Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities
November 20, 2026
9:30 AM, CST
HYBRID MEETING

In-Person Site:
[Members of the public or media may participate either at the in-person site or via Zoom.]
Nebraska State Office Building
Lower-Level Meadowlark Conference Room
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE

To join the Zoom Meeting:
Meeting URL: https://us02web.zoom.us/s/85345855128
Meeting ID: 853 4585 5128

AGENDA

9:30 **1. Call the Meeting to Order, Welcome, *Pledge of Allegiance*, and Introductions – Beth Libra and Kristen Larsen**
Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and Council members will be asked to introduce themselves.
- Dr. Jamar Dorsey – Non-Governmental

2. Nebraska Open Meetings Act Announcement – Beth Libra
Council meetings fall under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is posted on the door by the sign-in table as required.

3. Public Comment Period #1 – Beth Libra
All public meetings must allow time on their agenda for people who are not on the Council to comment.

4. Approval of Minutes – Brent Hoffman
Draft minutes of the August 21, 2026 meeting were included in the meeting packet. The Council will review them and, following any needed corrections, vote to approve them through a roll call vote as required by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.
Council members who were not at the August 21st meeting need to abstain when voting.
Vote to approve minutes.

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest – Beth Libra
Council policy requires members to declare any conflicts of interest they might have at the first meeting of the federal fiscal year. The policy, as well as a list of conflicts declared by members last year, is included in the meeting packet.

6. **Financial Report – Kristen Larsen**
Kristen Larsen will review the final financial report for FFY2026 (October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026) and the financial report for the first month (October 1, 2026 to October 31, 2026) of FFY2027 (October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027).

Handouts of the FFY2026 Final Financial Report and the Financial Report for the first month of FFY2027 will be provided at the meeting.

7. **Committee Assignments and Election of Standing Committee Chairpersons – Beth Libra**
The FFY2027 committee assignments were emailed on October 29, 2026, and are also included in the meeting packet. Per the By-Laws, Committee Chair elections for FFY2027 will be conducted at today's Council meeting. The Standing Committees include the Planning Committee, the Legislative and Advocacy Committee, and the Grant Review Committee. Chairpersons of standing committees shall serve at least a one (1) year term and may serve an additional two (2) terms.

- Those interested in running for **Chair of the Planning Committee**: NAMES.
  - Vote for Chair of the Planning Committee.
- Those interested in running for **Chair of the Legislative & Advocacy Committee**: Joe Valenti.
  - Vote for Chair of the Legislative & Advocacy Committee.
- Those interested in running for **Chair of the Grant Review Committee**: NAMES.
  - Vote for Chair of the Grant Review Committee.

8. **Break**

9. **Report of the Grant Review Committee: Opportunity, Employment and Self-Advocacy Recommendations for FFY2027 – Shaistha Kiran Karipi and Kristen Larsen**
The Grant Review Committee met on November 18, 2026 to review evaluation scores and to make recommendations for FFY2027 subaward funding in response to the Opportunity, Employment, and Self-Advocacy Subawards Requests for Applications (RFAs). The Council will consider the Grant Review Committee's recommendations, discuss, and vote to approve subaward funding with/without recommendations/ contingencies.

Discuss and vote on Opportunity Subawards [Competitive]

i. Omni Behavioral Health - *interRAI Professional Education Initiative*
ii. The Arc of Nebraska - *Community Life Skills*
iii. Madonna School & Community-Based Services - *Parent/Caregiver and Guardian Presentations*

Discuss and vote on Formal Employment Subawards [Competitive]

i. Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska - *Benefits Navigator*
ii. Madonna School & Community-Based Services - *PAES Lab*

Discuss and vote on Formal Self-Advocacy Subawards [Competitive]
i. People First of Nebraska - State Advisor
ii. Kolb Foundation for Disability Education - *Self-Advocate Leadership Training (SALT)*
iii. The Novel Care Community Foundation - *My Voice, My Choices: Making Real Meetings Work*

10. Report of the Grant Review Committee: Youth Self-Advocacy Mini-Grants Recommendations for FFY2027 – Shaistha Kiran Karipi and Kristen Larsen

The Grant Review Committee met on November 18, 2026 to review evaluation scores and to make recommendations for FFY2027 subaward funding in response to the Youth Self-Advocacy Mini-Grants. The Council will consider the Grant Review Committee's recommendations, discuss, and vote to approve mini-grant funding with/without recommendations/ contingencies.

Discuss and vote on Youth Self-Advocacy Mini-Grants
i. ESU4
ii. Johnson County Central Public School

Discuss and vote on re-releasing Youth Self-Advocacy Mini-Grants for approval at the February meeting.

11. CY2026 NE DD Council Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation – Beth Libra

The Executive Committee completed the CY2026 Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation. Beth Libra will report the Executive Committee's recommendation. Upon approval of the Executive Committee's recommended CY2026 Executive Director's Annual Evaluation, Beth will submit the CY2026 Executive Director's Annual Evaluation to the Designated State Agency's (DSA's) representative, Megan McGuffey.

Vote to go into a Closed Session to discuss the Executive Director's Annual Evaluation.

Kristen Larsen, Rachel Ward, Nikki Krause, and any members of the public (non-Council members) will need to recuse themselves from the meeting room for the discussion regarding the annual evaluation of the Executive Director.

Vote to open the meeting to the public.

New Council members will need to abstain when voting to accept and submit the Executive Committee's recommended CY2026 Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation to the DSA representative, Megan McGuffey.

Vote to accept and submit the Executive Committee's recommended CY2026 Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation to the DSA representative, Megan McGuffey.

12. **Lunch**
Working lunch with time for networking among members.

13. **Council Member Conference Report Summary – Shaistha Kiran Karipi**
Shaistha Kiran Karipi will present her Conference Report Summary on the 2026 Tri-State Regional Special Education Law Conference that she attended in Omaha, NE on November 12-13, 2026.

14. **Updates from Agency Representatives –Tony Green, Division of Disability and Aging; Diana Meadors, Behavioral Health; Chris Chambers, Department of Education – Office of Special Education; DJ Plautz, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation; Jennifer Severe-Oforah, Maternal and Child Health, Division of Public Health; Dawn Sybrant, Medicaid and Long-Term Care**
Council members representing state agencies will provide brief oral and written updates on activities that have occurred since the last meeting.

15. **Updates from our DD Network Representatives – Tania Diaz, Disability Rights Nebraska; Dr. Mark Shriver, Munroe-Meyer Institute/University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)**
Council members representing our DD Network will provide brief oral and written updates on activities that have occurred since the last meeting.

16. **Council Chair and Staff Updates**
The Council Chair and Council staff will share information on activities and other matters of interest that have occurred since the November meeting.

17. **Member Updates – Council Members**
Time is provided for Council members to share any advocacy and/or disability activities they have been involved with since the November meeting.

18. **Public Comment Period #2 – Beth Libra**
All public meetings must allow time on their agenda for people who are not on the Council to comment.

19. **Adjourn – Beth**
The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2027. The Legislative and Advocacy (L&A) Committee meeting will be held in the afternoon of February 4, 2027. **[The February 2027 Council and Committee meetings will be hybrid (in-person and virtual). Members who live outside Lincoln will participate virtually. The Council will not be covering hotel expenses or mileage for those outside Lincoln as a cost-saving measure.]**

NOTE: In accordance with the provisions of Section 84-1401-1414 Nebraska Statutes (Nebraska Open Meetings Act) passed by the Unicameral, minutes of this meeting will be on file ten working days from the date of this meeting in the office of the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, 301

Centennial Mall South, PO Box 95026, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5026. All items known at the time of distribution are listed, and a current agenda is available. This meeting site is accessible. If special accommodations are needed, please contact our office at (402) 471-2330 / TDD (800) 833-7352 by November 13, 2026.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities
Mission
The Council engages in **Advocacy**, **Capacity Building**, and **Systemic Change** activities that assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design and have access to needed community services, individualized support, and other forms of assistance that promote *self-determination*, *independence*, *productivity*, and *integration* and *inclusion* in all facets of community life.