

Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities

Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2025

I. Call to order:

Lorie Regier called to order the regular meetings of the Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities (DD) at 10:50 am on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 held at Conference Room P, 5220 South 16th St, Lincoln, NE.

II. Roll call:

The following persons were present:

- **Advisory Members Present:** Mike Browne, Dianne DeLair, Kristen Larsen, Jennifer Miller, Cris Petersen, Lorie Regier, Mark Shriver, Joe Valenti, Suzanne Wahlgren, Angela Willey
- **Advisory Members Absent:** Dorothy Ackland, Linda Clemens, Jennifer Hansen, Lisa Pruitt, Debbie Salomon
- **DHHS Staff:** Tony Green, Kristen Smith, Jenn Clark, Tyla Watson

III. Approval of Agenda:

- Motion made by Mike Browne 2nd by Joe Valenti to approve agenda as presented.
 - All in Favor: Mike Browne, Dianne DeLair, Kristen Larsen, Jennifer Miller, Cris Petersen, Mark Shriver, Joe Valenti, Suzanne Wahlgren, Angela Willey
 - All Opposed: None

IV. Approval of August Meeting Minutes:

- Motion made by Joe Valenti 2nd by Mike Browne to approve the minutes as corrected.
 - All in Favor: Mike Browne, Dianne DeLair, Kristen Larsen, Jennifer Miller, Cris Petersen, Mark Shriver, Joe Valenti, Suzanne Wahlgren, Angela Willey
 - All Opposed: None

V. Division Updates:

a) Quarterly DD Court Ordered Custody Act (COCA) Update – Jenn Clark

- HANDOUT: DD COCA Statistics
- Currently 50 people under DD COCA
- 6 additions since the committee last reviewed.
- Lancaster, Sarpy, and Douglas County continue to be the counties we see the most commitments; these are also the areas of our greatest populations.

b) Shared Living Providers (SLP) vs. Group Homes:

- HANDOUT: Breakdown of Comprehensive Waiver Participants September 2025
- Total of 4,765 CDD Participants
 - 1,818 Shared Living
 - 926 Continuous Residential Habilitation
 - 4 Host Home

- 2,017 None of the above
- Have had some changes of expectations for shared living providers with participants on advanced funding. If you have someone advanced funded there has to be at least 2 people as providers on the contract that live in the home.
- Children under 8 must have a second adult person in the home.
- Helps with burnout.
- There is a Limit of 2 state funded individuals in your home at a time if the participants are in funding tiers below advanced. There is a limit of 1 person in a home if they are advanced funded.
- Follow-up – Regarding handout - Committee would like to know if the data provided can also include info further back so we can compare today's data with the historical data. The Division will see if that is possible.

c) Legally Responsible Individuals (LRI) Personal Care:

- 54 parents are on the A&D waiver that are authorized, hired, and have an open authorization.
- 1 parent on the DD waiver.
- Over 30 providers between both waivers are supporting this service currently.
- Working on a brochure to help educate on what this service does and does not cover. Very specific service.
- PTI has had reach out and express frustration they were approved for 30 hours and had to redo it for some reason and now it's 8 hours. Division Response: This likely happened because supervision was originally counted in error. This service does not cover supervision. It is just for the activity. Example: Bathing - someone has to supervise someone taking a bath. Supervision is not covered under personal care, just the actual task of helping that person bath.

d) National Core Indicator (NCI) Update on Divisions current activities:

- Training next week for the 9 DD quality team employees that will be completing the in-person NCI participant surveys.
- Letters will go out yet this week to the people that have been asked to participate in the survey process.
- Expect to complete 880 surveys over the next couple of months (440 in both the DD and AD waivers). (Note: This is consistent with the number of surveyors MMI previously utilized.
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e) InterRAI Update:

- HANDOUT: interRAI Reporting as of 09/05/2025 – breakdown of the interRAI Renewal and Initial assessments approved and waiver/funding recommendations.
- 768 total interRAI assessment have been started
- Of those started 190 are complete.

- Approval process includes a supervisor review. Training 7 additional staff to provide supervisor review support bringing the supervisor review to 10 supervisors doing reviews.
- Crystal Wheeler was hired on as the new Program Manager over the Eligibility Team. State date was Monday, September 8, 2025.
- Assessors review medical records and documentation before completing the interview. Some of the assessors did need additional training on Therap. Which has been complete.
- Question - the handouts show 34 that have a decreased tier, those will not change? Answer: If there is a funding tier recommended change, the funding WILL change (up or down as appropriate). This may be confused with previous discussion about people being “kicked off the waiver”. Waiver Recommendation and Funding tier recommendations are two separate decisions. For now, we will not be immediately removing people from the waiver or their residential service. However, teams need to be working on why a lower level is not possible, if it is recommended. While today we are not moving people down in a waiver, eventually people need to be in the most appropriate waiver that meets their needs. There is a difference between want and need that teams will have to address.
- interRAI feedback received: There wasn’t person centered language being used in the assessment.
- Manual review: Clinical reviews, will we be able to see that data of the outcome. Response: The department is working on completing an update to Therap making that a reportable field.
- There are items in the interRAI that asked about in “the last 3 days.” Some people have expressed concern that this may not accurately reflect a person’s needs. Response: “3 days” is not the only timeline that is covered, it covers additional historical data, weeks/months. This is about getting a full picture, day to day, and over time. The assessors also use historical information such as case notes and old assessments we have on file.
- If someone believes there is an error in their interRAI recommendations they can appeal the decision. Appeal directions are part of the documentation people receive with the decision. If you encourage someone to appeal, please set them up for success. Remember the burden of proof is on the person requesting the appeal to provide proof or records that the assessment is inaccurate.

VI. Public Comments: No public comments received.

VII. Old Business:

a) Vacant Committee Positions Update

- Follow up from August Meeting, Tony reached out to the Governor’s office regarding vacancies.

- Not all committee members that expressed interest in reappointment had applications on file. Committee members were contacted, reminded to submit applications if they were still interested in reappointment.
- Lorie sent Tony/Governor's office the recommendations on committee reappointments/new appointments
- Christina Evans and Cathy Martinez are stepping down from the committee. Governor's office has been notified of new vacancies.
- Discussion followed regarding frequency of meetings.
 - Some members would like to consider bi-monthly or quarterly meetings.
 - One member had opposition and wanted the monthly cadence.
- Division would encourage the committee to consider not only the frequency of meetings but what the committee hopes to accomplish in the future and what has been accomplished thus far. A majority of committee meetings have turned into Division reporting and educating. Every meeting requires work from multiple state employees to prepare and attend the meetings.
- All committees at the state level continue to be evaluated for the effectiveness and the value they bring to state government. The committee must be able to articulate their return on investment.

VIII. Adjournment: Committee meeting ended at 2:00 PM

Next Meeting:
October 8, 2025



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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DD Court-Ordered Custody Act Statistics

GENDER

Female	9
Male	41
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	50

CURRENT AGE

19-24 yrs	9
25-39 yrs	31
40-59 yrs	10
60+ yrs	0
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	50

COUNTY OF COMMITMENT

Buffalo	2
Butler	1
Cass	3
Cheyenne	1
Colfax	2
Dodge	1
Douglas	10
Gage	1
Jefferson	0
Johnson	1
Lancaster	8
Madison	5
Otoe	1
Phelps	1
Platte	1
Thurston	1
Sarpy	7
Saunders	2
Scottsbluff	1
Wayne	0
Washington	1
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	50

YEAR OF COMMITMENT

2009	1
2010	0
2011	3
2012	0
2013	0
2014	2
2015	1
2016	4
2017	2
2018	1
2019	6
2020	5
2021	5
2022	7
2023	3
2024	6
2025	4
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Services Before DDCOCA

None	28
SC Only	7
Day Services	1
CDD	13
LRC	1
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	50

FUNDING

CDD	44
DDAID	6
DDAID - Not Med. Elgble	0
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	50



**Division of Developmental Disabilities
Advisory Committee
interRAI Reporting
Report Date: 9.5.2025**

Total InterRAIs:	768
Total Approved:	190
Approved %:	25%

Approved interRAI Renewals		
Total Renewal InterRAIs	159	
Waiver Recommendations		
No Change	96	60%
Increased to CDD	10	6%
Decreased to Lower Waiver	16	10%
Manual Review	32	20%
No Previous Waiver	5	3%
Totals	159	100%
Funding Recommendations		
Decreased 2 Tiers	1	1%
Decreased 1 Tier	33	21%
No Change	82	52%
Increased 1 Tier	26	16%
Increased 2 Tiers	2	1%
FSW	1	1%
FSW to Funding Tier	14	9%
Totals	159	100%

Approved interRAI Initials		
Total Initials InterRAIs	31	
Waiver Recommendations		
CDD	20	65%
DDAD	3	10%
Manual Review Needed	4	13%
FSW	4	13%
Totals	31	100%
Need for Continuous Residential		
Threshold Met	20	65%
Threshold Not Met	3	10%
Manual Review Needed	4	13%
FSW	4	13%
Totals	31	100%
Funding Recommendations		
FSW	4	13%
Basic	5	16%
Intermediate	14	45%
High	7	23%
Advanced	1	3%
Totals	31	100%