

Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2025

I. Call to order:

Mike Browne called to order the regular meetings of the Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities (DD) at 10:20 am on Wednesday, November 12, 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, Philip Gray, Jennifer Hansen, Shane Hunter, Kristen Larsen, Jennifer Miller, Mark Shriver, Joe Valenti, Angela Willey, Dorothy Ackland (joined at 1:00 PM)

Advisory Members Absent: Cristal Petersen, Lorie Regier, Paige Rivard, Suzanne Wahlgren

DHHS Staff: Tony Green, Kristen Smith, Jenn Clark, Tyla Watson

III. Approval of Agenda:

- Motion made by Joe Valenti 2nd by Angie Willey to approve agenda as presented.
 - All in Favor: Dianne DeLair, Philip Gray, Jennifer Hansen, Shane Hunter, Kristen Larsen, Jennifer Miller, Mark Shriver, Joe Valenti, Angela Willey
 - All Opposed: None

IV. Approval of September Meeting Minutes:

- Motion made by Kristen Larsen 2nd by Dianne DeLair to approve the minutes as corrected.
 - All in Favor: Dianne DeLair, Philip Gray, Jennifer Hansen, Shane Hunter, Kristen Larsen, Jennifer Miller, Mark Shriver, Joe Valenti, Angela Willey
 - All Opposed: None
 - Abstain from voting: None

V. Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) Updates:

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

- Looking at Data comparing November 2023 to November 2025
 - Shared Living Providers – 5% Increase (1721-1808)
 - Group Home – 3% Decrease (939-911)
- Comprehensive provider
- Question: When we are looking at growth of SLP when breaking spectrum into tier (Basic to Advanced) are we seeing SLP's that are dealing with very severe?
 - Answer: Yes, we do have quite a few people on the advanced tier in SLP's.
 - Do not allow people on the Risk tier into an SLP.
- Federal Government has begun conversations requiring a 80/20 requirement on what is going to SLP's. Nebraska did not mandate the 80% for all. We did not see an over whelming support of that model. We do still see today SLP's

moving between service providers to get a higher rate, this is happening much less now, then previously.

- SLP's are subcontractors with the specialized providers. When we did the original survey, the percentage that was going to the family varied – getting anywhere from 60% to 90%.
- *FOLLOW-UP*: Request a breakdown of funding tiers in the SLP's.
- *FOLLOW-UP*: Division asked to send the SLP Policies be sent to the committee.

b) interRAI Update

- HANDOUT: interRAI Framework Review prepared by Mark Shriver
- HANDOUT: interRAI Advisory Committee Data November 12, 2025 presented by Kristen Smith
 - Approved 1065 interRAI renewals assessments
 - Approved 267 interRAI initial assessments
 - Waiver recommendation and Funding recommendations are two separate decisions. Someone may go up on the waiver recommendation but down in a funding recommendation.
 - Committee members have received calls from people not happy with the result of the interRAI. Can someone going through a renewal and have a reduction, are their circumstances that a second interRAI could be request? Response: A change in condition we need to occur. Same factor would need to be needed for consideration for exception funding. This does require documentation that shows that, the need is there.
 - What is the process on a decrease on the waiver recommendation?
 - Teams should be having conversations with Service coordination
 - For funding tier, recommendations go into effect right away.
 - Can the family get a copy of the interRAI? Yes, a copy of the InterRAI is available to the families as soon as the interRAI is approved.
 - An appeal can be submitted within 90 days. Appeal requests received within 10 days, funding stays the same. After 10 days the funding changes.
 - Comment: 10 days starts when the letter is sent, however it can take a week for the letter arrive. Would recommend that a 5 day for mailing be added to that 10 days.
 - *FOLLOW-UP*: Request for a Sample form of what people receive be sent to the committee.
 - How many appeals are we getting? Number of appeals has grown, in June 2025 we had 10 appeals. We currently have approx. 70 appeals.
 - Dispel the myth that everyone that is going down. If you look at the data 70% have had no change or an increase. Our system is not perfect. People do make mistakes. This is why we do have appeal process.
 - Algorithm is a scary term for people. How can we be more transparent?
 - We have had a significant backlog in the work in Eligibility and Enrollment. We have had a lot of turnover in this unit. In October we launched an aggressive initiative to get caught up on all backlog. Have had much success already. The plan is when we hit middle of December we will be

at current, so going on in January, we will working with current needs only.
This is Monitored weekly with leadership.

- *FOLLOW-UP*: Is there any plain language we can provide to people to help alleviate fears?
- *FOLLOW-UP*: Can give a breakdown of all of the appeals and status of those?

c) DD Court Ordered Custody Act (COCA) Update:

- HANDOUT: DD COCA Statistics November 12, 2025
- Currently 52 people under DD COCA
- Have added Current Residential Setting and Budget Tier to the Statistics
- How does the process start? It is usually the county attorney.
- *FOLLOW-UP*: The division to provide additional information on individuals we have requested be removed from commitment but continue to serve under DD COCA

VI. Public Comments:

- No comments received.

VII. Old Business:

a) Vacant Committee Positions Update

- Since the September meeting there have been four (4) reappointments: Cristal Petersen, Dianne Delair, Mike Browne, Jennifer Hansen; and three (3) new appointments: Philip Gray, Paige Rivard, and Shane Hunter.
- Currently there are 4 vacancies on the committee roster.
- Division has posted a notice on the mail Division webpage and the committee webpage that the committee is seeking members, particularly those in Western/Northern Nebraska.

VIII. New Business:

a) Committee and Division discussion regarding on-going metrics

- As we have come to the end of the waitlist. Requesting discussion on what we should be looking at in service delivery. We are bound by budget, are people getting the services that they need and are they accessing what they need. Is there any way we can look at as a committee to confirm they are getting what they need.
- Family Support Waiver: How do we measure if the budget allotted is sufficient? How many people are looking for services and able to get them? People are not able to hire people when the kids are out of school?
- Some of the rates are built as a group rate, not a 1/1 rate.
- There is a lot of room for innovation. Example: When worked with youth programming. We would have a designated respite night at the museum.
 - We do have at least one provider in Omaha that has tried something to support a more short notice/respite setting group programming and has not had the best luck so far.
 - Have had success with group programming during summer/school breaks.

- *FOLLOW-UP*: Committee request usage of services on Family Support Waiver and Budget usage.

c) Committee Meetings

- Proposal meet every other month (six meetings a year)
 - Joe Valenti made a motion to change the meeting frequency to every other month beginning in January 14, 2026 (Canceling the December 2025 meeting). Motion seconded by Dianne DeLair.
 - All in Favor: Dorothy Ackland, Dianne DeLair, Philip Gray, Jennifer Hansen, Shane Hunter, Kristen Larsen, Jennifer Miller, Mark Shriver, Joe Valenti, Angela Willey
 - All Opposed: None
 - Abstain from voting: None
 - Future Meeting dates:
 - January 14, 2026
 - March 11, 2026
 - May 13, 2026
 - July 8, 2026
 - September 9, 2026
- Discussion regarding interest in holding a 2026 Spring meeting at Beatrice State Developmental Center:
 - Discussion tabled until 2026.

Adjournment: Committee meeting ended at 2:00 PM

Next Meeting:
January 14, 2026
Hybrid Meeting

InterRAI Framework Review

Administration Process and Adherence to Best Practice

Number of Assessments completed (initial assessments and renewal assessments)

Of these, how many included interview

with the individual,

with the guardian,

with knowledgeable service provider

provide reasons if any of the above were not included

Of these, how many included reviews of records and related information (Therap)

Of these, how many included observations in natural environment (home, employment, community, or day provider)

What was average time to complete InterRAI? To complete full assessment?

Quality checks include supervisory reviews, spot checking, and decision trees to trigger additional reviews and onsite or virtual supervisor monitoring of assessments as needed (and scheduled). – what percentage of assessments required additional reviews?

Decisions Made

DDD is already providing decisions in DD Advisory Committee reporting, including % of manual reviews. Manual reviews are triggered by certain outputs in the interRAI and completed by the Clinical Team

Data provided: Approved interRAI renewals and Approved interRAI initials

Waiver Recommendations

Need for Continuous Residential

Funding Recommendations

*What to look for: skewed data indicating higher percentage of adverse or positive decisions. Increases and decreases should be approximately even with majority no change.

Appeal Process

DDD provide copy of the guidance that is provided to guardians regarding the appeal process? Is this provided in a letter and/or on website?

How many have appealed

Of these, how many successful, and why

How many not successful, and why



Division of Developmental Disabilities
Advisory Committee
November 12, 2025

Total InterRAIs:	2049
Total Approved:	1356
Approved %:	66%

Approved interRAI Renewals		
Total Renewal InterRAIs	1065	
Waiver Recommendations		
No Change	696	65%
Increased to CDD	57	5%
Decreased to Lower Waiver	107	10%
Manual Review	182	17%
No Previous Waiver	23	2%
Totals	1065	100%
Need for Continuous Residential		
Threshold Met	718	67%
Threshold Not Met	143	13%
Manual Review Needed	187	18%
FSW	17	2%
Totals	1065	100%
Funding Recommendations		
Decreased 3 Tiers	0	0%
Decreased 2 Tiers	27	3%
Decreased 1 Tier	167	16%
No Change	512	48%
Increased 1 Tier	243	23%
Increased 2 Tiers	25	2%
Increased 3 Tiers	1	0%
FSW to Funding Tier	73	7%
First Assessment	0	0%
No Previous Funding Level	10	1%
Funding Tier to FSW	7	1%
Totals	1065	100%

Approved interRAI Initials		
Total Initials InterRAIs	267	
Waiver Recommendations		
CDD*	134	50%
DDAD	19	7%
Manual Review Needed	84	31%
FSW	30	11%
Totals	267	100%
Need for Continuous Residential		
Threshold Met*	134	50%
Threshold Not Met	19	7%
Manual Review Needed	84	31%
FSW	30	11%
Totals	267	100%
Funding Recommendations		
FSW	30	11%
Basic	83	31%
Intermediate	77	29%
High	55	21%
Advanced	20	7%
Clinical Review	2	1%
Totals	267	100%

*A Clinical Review occurs for children 19 and younger, which may result in a different output than listed. This will be corrected following a Therap update.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. CT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 10:00 AM CT, the Advisory Committee on Developmental Disabilities will hold an in-person meeting. Members of the Committee or the public may physically attend the meeting at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, 5220 South 16th St, Conference Room P, Lincoln, NE 68512.

This notice with the agenda and other materials are available on the Committee's webpage at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DD-Advisory-Committee.aspx>. The agenda will be kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the Department of Health and Human Services, 301 Centennial Mall South, Third Floor, Lincoln, NE 68509 during normal business hours.

On October 28, 2025, a notice of this meeting with the agenda and September draft minutes were sent to all Committee members. Notice of this meeting with the agenda and other materials are available for public inspection at 301 Centennial Mall South in Lincoln, Nebraska, and posted with the following link kept continually current: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DD-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

Written notice was posted in the newspapers Omaha World Herald on October 31, 2025 & Grand Island Independent November 1, 2025. Notice of this meeting is also on the State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar - <https://www.nebraska.gov/calendar/index.cgi> and the Developmental Division calendar: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Developmental-Disabilities.aspx>