilities (GCPD)

1995 Council and ARC of Cache County form first People First group in rural Utah

1996 Catherine Chambless is named Executive Director of the Council

1998 SLC Olympic Organizing Committee forms advisory committee, including Council Director Catherine Chambless, to ensure people with disabilities are welcome at and able to enjoy the 2002 Olympic Games

"We should promote independence."

Catherine Chambless, Executive Director, 1992

Students at a new school for children with autism, later named the Carmen Pingree Autism Center for Learning, 1998.
2000 An updated version of the DD Act (PL 106-402) is created, including language that requires “provision of care that is free of abuse, neglect, sexual and financial exploitation, and violations of legal and human rights and that subject individuals with developmental disabilities to no greater risk of harm than others in the general population” and required greater network cooperation.

"Children belong with families, [and] we should provide support to families to help them keep their children … That’s what is best for children.”

Christine Fraizer  
LCPD Advocate, 2005

2001 Alison Lozano is named Executive Director of the Council

2005 Student and self-advocate Kim Yeoman visits a black bear den in central Utah with support from BYU’s newly named University Accessibly Center and the GCPD.

2006 The GCPD is renamed the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council (UDDC)

2006 Claire Montanya is named the Executive Director of the Council

2008 Governor Huntsman declares March at Developmental Disabilities Month in response to advocacy efforts from the UDDC

2010s

2015 Southwest Applied Technology College (SWATC) and the UDDC work together with legislative support to create an employment program for individuals with disabilities in southern Utah

2016 The UDDC is recognized with the Utah Ethical Leadership Award

2018 Libby Oseguera is named Executive Director of the Council

2020 UDDC revives the Partners in Policymaking program

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