The Utah Developmental Disabilities Council met recently at the CPD.

The Utah Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council took a field trip to Utah State University’s Center for Persons with Disabilities on May 14. Every state has a DD council, said CPD Consumer Liaison Gordon Richins, which works with the University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and the Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Agency under the umbrella of the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. The Center for Persons with Disabilities is Utah’s UCEDD, while the Disability Law Center in Salt Lake City is Utah’s P&A. The DD Council works on multiple topics throughout the year, Richins said, supporting activities and projects that go beyond the requirements of the Developmental Disabilities Act, which makes sure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families have access to community-based services to promote opportunities for independence, productivity and inclusion. “The DD Council has greatly changed the quality of life for people with Disabilities in Utah,” Richins said. CPD Director Bryce Fifield is the co-chair of the Education and Employment Committee, which supports the development of opportunities for people with disabilities to pursue post-public school education experiences, and to find and keep jobs. The UDDC, in partnership with the Disability Law Center and the Center for Persons with Disabilities, recently offered an advanced leadership academy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The academy included leadership skills development, community mentoring and support as the participants exercised their advocacy skills beyond the disability community.