

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities
November 22, 2019 9:30 am
Highlands Golf Course Conference Room
5501 NW 12 Street
Lincoln, NE

Copies of the agenda were sent to Council members prior to the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jennifer Meints and called to order at 9:30 am. Quorum was present.

Present: Jessica Barrett, Reagan Boyer, Brenda DeLancey, Jason Gieschen, Dale Johannes (arrived at 9:54 am), Mikayla Johnson, Matt Kaslon, Jennifer Meints, Cheryl Montgomery, Ryan Moore, Sara Morgan, Stephen Morton, Sharon Orduña, Erin Phillips, Paige Rose, Debbie Salomon, Rachel Siffring, Wayne Stuberg, Dee Valenti, Haley Waggoner, and Jane Ziebarth-Bovill.

Absent: Seamus Kelly, Heather Leschinsky, Courtney Miller, and Steve Milliken.

Guests: Jamie Chambers (on behalf of Steve Milliken), Eric Evans, Susan Gieschen, Angie Gonzales-Dorn (on behalf of Courtney Miller), and Jennie Schneider.

Staff: Kristen Larsen, Joni Dulaney, and Nikki Krause.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act

Jennifer Meints announced that the Council meeting is following the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is posted on the wall by the entrance to the meeting room.

Approval of Minutes

Jennifer asked if there were any corrections to the August 16, 2019 meeting minutes. As there were no corrections, Jennifer called for a motion to approve the minutes. Wayne Stuberg made the motion and Sharon Orduña seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 11, No – 0, Abstain – 8.*** Motion carried.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

As required by Council policy, at the beginning of each new federal fiscal year members of the Council shall verbally declare any potential conflicts of interest of which they are aware. Council members were asked to verbally declare any conflicts of interest. They are noted below:

Jessica Barrett	People First of Nebraska
Reagan Boyer	Parent Training and Information, Autism Society of Nebraska
Brenda DeLancey	Children's Hospital and Medical Center
Jason Gieschen	Special Olympics Nebraska
Dale Johannes	Tabitha Nursing Home, Brain Injury Advisory Council
Mikayla Johnson	Department of Health and Human Services
Matt Kaslon	Special Olympics Nebraska, Nebraska Youth Leadership Council
Seamus Kelly	Absent
Heather Leschinsky	Absent
Jennifer Meints	The Arc of Lincoln, Autism Center of Nebraska
Courtney Miller	Absent
Steve Milliken	Absent
Cheryl Montgomery	Northstar Services, Nebraska Association of People Supporting Employment, Nebraska Association of Community Professionals, Holy Cow! What Now?

Ryan Moore	Bellevue Public Schools
Sara Morgan	Department of Health and Human Services
Stephen Morton	The Arc of Norfolk, University of Nebraska Medical Center (National Core Indicators)
Sharon Orduña	None
Erin Phillips	People First of Nebraska, The Arc of Nebraska
Paige Rose	Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation, Client Assistance Program, Nebraska Association of People Supporting Employment
Debbie Salomon	Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee
Rachel Siffring	None
Wayne Stuberg	Munroe-Meyer Institute
Dee Valenti	The Community Support Network Nebraska
Haley Waggoner	Special Olympics Nebraska
Jane Ziebarth-Bovill	University of Nebraska at Kearney, Lions Club

Fiscal Reports

Kristen Larsen presented the FFY 19 Fiscal Report, a handout at the meeting. For FFY 19 (October 1, 2018 -- September 30, 2019), the Council budgeted \$293,702 and the *Year to Date Expenditures* were \$319,680. **NOTE:** The overage (\$25,978) was because the funding for the N&R Publication insert came out of *Operating Expenses*.

The report reflects the balance of funds from FFY 18 and FFY 19 as of September 30. *Current Funds Available* were \$598,762; *Expenditures* totaled \$279,685; and the *Balance of Current Funds Available* was \$319,077. Kristen did secure written permission from the Office of Grants Management (OGM) to continue spending down FFY 18 funds.

The second report Kristen presented was the FFY 20 (October 1, 2019 -- September 30, 2020) Fiscal Report, a handout at the meeting. The Council budgeted \$299,233 at the August 2019 Council meeting and the *Year to Date Expenditures* were \$22,322.

The report reflects the balance of funds from FFY 18, FFY 19, and FFY 20 as of October 31. *Current Funds Available* were \$622,546; *Expenditures* totaled \$279,684; and the *Balance of Current Funds Available* was \$342,861.

The Council used to have a three year Period of Performance to spend funds, however that has been changed to two years. Nevertheless, the Council is on track to spend its allotted funding.

Subaward Funding Updates

In August, the Council approved funding to Best Buddies International, Inc. for their *Best Buddies School Inclusion* project, with one of the contingencies being to back out the cost to send project staff to the national training in Florida. Joni Dulaney explained that in the *Budget Narrative* the cost of the training was \$1,300. However, in the *Line Item Budget*, they were only charging the Council a portion of the training cost. Joni had Best Buddies back out the portion attributed to the Council. So instead of \$13,700 which was approved, the correct amount would be \$14,471. As a result of the \$14,471 funding allotment, the Match would be changed to \$4,823. A motion was made by Erin Phillips to amend the amount of subaward funding to Best Buddies International, Inc. to \$14,471 and Sara Morgan seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 20, No – 0, Abstain – 0.** * Motion carried.

In August, the Council approved funding to Blue Fire Consulting, LLC. in the amount of \$108,000 in response to the Person-Centered Planning Request for Applications (RFA). A funding collaboration was done with the Medicaid Long-Term Care Division. Medicaid contributed \$78,000 from the *Money Follows the Person* program and the Council contributed \$30,000. The subaward was written, entered into DHHS' system, and was denied because Blue Fire Consulting, LLC. is a *for-profit* entity. (DHHS Procurement has since come out with a guide that for-profits are ineligible for funding.) DHHS's Legal Division sent a letter to Blue Fire Consulting, LLC. that the subaward would not be executed. A motion was made by Dee Valenti to restore the \$30,000 that had been approved for Blue Fire Consulting, LLC. to the Council's Operating Budget and Debbie Salomon seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 20, No – 0, Abstain – 0.** * Motion carried.

Subsequently, the Council needs to determine if the Person-Centered Planning RFA should be rereleased with amended wording that for-profit entities may not apply for subaward funding. The \$78,000 from the *Money Follows the Person* program is still available. The RFA would go out again nationally and could potentially be released next week. Applications would be due in January, the Grant Review Committee would review any applications and make their recommendation to the Council at the February meeting, and the subaward start date would be May 1.

Blue Fire Consulting, LLC. was the top scoring applicant out of the three applicants that previously applied by a strong margin. All three applicants would be able to reapply. The Legal Division explained that Blue Fire Consulting, LLC could reapply by either creating a *non-profit* entity or finding a *non-profit* entity that they could fall under. A motion was made by Sara to re-release the Person-Centered Planning RFA with the amended language that for-profit entities may not apply for subaward funding and Ryan Moore seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 20, No – 0, Abstain – 0.** * Motion carried.

Committee Assignments and Election of Standing Committee Chairpersons

A list of committee assignment was included in the meeting packet. Members were asked to review the assignments and to contact Council staff if there were any changes needed.

Wayne recommended to slate the ballot and then if there was no dissent, to conduct a block vote.

Seamus Kelly expressed interest in serving as the Legislative and Advocacy (L&A) Committee Chairperson and Kristen confirmed that he would be willing to run for the L&A Committee Chairperson position. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

Dale Johannes nominated Seamus for the L&A Committee Chairperson position and Dee seconded.

Ryan Moore and Erin Phillips both expressed interest in serving as the Planning Committee Chairperson and Kristen confirmed that they were both willing to run for the Planning Committee Chairperson position. When asked if there were any nominations from the floor, Matt Kaslon was named. Matt confirmed he would be willing to run for the Planning Committee Chairperson position.

Stephen Morton nominated Ryan for the Planning Committee Chairperson position and Jessica Barrett seconded. Debbie nominated Erin for the Planning Committee Chairperson position and Dale seconded. Brenda DeLancey nominated Matt for the Planning Committee Chairperson position and Jane Ziebarth-Bovill seconded.

Sharon Orduña expressed interest in serving as the Grant Review Committee Chairperson and Kristen confirmed that she would be willing to run for the Grant Review Committee Chairperson position. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

Jane nominated Sharon for the Grant Review Committee Chairperson and Matt seconded.

A motion was made by Debbie for Seamus Kelly to serve as the L&A Committee Chairperson for FFY 20 and for Sharon Orduña to serve as the Grant Review Committee Chairperson for FFY 20 and Dale seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 19, No – 0, Abstain – 1.** * Motion carried.

A secret ballot vote was conducted for the Planning Committee Chairperson position. Ryan Moore will serve as the Planning Committee Chairperson for FFY 20. (Ryan 18 votes, Erin 1 vote, Matt 1 vote)

As a reminder, Committee meeting dates are:

- Legislative & Advocacy Committee – February 6, 2020
- Planning Committee – April 16, 2020 (The Planning Committee will have some additional meetings due to the development process for the Council's new Five-Year State Plan.)
- Grant Review Committee – August 13, 2020

Update on Administration on Community Living Disaster, Preparation, Response, and Recovery Listening Sessions

All Nebraska partners that receive funding from the Administration on Disabilities received an email that representatives from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) were coming to Nebraska for two listening sessions to hear and learn from individuals with disabilities, and their families and caregivers, about their experiences to emergencies or disaster situations. November 17 the listening session was in Columbus and November 18 the listening session was in Omaha. People could call in to the sessions, but only to listen and not actively contribute. ACL is going across the nation and visiting 18 sites. Kristen will be reaching out to Nebraska's self-advocacy organizations to get the self-advocacies' perspectives. Kristen shared the *Visual Language Disaster Assistance Translator* tool and the *Nebraska Strong Recovery Project* booklet with ACL. ACL is taking comments through March 2020, and Council members were strongly encouraged to submit their comments. Kristen will share the website for public comment. Ultimately, there will be a written report from ACL with their findings. In the meantime, Kristen will be asking for a copy of the Nebraska specific notes so they can be reviewed by the Council and Planning Committee.

Councils across the country have been looking at Emergency Preparedness (education/training) and this is something the Nebraska Council and Planning Committee should consider and look at when developing the next Five-Year State Plan goals. Perhaps there could be key collaboration with the DD Network Partners to each take a little piece.

NOTE: ADA does NOT apply to faith-based organizations.

Conference Attendance Report

Jessica attended the 2019 Annual People First of Nebraska (PFN) Convention, October 25 – 27 in Kearney, Nebraska. There were a number of breakout sessions on how to be a better self-advocate and that there is strength in relationship building. They went to the session Erin presented, learned some yoga, and got to meet Ms. Wheelchair Nebraska who was the keynote speaker. Jennie Schneider

mentioned that she went to a session on *Aging and Disability*, which was very informative. Jessica proudly announced that she joined the People First Scottsbluff Chapter. In fact, she is the People First Scottsbluff Chapter and Jennie is the Advisor.

Erin announced that Edison McDonald, from The Arc of Nebraska, was awarded *Professional of the Year* at the PFN Convention.

Wayne mentioned that Kathy Lloyd, Nebraska Youth Leadership Council (NYLC), met with Kellie Ellerbusch, PFN, last week to see what could be done to facilitate the transition of individuals who have aged out of NYLC to become involved with PFN, if they would like to do so. Kristen stated that PFN is not just an organization for individuals with I/DD, but has broadened to cross-disabilities.

Council members were reminded to turn in their *Council Member Conference Request Form* to Council staff as soon as you know about a conference, so copies of the requests can be made and sent out in the meeting packets. Council members may request to attend two in-state conferences and one national conference per FFY (October 1 – September 30) as long as funds allow and the conference relates to one of the State Plan goals. Upon return from a conference, Council members need to submit the *Council Member Conference Report Summary* and report on the conference at the Council meeting following the conference. Expense Reimbursements and receipts must be submitted and approved no more than 60 days after the final day in which the expenses were incurred.

Updates from Agency Representatives

Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Paige Rose reported that the Nebraska Department of Education budget for Nebraska VR received an increase in state appropriation dollars and received the full amount requested in federal re-allotment funds. Approximately 1,300 individuals have been removed from the wait list in the last few months. More will come off in January. As of November 7, 2019 there are 2,586 individuals on the wait list. 1,476 are in Priority Group 1. 716 are in Priority Group 2. 394 are in Priority Group 3. VR continues to collaborate with DDD and service providers to serve more people on the wait list. VR has been active with Olmstead meetings. As a result of the VR staff hiring freeze, there are 48 vacancies. A few of the positions are starting to post. An updated Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) state plan is due in March 2020. Thank you to all that have completed the survey.

Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD)

Angie Gonzales-Dorn reported, on behalf of Courtney Miller, that the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Amendment was approved with an effective date of October 1, 2019. The timeline for Phase 1 of the Institutional Level of Care Redesign project has been extended. An updated scope of work and timeline will be distributed and posted to the website when completed. The Rate Rebase and Objective Assessment Process Redesign project is on schedule. They are considering standardized risk screening tools to replace Nebraska's homegrown screening tools. The Request for Proposals (RFP) process is underway for contracting with a quality improvement type organization-like entity. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Health and Welfare State Review Team will be visiting December 9 – 13 for a review of compliance with health and safety oversight of HCBS waiver participants. The *DRAFT* of the Olmstead Plan has been posted at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Olmstead.aspx>. Comments on the DRAFT Olmstead Plan can be emailed to nebraskaolmstead@tacinc.org and will be accepted until November 22. The HCBS State Transition Plan for Nebraska has been submitted to CMS for review and approval. The DD Advisory Committee meeting is December 5.

Kristen asked Angie to update the Council on the *Employment* piece. Angie shared that previous waivers for Pre-Voc and Supported Employment crossed over into what VR does in the *Milestones*. So they knew things needed to be changed. The previous waiver for Pre-Voc had *search and apply for jobs* and that really is a *Milestone*. So that was removed. They determined that Pre-Voc was really about developing skills to get ready for a referral to VR. In order to be authorized for the Pre-Voc Waiver Service, you do not have to go through VR and found ineligible. Pre-Voc is also used to maintain skills that individuals have while they are on the VR wait list. For supported employment, the individual has to be on the VR wait list.

Maternal and Child Health, Division of Public Health

Sara Morgan reported that they are continuing to work with their partnership with MMI through the Title V Maternal and Child Healthcare (MCH) Block Grant. They are working with the US Census Bureau to oversample Nebraska and obtain more data on indicators specific to Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN). The Title V MCH Needs Assessment is an important way to set priorities for Nebraska's MCH population. The Needs Assessment will set the priorities for Nebraska Title V for the next five years. The kick-off meeting for the Needs Assessment was held in October, and small groups will start meeting in December. They are still taking volunteers for the Needs Assessment, if anyone is interested in being a part of this, let Sara know.

Department of Education

Jamie Chambers (on behalf of Steve Milliken) reported that the Paraeducator Conference was November 19. Because it is difficult for paraeducators to get away for one day in the middle of the week, it was asked if there was a way for the paraeducators, that were unable to attend the conference, to get the information presented. It was also asked if the paraeducators could participate at a remote site or via webinar. Jamie will take those questions back with her. The Tri-State Law Conference was November 7 – 8, and information on legislation and legal issues of the last year was presented. The Results Driven Accountability (RDA) Stakeholder meeting was October 25, and statewide stakeholders were able to provide updates on things going on. They are continuing with the strategic focus of recruitment and retention of Special Education Personnel. (This is also a national issue.) There is a Special Education Director Zoom meeting every month and the next one is Monday, November 25. The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) State Conference will be in April. The Nebraska School Mental Health Conference will be in June. The Deaf-Blind Summer Institute will be in July.

Kristen mentioned that the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) has set new priorities for the next five years and they are being evaluated by top staff. A number of the priorities will address the behavioral health needs of students with disabilities.

Medicaid and Long-Term Care

Kristen explained that Heather Leschinsky has been serving as the Medicaid and Long-Term Care representative. Her position has changed and she is now the Cross-Divisional Medicaid Liaison reporting to DHHS CEO Dannette Smith. In order to serve as the Medicaid and Long-Term Care representative on the Council, the person must be fully immersed in Medicaid and Long-Term Care. As a result, Kristen has initiated the process with Director Matthew Van Patton, Medicaid and Long-Term Care, to recommend a new Medicaid and Long-Term Care representative to the Governor's Office. Kristen sent an email to Mr. Van Patton's assistant to see if they were going to send a representative to today's meeting. Kristen was notified that they would not be sending a representative to the meeting today.

As far as the Aging and Disability (A&D) Waiver, Kristen noted the development that the children who were deemed not eligible for the A&D Waiver were recently offered the opportunity to apply and become eligible for a DD Waiver without having to be on the wait list. Wayne mentioned that one of the programs

MMI does collaboratively with Title V includes offering an educational series on transition topics. Tony Green, Deputy Director of DDD, was one of the speakers and presented on DDD services and commented that if there is a requirement, as it relates to the waiver services, when you are below the age of 21 and are going to go on a waiver, as far as DDD is concerned, they look at the family's income to determine if that individual is going to receive Medicaid. But then after the individual turns 21, it is their income, as an individual, that Medicaid looks at. If they aren't working and don't have any other benefits, then they become Medicaid eligible right away. If DDD offers the family a slot for their child who is under 21, then the child is automatically eligible to receive Medicaid services and they don't look at the family income. It is an exception to the rule as how it works in reference to Medicaid. If a child under 21 is offered a DD waiver slot, then Medicaid has to give the child Medicaid services even if the parents are wealthy. With everyone else, Medicaid uses the household income to make the determination of eligibility of Medicaid. There were also questions regarding Disabled Adult Child (DAC), the Social Security Law, and Share of Cost. (DAC is something the Planning Committee needs to look at.) There are still a number of Medicaid questions and this is why a Medicaid Long-Term Care representative is needed at the table.

Behavioral Health

Mikayla Johnson reported that the Justice Behavioral Health Conference took place October 28 – 30. The conference was packed with 475 attendees which shows that this is a much needed conference and it should continue at least bi-yearly. Their Needs Assessment will start in the spring and will look at service needs and gaps in the community within the Behavioral Health System for the next three years. When disasters occur, the President can declare an emergency and at that point, they have 14 days to write a grant called the Immediate Services Program. The Program usually lasts 60 days, theirs lasted longer due to no cost extensions. After the 60 days, another grant was written for Regular Services Program and that goes until May 17, 2020. The Program provides Crisis Counselors in Behavioral Health Regions who go out and become part of long-term care support groups who work with Emergency Managers to help flood survivors obtain resources. You can contact either the region offices or the Rural Response Hotline (in Bancroft, Nebraska) and tell them you need assistance and they will direct you to a Crisis Counselor.

Updates from our DD Network Representatives

Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI)/University Center of Excellence for Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

Wayne Stuber reported that the groundbreaking for the new MMI Building on the UNO Aksarben Campus took place and the anticipated completion date is March 2021. MMI will still be a part of UNMC, just not on UNMC Campus. MMI has had a number of changes in leadership with people leaving. Recruitment is being done for the UCEDD Director. Wayne will be retiring in December 2020. There will be a six month overlap with Wayne and the new Director, then the new Director will take over no later than July 1, 2020.

One of the new programs in the new building will be *Caring for Champions* which is for individuals involved with Special Olympics. It will bring dental and vision services to MMI so people can receive these services, which MMI does not currently have, in the building in cooperation with the College of Dentistry and the Ophthalmology Department. They are also working on setting up a collaboration with the Physician Network thru Boys Town and/or Children's Hospital so if people coming in have a child with an I/DD, there would also be health services provided for the typically developing peers in the family.

Disability Rights Nebraska

Eric Evans reported that they have shared the *DRAFT* of the Olmstead Plan with their national technical assistance experts and with their consultation, developed comments on the *DRAFT* Plan. At this time, Disability Rights Nebraska does not see this as a viable Olmstead Plan based on what other state Olmstead Plans look like and what the guidance from the Department of Justice has been on Olmstead Plans. **NOTE:** Comments to the *DRAFT* Plan are due today. The legislative hearing on the *DRAFT*

Olmstead Plan will be on December 16. Kristen mentioned that a *DRAFT* copy of the Olmstead Plan was included in the meeting packet and that she submitted public comment yesterday on behalf of the Council referencing TAC's *ABC's of Olmstead Planning* PowerPoint. (Kristen will share her public comment electronically with Council members.)

Disability Rights Nebraska participated on a number of monitoring visits with U.S. Department of Justice attorneys in September. The first Inclusive Education Lay Advocate foundation training was held in August. A total of nine lay advocates registered and completed the training. They have been supporting the *End the Waiting List* campaign initiated by The Arc of Nebraska. They have started to do research on supported decision making as an alternative to guardianships or conservatorships. They also worked with their national association to host a regional workshop on Fire Safety for people with Disabilities on October 28.

2022 – 2026 State Plan Timeline and Contract Update

Kristen explained that the 2022 – 2026 State Plan (goals and objectives) is due to the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) August 15, 2021. In August 2019, the Council approved entering into a contract with MMI to complete a Needs Assessment and gather other data that will be used to set the goals and objectives for the next Five-Year State Plan. The Planning Committee will meet in March 2020 (date TBD) for the State Plan Development Launch meeting where Dr. Jackson will share the Comprehensive Review and Analysis (CRA) results to see where trends are. At the April 16, 2020 Planning Committee meeting, Dr. Jackson will seek input on survey and focus group questions and get Council input on needs and gaps to prepare the final draft of the Needs Assessment survey. During the summer of 2020, the survey will go out and at least three focus groups will be held across the state. By September 30, 2020, Dr. Jackson will submit a written Needs Assessment analysis and any updates to the CRA to Council staff. The Planning Committee will meet in October 2020 to review Dr. Jackson's analysis and set tentative State Plan goals, objectives, and activities to share at the November 2020 Council meeting. At the November 2020 Council meeting, Dr. Jackson will attend to present her findings to the Council and the Planning Committee and will present tentative 2022 – 2026 State Plan goals and objectives and seek Council input. December 1, 2020 to January 15, 2021 will be the first public comment period on the Plan. January 18-21, 2021, public comments will be reviewed and edits will be made (if warranted) to the Plan and the updated 2022-2026 State Plan will be presented to the Council for approval/clarification. If there are major changes to the State Plan goals, then they will be released again for a second public comment period. Then the public comments will be reviewed and edits will be made (if warranted) to the Plan. At the April 2021 Council meeting, the Council will approve the FINAL goals, objectives, and activities. Then Council staff will begin preparing the Plan for submission to AIDD. By August 15, 2021, the 2022 – 2026 State Plan is completed and submitted to AIDD, copies will be provided to Council members, and it will be posted on the Council's website.

Update on Remaining iTACC Compliance Issues

Jennifer reported that she, Dee, and Brenda met with Sheryl Matney, Director of Information and Technical Assistance Center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (iTACC), via ZOOM about six weeks ago to receive leadership training, and everything is going well and iTACC's compliance issues have been addressed. Kristen explained that in March 2018, iTACC representatives came to Nebraska and provided training and technical assistance. iTACC found some compliance issues which the Council has been addressing, such as: having Council member term limits, having the Council Chair elected by his/her peers, disbanding the Regional Councils, and evaluating/supervising the Council Executive Director. The Annual Performance Evaluation Policy and Process for the Executive Director was submitted to iTACC and has been approved. The final measure would be to have the Council approve it as well so it can be added to the Council Member Handbook. A motion was made by Erin to approve the Annual Performance Evaluation Policy and Process for the Executive Director and Matt seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 17, No – 0, Abstain – 0.** * Motion carried. [Dale Johannes, Debbie Salomon, and Haley Waggoner had left for the day.]

Annual Evaluation of the Executive Director

Jennifer explained that a motion was needed to enter into a closed session to discuss the Executive Committee's recommended evaluation of the Executive Director. Sara so moved and Jason seconded. A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 17, No – 0, Abstain – 0.** * Motion carried.

At 1:10 pm, the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities meeting entered into a closed session.

At 1:33 pm, Wayne made a motion to close the closed session and Sharon seconded. The Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities meeting was re-opened to the public at 1:34 pm.

Jennifer called for a motion to accept and submit the Executive Committee's recommended Executive Director Evaluation to the Designated State Agency (DSA) to be submitted into the State's performance management system. Reagan Boyer so moved and Sharon seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 17, No – 0, Abstain – 0.** * Motion carried.

Cross-Divisional Medicaid Liaison

Kristen explained that Heather Leschinsky was not able to attend the Council meeting today. Part of her new position includes being the point person for the Olmstead Plan and because public comments on the *DRAFT* Olmstead Plan are due today, she needs to be available for those. Heather will be spending approximately 70% of her time focusing on Olmstead and reporting directly to Director Courtney Miller and 30% as the Cross-Divisional Medicaid Liaison.

Staff Updates

Kristen announced The Arc of Nebraska's Senatorial Dinner is Thursday, February 13, 2020 and that it coincides with the Public Advocacy Day. The Legislative Session is from 4:00 – 5:00 pm, Social Hour is at 6:00 pm, Dinner is at 7:00 pm. The Council has permission to support Council member attendance at the Public Advocacy Day; however, the Council cannot fund registration for The Arc of Nebraska's Senatorial Dinner because meals are not an allowable expense under the Super Circular. The Council can cover travel expenses. Please advise Council staff if you are interested in attending the Public Advocacy Day.

In September, Kristen attended the Executive Director Leadership Summit and the Council was recognized for its messaging piece *The Power of Inclusion* insert. A concern mentioned at the summit was that the top leadership at ACL does not have a good understanding of what DD Councils do or what their value is. It is important for them to know what we do and what we have accomplished.

Let Nikki know if there are any changes to the DD Council Member Roster. Council staff are working on the FFY 19 Program Performance Report, updates to the FFY 20 State Plan, and the FFY 20 & FFY 21 Annual Work Plans which need to be submitted to ACL by December 31. Kristen distributed a brochure from Disability Rights Nebraska to get the vote out. We want to get the word out to encourage people with disabilities to register to vote. Even if you have an intellectual disability, you can still vote.

Joni mentioned, that between the meeting packet and today's handouts, a number of final reports on Council funded subaward projects were provided for review. A copy of UNMC's LEND poster was also provided. This poster was presented in Washington, D.C. to the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. Council members were encouraged to help spread the word about the *Intellectual Disability and Dementia: A Caregiver's Resource Guide for Nebraskans*. This is a very good resource and Janet Miller has received national recognition for it.

Member Updates

Ryan mentioned that he and his wife took part in a *Human Library* at South Sioux City. They spoke about their experiences.

Matt started working at Goodwill Services in Grand Island. It was a great decision for him as he made a number of new friends, some of whom have similar disabilities to his. He went to a Youth First meeting back in 2015 and it was a life changing experience. He said he was blessed to be a part of the DD Council.

Jessica is going to be sending out Christmas cards and is doing a photo album project of friends.

In September, Jason went to Washington, D.C. and gave a presentation to the Executive Board of Special Olympics International. Special Olympics is heading in a new direction. Instead of Special Olympics being run for the athletes, it will be run by the athletes. Special Olympics International will have athletes in leadership roles.

Cheryl Montgomery went to a Transition Conference in Northeast Nebraska and Senator Walz did the keynote address, encouraging people to tell their stories. The Association of Community Professionals of Nebraska (ACP) brought Dr. Lisa Mills back to Nebraska and she talked about the CMS Final Ruling. [The presentation is under the Fall Speaker tab at ACPNebraska.org.]

Jane Ziebarth-Bovill mentioned that this is Disability Awareness Week at UNK. In October, she, a colleague, and her graduate student presented at the National Network for Education Renewal and her colleague uses the Council's *The Power of Inclusion* publication in her classroom.

Rachel Siffring shared that she is new to the Council has a son on the Autism spectrum who started middle school this year, so she has been advocating for inclusion in the middle school. Earlier in the year she spoke at the Transition Conference and the Autism Conference about her son's inclusion experience with 4-H. Her kids are a part of 4-H and both show animals. There are a number of benefits to kids being in 4-H.

Reagan started a new job last month and is preparing for her son to make the change to high school.

Brenda said her son is in a Transition Program. He goes to a couple of real estate offices in the afternoons and does data entry. She also said she sees G.R. Smith every week as he and Jackson have Bible Study together. G.R. says hi, and Brenda needs to report back to him what we had for lunch!

Sharon mentioned that her husband has retired, but he has taken another job.

Mikayla has a niece who has never been diagnosed. She is non-verbal and the focus now is on quality of life. She also said that Sue Adams says hi!

Jennifer mentioned that the i2Choir will be performing at the International Quilt Study Museum on Sunday at 3:00 pm. It is a free concert and the theme is: *A Choral Quilt of Superheroes*.

Kristen mentioned that she saw Kristin Mayleben-Flott and she misses us.

Public Comment

Jennifer opened the meeting for public comment.

Kristen asked the Council members if the Council has outgrown the meeting space at the Highlands.

- The number of people attending has grown (25 Council members, three staff, support service contractors). This does not include and members of the public who wish to come to the meetings.
- If the meeting is downtown, the concern was parking.
- It will probably cost more at a new location.
- Highlands is close to the Interstate and hotels.

Suggestions for meeting places:

- The Lincoln Foundation Conference Room
- Cornhusker Bank at 84 & O
- Southeast Community College (Where the Tri-Board was held.)

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2020. The Legislative and Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2020.