



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

March 11, 2024

**GENERAL MEMORANDUM NO. 063 – 24**

To: Secretary of Samoan Affairs, CEOs, Presidents and Executive Directors of Authorities, Directors, Agency and Office Heads

From: Governor of American Samoa

Subject: Appointment of American Samoa Development Disabilities Planning Council

Pursuant to A.S.C.A § 4.1304, I hereby reconstitute and make the following appointments to the American Samoa Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC).

American Samoa's DDPC is one of 56 Councils who are charged with identifying the most pressing needs of people with developmental disabilities in their state or territory. Councils are committed to advancing public policy and systems change that help these individuals gain more control over their lives.

DDPC members work to address identified needs by conducting advocacy, systems change, and capacity-building efforts that promote self-determination, integration, and inclusion. Key activities include conducting outreach, providing training and technical assistance, removing barriers, developing coalitions, encouraging citizen participation, and keeping policymakers informed about disability issues.

The composition of the Council must be diverse and at least 60% of them are individuals with developmental disabilities or their family members, working alongside Advocates and state agency representatives. This diversity enables Councils to better analyze and improve systems and services within a state and ensure that the voices of people with developmental disabilities and their families are heard. The term for Council members is three years.

<b>Self – Advocate Members</b>	<b>Immediate Family Members or Guardian Members</b>
1. Alofa Faualo	1. Maria Guyapa
2. Elisa Lutu	2. Denise Meredith
3. Lauren Meredith	3. Sala Pauu
4. Uaea Satele	4. Melinda Peko
5. Fausaga Taufete'e	5. Taumaoe Suiiaunoa
6. Dennis Vaiga	6. Alofagia So'oto Tua
	7. Katerina Vaiga

**Representation of Agencies and Organizations**

1. Dr. Herbert Boat, Special Education, Department of Education
2. Evelyn Lili’o Satele, Territorial Administration on Aging
3. Muavaefa’atasi John E. Suisala, Department of Human and Social Services
4. Dr. Delaney D. Tilo, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
5. Dr. Matautu Peter Tinitali, Office of Protection and Advocacy for the Disabled
6. Tafaimamao Tua-Tupuola, Pacific Center in Human Security (formerly the University Center on Excellence for Developmental Disabilities), American Samoa Community College
7. Ipuneiaso Eliapo-Unutoa, Maternal and Child Health Program, Department of Health

All departments and agencies, especially those with designated representatives, are encouraged to support and, where appropriate, assist the Council in developing and implementing its goals.

This supersedes General Memorandum No. 083-2016.



LEMANU P.S. MAUGA  
Governor