

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2023

I. Call to order

Lorie Regier called to order the regular meetings of the DD Advisory Committee at 10:17am on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

II. Roll call

The following persons were present:

Advisory Members Present:

Present - Lorie Regier, Linda Clemens, Lisa Pruitt, Diane Focht, Kristen Larsen, Jennifer Hansen, Dorothy Ackland, Dianne DeLair, Cristal Petersen, Jenn Miller, Kizzie Vaughn, Michelle Summers, Stacy Bliss, Mark Shriver

Absent Angela Willey, Peg Huss, Christina Zeleski, Debbie Salomon, Suzanne Wahlgren

DHHS Staff: Kristen Smith, Jenn Clark, Colin Large, Tony Green, Angie Gonzales-Dorn, Sue Spitser

Other Attendees: Edison McDonald, Joe Valenti, Mike Brown, Jacquelyn George, Megan Frenzen, Valerie Hoffman

III. Approval of Agenda

- Diane moved to approve agenda presented, 2nd by Kris Peterson. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2023 meeting

- Cris Peterson moved to approve the minutes as presented, motion 2nd by Dorothy Ackland. Motion carried.

V. Family Support Waiver – Sub-Committee Draft Letter

- DHHS Staff Angie Gonzales Dorn and Sue Spitser present for discussion as requested by committee.
- Committee discussed and reviewed draft letter.
 - Committee likes the Wisconsin and Pennsylvania definitions – to be added to the letter
 - Want to make sure this helps families with day care, being able to allow respite so family has a break
- **Follow up:** Letter to be edited/discussed at the next meeting further.

VI. Family Support Program - Colin Large and Kristen Smith

- HANDOUT: Family Support Waiver Updates PowerPoint
- Comments on definitions received:
 - Assistive Technology – if you can use it in a habilitative way, then it could potentially be approved through assistive technology
 - Child Day Habilitation – ICF level care waiver, it does need to be a habilitative waiver and ensure that does need to make sure it comes across. This isn't capped at 12, 0-12

parents are responsible for the normal cost of daycare and the waiver support the additional needs.

- Community Integration – no comments.
- Home Modifications – no comments.
- Independent Living – would like discussion around the question.
- PERS – Noted that if we leave the independent living, maybe there could be a situation that we would need it.
- Family Caregiver Training – no comment.
- Family and Peer Mentoring – no comment.

VII. System Evaluation: Community Engagement – Optumas/Myers and Stauffer

- PowerPoint: DDD System Evaluation for LB376
- If you have any comments or questions please email: NE_DDSystemEval@mslc.com
- Discussion followed

VIII. Public Comments:

- **Mike Brown** – Appreciate being invited to meeting.
- **Edison McDonald** – A couple of things, interested in the new process. Not fully complement with open meeting. This is much more how the board should be operating than what I have seen. Great pieces in the letter. Wanted to address issues with child day habilitation – lots of conversation, first five, and Lincoln littles are running a child care IDD task force looking at overlapping issues, trying to figure out how to bring this along. Trying to think how FSW will be provided under DD agencies and independent providers, but we need to figure out how child care agencies can participate. Hastings – trying to figure out how they can provide services. Consider a much abbreviated application/process is included and not expanded so we can get more providers and agencies (especially centers – because of Title 20). Talk a bit of with department and more training with agencies. Looking forward to continued conversations about that and is interested into the details. Then Pathway to LRI as caretakers – talked to Director Green and staff, he requests that on the next agenda here, top issue priority at senator dinner and want to make sure that moves quickly. Last pieces, Low budget in the FSW – address that because that heart wrecking because of what the DHHS and PRO could do within the budget, then we had to say if we are going to serve more kids with fewer dollars or less kids with more money. That was rough, we thought \$10K was a reasonable spot to provide some supports to keep heads above water. Not sure he has heard discussion around how we are ensuring to use Medicaid dollars every single month. We did have to put in statute, but that is always changeable. \$46 million extra dollars that we could tap into this year for this.
- **Joe Valenti** – Reserve comments until after the meeting. Did the committee vote on limited comments on the form? Staffing – current survey says that Nebraska is the 7th highest payment for providers with 80% turnover rate. His view is that the providers have a problem with how the administer the funds.
- **Kristen Larsen** – the chair has the ability to recognize anyone in the public at any time.
- **Jennifer Hansen** – reading an email **Kim Banbridge**, parents across Nebraska are the backbone for children with IDD. I was my volunteer job coach this morning as independent provider was out of town. My son comes home every weekend as I have no staff from

Friday to Monday, this has been going on for 9 years he has been living independent.
Please consider paying.

IX. DD Updates

- **Registry of unmet needs:**
 - HANDOUT: Registry statistics March 1, 2023;
 - Currently 2379 people on the registry;
 - Discussion followed.
- **DD Court-Ordered Custody Act – Jenn Clark:**
 - HANDOUT: DD Court-Ordered Custody Act (COCA) Statistics;
 - Currently have 46 active Court-Ordered Custody Act cases;
 - Discussion followed.

X. Quality Update – Presented by Jennifer Quigley, Liberty and Kristen Smith:

- ***Follow up:*** Topic to be Tabled for next month.

XI. Legislative Session – Kristen Smith

- Legislative Bills
- Discussion Followed

XII. Old Business:

- Nebraska Council of Developmental Disabilities – Employment report “Necessity or Luxury? Supporting Nebraskans with I/DD to Join the Workforce Presented by Kristen Larsen
 - HANDOUTS: 1) Necessity of Luxury – Executive Summary; 2) At Work Out Abilities Shine; 3) Investing in Untapped Solution

XIII. New Business:

- April Meeting date
 - ***Follow up:*** A poll is going to be sent to committee members determine if April 12, 2023 still works for the majority for the next week.

XIV. Committee Meeting Adjournment

- Committee Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM

NEXT MEETING:

April 12, 2023
Conference Room P
5220 South 16th St
Lincoln, NE