

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

November 21, 2025

9:00 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 Goldenrod Conference Room

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln, NE

To join the Zoom Meeting:

Meeting URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83557416617>

Meeting ID: [835 5741 6617](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83557416617)

Join by Phone: [+1 346 248 7799 US \(Houston\)](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83557416617) or [+1 312 626 6799 US \(Chicago\)](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83557416617)

AGENDA

- 9:30 1. Call the Meeting to Order, Welcome, and *Pledge of Allegiance* – Beth Libra and Kristen Larsen**
Welcome, *Pledge of Allegiance*, and Council members will be asked to introduce themselves.
- 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 – Eddie Kraska

Draft minutes of the August 15, 2025 meeting are 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 meeting need to abstain when voting.

[Vote to approve minutes.](#)

5. Declarations 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 Reports – Kristen Larsen

Kristen Larsen will review the final financial report for FFY2025 (October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025) and the financial report for the first month (October 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025) of FFY2026 (October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026).

Handouts of the FFY2025 Final Financial Report and the Financial Report for the first month of FFY2026 will be provided at the meeting.

7. Council Member Conference Report Summary – Eddie Kraska

Eddie Kraska will present his Conference Report Summary on the 2025 SOAR Conference that he attended October 3-4 in Omaha, NE.

8. Five Year State Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2027-2031 Needs Assessment Report Update – Kristen Larsen and Abbey Siebler

Abbey Siebler will present the results of the surveys conducted for the Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment was sent to most of the Council members prior to the meeting.

9. BREAK

10. Report of the Planning Committee: Draft Goals and Objectives for Five Year State Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2027-2031 – Judy Trent and Kristen Larsen

The Planning Committee met October 23, 2025, and November 3, 2025, to review the results of the surveys conducted for the Needs Assessment to prioritize the Draft goals and objectives for the new State Plan. Judy Trent, the Planning Committee Chair, will present the Committees recommendations of Draft language for the goals and objectives. The Council will discuss and vote on the Draft language for each goal and the objectives. Then the Council will vote to approve the Draft goals and objectives going out for public comment.

The new State Plan is due to ACL/OIDD by Friday – August 14, 2026.

[Vote on DRAFT language for goal #1 and objectives.](#)

[Vote on DRAFT language for goal #2 and objectives.](#)

[Vote to approve the DRAFT goals and objectives going out for public comment.](#)

11. Lunch

Working lunch with time for networking among members.

12. Committee Assignments and Election of Standing Committee Chairpersons – Beth Libra

The FFY2026 committee assignments were emailed on November 4, 2025, and are also included in the meeting packet. Per the By-Laws, Committee Chair elections for FFY2026 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**: Judy Trent.
 - [Vote for Chair of the Planning Committee.](#)
- Those interested in running for **Chair of the Legislative & Advocacy Committee**: Quinton Corwin, 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.](#)

13. FFY2026 Continuation Subawards –Rachel Ward, Edith Titamoh, and Kristen Larsen

Rachel Ward, Edith Titamoh, and Kristen will present the Continuation Subaward Proposals.

The Council will consider the proposals, discuss, and vote to approve continuation subaward funding with/without recommendations/contingencies.

[Discuss and individually vote on each.](#)

- I. [Munroe-Meyer Institute – Enhancing Quality of Life for Spanish-Speaking Families in the Hispanic/Latino Community through Comprehensive Support and Evidence-Based Treatments for Developmental Disabilities](#)
- II. [Goodwill – EmployAbility Campaign](#)
- III. [Easterseals – Employment First: Informed Choice Matters](#)
- IV. [Munroe-Meyer Institute – Increasing Access to Early Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder in Toddlers through an Intervention to Promote Community Knowledge of EarliPoint](#)

14. 109th Legislature, 2nd Session – Kristen Larsen

During the 108th Legislature, 1st (2023) and 2nd (2024) Sessions, and continuing into the 1st Session of the 109th Legislature (2025), Speaker of the Legislature, Senator Arch, sped up the hearing process on introduced legislative bills. As a result, hearings started during the bill introduction period.

In February 2023, the Legislative & Advocacy (L&A) Committee suggested that the Council consider granting staff greater flexibility to respond to introduced legislation. The committee noted that, given the earlier start to hearings during the 108th Legislature, it is likely that future sessions will follow a similar or even more expedited timeline.

In response, the Council voted in 2022, 2023, and 2024, to allow the Director and Council staff to take positions on proposed legislative bills scheduled for hearings up to and including the day of February Council meeting. This action is contingent upon consultation with the L&A Chair and mutual agreement on the position to be taken. The Council is now asked to consider a vote to approve this process for the 2026 legislative session.

Vote to allow the Executive Director and Council staff to take positions on proposed legislative bills with hearings up to and including February 6, 2026, after conferring with the L&A Chair and both are in agreement on the position the Council should take. The Executive Director would then follow up with the Executive Committee to convey the position the Council will be taking.

Vote to allow this to be the policy going forward.

15. CY2025 NE DD Council Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation – Beth Libra

The Executive Committee completed the CY2025 Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation. Beth Libra will report the Executive Committee's recommendation. Upon approval of the Executive Committee's recommended CY2025 Executive Director's Annual Evaluation, Beth will submit the CY2025 Executive Director's Annual Evaluation to the Designated State Agency's (DSA's) representative, Sue Medinger.

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

Kristen Larsen, Rachel Ward, Edith Titamoh, 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 CY2025 Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation to the DSA representative, Sue Medinger.

Vote to accept and submit the Executive Committee's recommended CY2025 Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation to the DSA representative, Sue Medinger.

16. Updates from Agency Representatives –Tony Green, Developmental Disabilities Division 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.

17. Updates from our DD Network Representatives – Seamus Kelly, 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 updates on activities that have occurred since the last meeting.

18. 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 August meeting.

19. 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 August meeting.

20. 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.

21. Adjourn – Beth Libra

The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2026, and will be hybrid (in-person and virtually). The Legislative and Advocacy Committee meeting will be

held the afternoon of February 5, 2026, and will also be a hybrid meeting. Both meetings will be held at the Nebraska State Office Building – Lincoln, 301 Centennial Mall South.

NOTE: It was decided at the August 15, 2025, Council meeting as an effort to save funds as a result of delays (government shutdown) in receiving the FFY2026 funding, **NCDD members who live outside of Lincoln would participate virtually at the February 6th Council meeting and L&A meeting.** We are hoping to save on travel costs to keep a cushion of funding until Congress approves the appropriations.

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 time of distribution are listed and a current agenda is available. These meeting sites are accessible. If special accommodations are needed, please contact our office at (402) 471-2330 / TDD (800) 833-7352 by November 13, 2025.

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.