

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

April 8, 2022 at 9:00AM, CDT

In-Person Meeting

The agenda was mailed to Council members prior to the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Jennifer Meints and called to order at 9:33AM, CDT. Quorum was present. Currently there is one vacancy on the Council. This vacancy can be filled by either a self-advocate or a family member.

Present: Quinton Corwin, Sheri Dawson, Caiti Donaldson, Jason Gieschen, Shauna Graham, Tony Green, Seamus Kelly, Jennifer Meints, Cheryl Montgomery, Ryan Moore, Sara Morgan, Stephen Morton, Sharon Orduña, Paige Rose, Mark Shriver, Judy Trent, Dee Valenti, Nate Watson, Kirsten Wilcox.

Absent: Brenda DeLancey, Matt Kaslon, Rachel Siffring, Amy Rhone, and Jane Ziebarth-Bovill.

Guests: Patrick Donaldson, Tiffany Donaldson, Eric Evans, Sue Gieschen, Stacy Pfeifer, and Pam Wilcox.

Staff: Kristen Larsen, Sasha Reeks, and Nikki Krause.

Welcome

Jennifer Meints welcomed Reeks [Sasha Reeks] to the Council. She is the temporary Project Specialist.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act

Jennifer explained that Council meetings fall under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is on the sign-in table by the entrance to the meeting room.

The Governor's Public Meeting Calendar referred members of the public and media to the Council's Meetings webpage for additional information (posted March 24, 2022).

Public Comment

Jennifer mentioned that all public meetings must allow time on their agenda for people who are not on the Council to comment. Members of the public, who wanted to address the Council, were instructed to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented.

Stacy Pfeifer is the new Director of the Enable Savings Plan and is excited to be at the Council meeting and hopes to learn a lot.

Approval of Minutes

Council members were asked if there were any corrections to the *draft* February 4, 2022 DD Council meeting minutes. As there were no corrections, Nate Watson made the motion to approve the minutes and Dee Valenti seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 17, No – 0, Abstain – 1.*** Motion carried.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

As required by Council policy, every year, members of the Council shall verbally declare any potential conflicts of interest of which they are aware. Council members, who had not already done so or had updates, were asked to verbally declare any potential conflicts of interest. They are noted below.

Financial Reports

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is the Designated State Agency (DSA) for the Council. DHHS is the flow thru for Council funds. However, it is the Council that decides on how Council funds are to be allocated.

Kristen Larsen presented the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 Financial Report, a handout at the meeting. For FFY2022 (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022), the Council budgeted \$392,269. The Year to Date Expenditures for October 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022 were \$134,067 – 34% of the FFY2022 budget.

The report reflects the balance of funds from FFY2020, FFY2021, and the partial award received for FFY2022 as of January 26, 2022. Available Current Funds totaled \$695,779. Expenditures totaled \$340,523. The Balance of Current Funds Available was \$355,256.

NOTE: A partial Notice of Award (NoA) for FFY2022 was received on November 10, 2021 for \$91,904 and on January 26, 2022 for \$110,620. Kristen anticipates that we will receive an additional \$325,476 for a total of \$528,000.

The Financial Forecast (what is being anticipated) shows a breakout of income and expenses by Federal Fiscal Year.

Due to COVID-19, the Administration on Community Living (ACL) issued a No-Cost Extension with a new NoA for FFY2020 on June 11, 2021. The new NoA revised the period of performance to October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2022. This allows the Council to keep drawing down the FFY2020 funds through December 31, 2022.

NOTE: Once all of the FFY2020 funds are spent, remaining obligations will be shifted to FFY2021 or FFY2022 funds.

FFY2021 will need to follow the regular period of performance schedule. The Project Period and Obligation of Funds is from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2022. Liquidation of Funds needs to be done by September 30, 2023.

FFY2022 will also need to follow the regular period of performance schedule. The Project Period and Obligation of Funds is from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2023. Liquidation of Funds needs to be done by September 30, 2024.

On February 25, 2022, ACL agreed to modify the Council's disallowance by allowing \$2,382.15 as expenditures for community inclusion expenses. The Council essentially "won" our appeal.

HISTORY: In March of 2018, the Council was found to be out of compliance with the DD Act for our statewide Regional DD Council structure. In order to remain in compliance, the Council voted to eliminate the statewide Regional DD Council structure. By June 2018, all the Regional DD Councils were dissolved. Unfortunately, the concern with the Regional DD Council structure caught the attention of ACL's Office of Grants Management (OGM) and they investigated/audited the Regional DD Council expenditures for FFY2016 and FFY2017. In October 2018, the Council was notified that we had misspent \$5,797.76 with the Regional DD Councils. The Council appealed a portion of the disallowance (\$2,382.15) through our DSA. [The Council won the appeal.] The Council and DSA agreed to pay back \$3,407.02. The Disallowance was paid back with **state funds** rather than funds from our federal award.

Election of Council Officers and Applying for Reappointment to the Council with the Governor

Officer elections for FFY2023 will be conducted at the August 5, 2022 Council meeting. This includes the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. If you are interested in any of these offices or would like more information, please contact Kristen.

Eligible Council members whose term expires on October 1, 2022, and are interested in continuing to serve on the Council, are encouraged to reapply with the Governor. Applications can be submitted either online at the *Boards & Commissions – Application for Executive Appointment* webpage at <https://governor.nebraska.gov/board-comm-reg> or by mailing a *completed Executive Appointment Application* to Kathleen Dolezal at the Office of the Governor. Council members eligible for reappointment are: Matt Kaslon, Cheryl Montgomery, Mark Shriver, and Rachel Siffring.

The following Council members have a term that will expire October 1, 2022 and are ineligible for reappointment due to term limits: Brenda DeLancey, Jennifer Meints, Ryan Moore, Sharon Orduña, and Jane Ziebarth-Bovill.

Kristen mentioned that the Council is out of compliance because the composition of the Council does not reflect the demographics of Nebraska. State statute does not allow for demographic information to be required on state applications. It may be possible to have a second application form that applicants would fill out that requires the demographic information the Council needs to capture to ensure the composition of the Council reflects the demographics of Nebraska. For now, the Council is recruiting demographically by word of mouth.

Changes to Comply with the DSA's Procurement Policy for the Request for Application (RFA) and Grant Review Process – Kristen Larsen

In 2019, the Council decided to use, and received approval from the DSA's Procurement Division to use, the DD Suite Platform for the FFY2020 subaward RFA process and subsequently for subaward management. When Council staff sought approval to use the DD Suite Platform for FFY2021, Procurement told Council staff that we needed to use the DSA's system for the subaward RFA process. Procurement relented and told Council staff could use DD Suite for FFY2021, but for FFY2022 the Council **must** use the DSA's system. On March 2, 2022, Council staff met with Page Barningham, Subaward and Grant Manager in Procurement, to discuss the DD Suite Platform. Council staff were informed that to use an alternate RFA process or system, the proposed must be demonstrated to be equivalent (or superior) to existing DSA Procurement processes and systems. Page was granted access to the DD Suite Platform to evaluate it in comparison to the DSA's Procurement process and systems. Page's research concluded that the DD Suite Platform does **not** meet equivalency with the DSA's Procurement processes and systems in the following areas: **Evaluation and Access**. The current practices in these areas increase the potential of valid Grievances/Protests to DHHS. On April 1, 2022, Council staff were notified that the Council could not use the DD Suite Platform for the subaward RFA process for FFY2022 and on. The Council will need to utilize the DSA's Procurement process and systems.

Page provided a Competitive Grants Timeline, which was included in the meeting packet. RFAs would be posted in early June. There would be a Question & Answer period for applicants. Applicants would be able to submit any written questions they may have. Then Procurement would post written answers for all applicants to review. This way all applicants are privy to the same information. All applications would be submitted to Procurement. Applications may be submitted online, in-person, or via mail. [\[Access – The DD Suite Platform only allowed for online access.\]](#) Procurement would screen the applications to

ensure that all the criteria is met, then forward the applications to the pre-determined members of the Grant Review Committee.

Page mentioned that there would be an Evaluator Orientation that Procurement would conduct via WebEx and a recording would be available to those that are not able to participate in the WebEx. Then there would be a two week Evaluation Period where pre-determined members of the Grant Review Committee would evaluate their assigned subaward applications and submit their evaluation forms to Procurement who would tabulate the scores and provide them to Council staff. The Council can approve funding, approve funding with contingencies and/or recommendations, or veto an application.

Regarding the evaluation process of the applications, there are some major changes that will affect both the Grant Review Committee and the Council. [\[Evaluation\]](#)

1. It will be pre-determined which Grant Review Committee members will evaluate which applications. Grant Review Committee members will **not** be responsible for evaluating all the applications.
2. Grant Review Committee members will **not** be allowed to discuss the applications they are scoring with any other Grant Review Committee member during the Evaluation Period.
3. The Grant Review Committee **will now be responsible for evaluating the Opportunity Subaward applications.**
4. The Grant Review Committee members will **not** be able to provide any comments on the evaluation form that is returned to Procurement. It is recommended that Grant Review Committee members make notes on the applications for discussion at the **virtual** Grant Review Committee meeting.
5. There will be a **virtual** Grant Review Committee meeting the day before the Council meeting [August 4, 2022] where Committee members will be able to review the evaluation scores and prepare their recommendations for funding to the Council with or without contingencies and or recommendations.

Kristen mentioned that staff have been brainstorming on alternatives to the RFA process via non-competitive subawards and the utilization of contracts.

Report of the Planning Committee: Subaward Recommendations for FFY2023

The Planning Committee met on Thursday, April 7, 2022 to make recommendations for formal subaward projects for FFY2023. Ryan Moore, Planning Committee Chairperson, thanked the Council and non-Council members for their participation on the Planning Committee.

Opportunity subawards may focus on any of the Council's State Plan Goals and Objectives. Typically, the funding is "seed money" for an entity to kick off a project. The Committee recommended funding four Opportunity subawards in the amount of \$20,000 each and for FFY2023.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 17, No – 0, Abstain – 0.*** Motion carried. [Sara Morgan stepped away from the meeting.]

The Committee recommended a non-competitive subaward with Disability Rights Nebraska in the amount of \$25,000 to support the Supported Decision-Making Training that Disability Rights Nebraska is spearheading. After discussion, Nate moved to authorize Council staff to enter into a preliminary understanding with Disability Rights Nebraska to fund up to \$25,000 for the Supported Decision-Making Training with the final approval being made by the Council at the August 5, 2022 meeting and Jason Gieschen seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 16, No – 0, Abstain – 1.*** Motion carried. [Sara Morgan stepped away from the meeting.]

NOTE: 2022-2026 State Plan Goal 4, Objective B

The Committee recommended increasing Collaboration Funds to \$12,500. After discussion it was determined that the Council did not need to vote on increasing Collaboration Funds at today's meeting. The Council will be voting to approve the FFY2023 Budget at the August 5, 2022 meeting and increasing the Collaboration Funds will be included in the FFY2023 Budget.

The Committee recommended funding a Continuation Subaward with Niagara University to continue building on the Emergency Management Disability Awareness Training up to \$30,000. It was discussed that the Core Advisory Groups (CAG) needed additional mentoring and training to be efficient and effective. After discussion, Nate moved to authorize Council staff to enter into a preliminary understanding with Niagara University to fund up to \$30,000 to continue building on the Emergency Management Disability Awareness Training with the final approval being made by the Council at the August 5, 2022 meeting and Dee seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 17, No – 0, Abstain – 0.*** Motion carried. [Shauna Graham stepped away from the meeting.]

NOTE: 2022-2026 State Plan Goal 3, Objective B

The Committee recommended funding a formal subaward up to \$50,000 to fund an entity to develop an on-line clearinghouse of classes, trainings, etc., by universities and/or colleges, for professional development for special/general education teachers to of build capacity and address workforce issues. The Council felt that \$25,000 should focus on general education teachers and \$25,000 for special education teachers and there should be the option to renew the subaward for a second year, if necessary. The Council was concerned with the sustainability of the clearinghouse and if we were focusing on the areas that teachers want. Nate moved to authorize Council staff to explore possibilities and the provisional approval to fund an entity up to \$50,000 to develop an online clearinghouse of classes, trainings, etc. with the final approval being made by the Council at the August 5, 2022 meeting and Seamus Kelly seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 18, No – 0, Abstain – 0.*** Motion carried. [Shauna Graham stepped away from the meeting.]

NOTE: 2022-2026 State Plan Goal 3, Objective A

The Committee recommended entering into a partnership with DHHS' DD Division to amend the contract with the University of Missouri in Kansas City (UMKC) to add five stakeholders (such as parents, guardians, people who receive services, providers) to participate in the Charting the LifeCourse Ambassador Program and or other training from UMKC in the amount of \$40,000.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 17, No – 0, Abstain – 1.*** Motion carried.

NOTE: 2022-2026 State Plan Goal 3, Objective C

The Committee recommended setting up an interagency agreement to fund Nebraska ATP up to \$10,000 to train parents and educators on assistive technology and technology training. Nebraska would use subject matter experts and have webinars, which would be recorded and accessible, on various topics with half the training would be geared towards educators.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 17, No – 0, Abstain – 1.*** Motion carried.

NOTE: 2022-2026 State Plan Goal 2, Objective A

Charting the LifeCourse Presentation

Colin Large, DD Division Project Manager presented on Charting the LifeCourse and where the state is going for person-centered planning. As part of the 2022 DHHS Business Plan, the DD Division committed to implementing the Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) framework to continue the Person-Centered Planning Initiative, which began in 2020. CtLC was developed as a tool for person-centered planning by the Institute for Human Development at the University of Missouri – Kansas City, a University Center for Excellence. It was created in partnership with many different national and statewide stakeholders. Since its development, it has been used in more than 18 states as a framework for supporting person-centered planning and decision making. Nebraska will be joining this Community of Practice to guide implementation of CtLC in all Home and Community-Based waivers.

Report of the Planning Committee: How to Address the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) Review Findings regarding the Five-Year State Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2022-2026

The Planning Committee also met to make recommendations on how to address ACL's review findings regarding the Five-Year State Plan for Federal Fiscal Years 2022-2026.

Kristen presented ACL's review findings [strengths, DD compliance issues, and ACL areas of concern], a handout provided in the meeting packet. Kristen mentioned that all state plans were reviewed by a peer panel and all of the DD Councils had areas to work on.

Ryan reviewed the proposed verbiage edits for the goals and objectives that the Planning Committee recommended to make. After reviewing and discussing the proposed verbiage edits, Ryan moved for a vote of confidence for DD staff to finalize wordsmithing the state plan and to submit the edited plan to ACL by August 15, 2022 and Nate seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 17, No – 0, Abstain – 0.*** Motion carried. [Sheri Dawson left the meeting.]

2022 Hybrid Tri-Board Training Update

The Tri-Board consists of the DD Network Partners (the DD Council, Disability Rights Nebraska, and Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI)/University of Nebraska Medical Center (UCEDD)). The 2022 Hybrid (In-Person & Virtual) Tri-Board training will be on Friday – June 24, 2022. The topic will be Continued Advocacy and Educational Efforts to Bring Supported Decision Making as an Alternative to Guardianship to Nebraska. It is anticipated that this will be a hybrid training with an option to participate in person or virtually. In-person participants will meet at the Munroe-Meyer Institute facility located near the UNO Scott Campus at 6902 Pine Street. Mark Shriver mentioned that at this time, masks are not required but MMI is at 40% capacity in order to maintain social distancing. You will need to register with Council staff by June 10, 2022 for the training. To register, contact Nikki Krause at 402-471-2330 or nikki.krause@nebraska.gov.

NOTE: The College World Series will be in progress at this time and hotel accommodations are hard to come by. MMI has secured some hotel rooms and a few rooms are being held for the Council. Please let Nikki know as soon as possible if you will be attending in-person and need accommodations.

Conference Request

Ryan Moore requested funds, not to exceed \$4,414, to attend the 2022 Little People of America National Convention, July 1-8, 2022, in Spokane, Washington. [The requested funds will cover Ryan's expenses to attend the convention as well as the expenses of his caregiver.] By attending this convention, he will be able to network with medical professionals who specialize in treating people with dwarfism and he will

develop learning strategies for people with disabilities who encounter various physical, emotional, and societal issues. Attending the convention will help him as a member of the Council by showing different ways that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can acclimate themselves to society. A motion was made by Stephen Morton to approve Ryan's funding request of no more than \$4,414 and Jason seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 16, No – 0, Abstain – 1.*** Motion carried. [Sheri Dawson left the meeting.]

Council members were reminded to turn in their *Council Member Conference Request Form* to Council staff as soon as you know about a conference, so copies of the requests can be made and sent out in the meeting packets. Council members may request to attend two in-state conferences and one national conference per FFY (October 1 – September 30) as long as funds allow and the conference relates to one of the State Plan goals. Upon return from a conference, Council members need to submit the *Council Member Conference Report Summary* and report on the conference at the Council meeting following the conference. Expense Reimbursements and receipts must be submitted and approved no more than 60 days after the final day in which the expenses were incurred.

Updates from State Agency Representatives

NOTE: Written reports from the State Agency Representatives are attached to the end of the minutes for review. Due to time constraints, Jennifer asked the State Agency Representatives to touch on any pressing issues. Please see the written reports for additional reporting items. [Sheri Dawson, Division of Behavioral Health; Tony Green, Division of Developmental Disabilities; Sara Morgan, Maternal and Child Health – Division of Public Health; Amy Rhone, Department of Education – Office of Special Education; Paige Rose, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation; Nate Watson, Medicaid and Long-Term Care and Aging]

Behavioral Health

Tony Green gave a brief update for Sheri Dawson. Work continues to implement 988 (Mobile Crisis Response) crisis services across the state. May is Mental Health Month. The desire is to be more inclusive and expand to dual diagnoses.

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

The 2021-2022 DHHS Business Plan is available at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Reports-and-Statistics.aspx>. DDD is focusing on three areas: Person-Centered Systems (Charting the LifeCourse), Aged & Disabled Rate Modeling (new rate study), and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Single Case Management System (putting all four waivers into Therap, a case management system). Nebraska will receive \$81 million from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – HCBS and the funds for the January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022 15% rate increase for all agency and independent providers for all services comes out of this \$81 million. Amendments to the HCBS Aged and Disabled Waiver and the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver were submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on March 18, 2022 with an anticipated effective date of July 1, 2022. The DD Waivers renewals that were submitted to CMS in November 2021 have been approved and became effective March 1, 2022. Appendix K for all four HCBS Waivers was approved by CMS on March 18, 2022 for the period of January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022.

Maternal and Child Health – Division of Public Health

The Title V Nebraska Connecting Families Network RFP was re-released due to vendor feedback around previous timeframes. This is to identify a vendor to bring together families and resources. The legislative

bill to require Cytomegalovirus education was added to LB741 and has moved to Final Reading and will likely get passed. [Congenital Cytomegalovirus is a common viral infection and the leading non-genetic cause of hearing loss in infants born in the United States.] The Nebraska Association of Deaf has a new mentor program that will get families connected with a mentor by nine months of age.

Department of Education – Office of Special Education

In Amy Rhone's absence, Jennifer encouraged Council members to read Amy's report regarding changes in transition planning. If Council members have any questions, please reach out to Amy.

Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Regarding the Order of Selection, Priority Groups 1 and 2 are open and there are no wait lists. Nebraska VR has been contacting individuals on the Priority Group 3 wait list to determine who is in need of services. There are fewer than 350 individuals on the Priority Group 3 wait list. Nebraska VR and other Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) state plan partners held a public meeting on March 3, 2022 to seek input on the two year modifications. Nebraska VR is finalizing its corrective action plan as a result of its 2021 federal monitoring. Nebraska VR was issued four findings. Two were performance areas. [Timeliness developing IPEs and formal documented process for conducting case reviews and desk audits.] The other two were fiscal areas. [Updated formal processes documenting period of performance, time/leave and contract monitoring processes documented.] Please review the Transition Summer Programs (Updated List 04/07/2022). There are some exciting projects.

Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care and Aging (M<C)

Medicaid has re-launched the Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC). They are still seeking additional members to join the committee, particularly to represent Medicaid beneficiaries and their advocates. Please email Nate any potential names of people that might be interested in serving on the MCAC. Nebraska Medicaid invites providers, or anyone interested, to participate in the monthly COVID Update Calls for Providers for updates on how Medicaid continues to respond to COVID-19. As the COVID public health emergency ends in the near future, discussions are being held to make certain that individuals, who still qualify for Medicaid, still get Medicaid. There will be extra outreach to individuals because Medicaid will soon fall back on normal federal rules. The procurement process for Medicaid's managed care health plans is still underway. There is a *Social Media Toolkit on Medicaid Expansion* available on M<C's *Medicaid Expansion In Nebraska* webpage. It is a resource that can be freely used to spread the word about who may qualify for Medicaid Expansion.

Updates from the DD Network Representatives

NOTE: Written reports from the DD Network Representatives are attached to the end of the minutes for review. Due to time constraints, Jennifer asked the DD Network Representatives to touch on any pressing issues. Please see the written reports for additional reporting items. [Seamus Kelly, Disability Rights Nebraska; Mark Shriver, Munroe-Meyer Institute]

Disability Rights Nebraska

Disability Rights Nebraska has been involved in a lot of legislative action and testified at a number of legislative committee hearings. The Supported Decision Making (SDM) Steering Committee continued to meet monthly and the Task Force met in February. Draft brochures on SDM have been produced and provided education about SDM at the Nebraska Department of Education's Transition Conference, The Nebraska Youth Leadership Council and the Nebraska Brain Injury Alliance Annual Conference. Additionally, the National Council on Independent Living has expressed a strong interest in the SDM initiative. Disability Rights Nebraska has started some in-person monitoring at the Beatrice State

Development Center (BSDC). The CEO Search Committee placed the CEO job announcement on the National Disability Rights Network employment board and is preparing to interview applicants. [Eric Evans will be retiring in July 2022.] Eric received a Lifetime Commitment to Service Award at The Arc's Senatorial Event.

Munroe-Meyer Institute

Alice Schillingsburg has accepted the offer to be the new Director for MMI's integrated Center of Autism Spectrum Disorders (iCASD). She will officially join MMI late this summer. MMI is working on contracts for the next academic year and plans to contract with at least three school districts for transition services. Rachel Ray was invited to the Nebraska Transition Conference to present on college-based transition services, as well as to write an article on MMI's program for Impact, a journal published by the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota. MMI was awarded a \$48,000 contract from Nebraska VR for a summer transition program. MMI is partnering with Millard Public Schools and Westside Community Schools and will be providing work-based learning and college exploration opportunities for up to 90 transition students. MMI is awaiting Notice of Award for Public Healthcare Workforce funding from the Administration on Community Living (ACL) to help support hiring, training, and sustain the parent resource coordinators in the Family Care Enhancement Project. The MMI UCEDD five-year proposal for continued funding from ACL is being worked on and is due April 25, 2022. The goals and objectives over the next five years include more emphasis on training and mentoring self-advocates to facilitate inclusion in MMI in all areas of the mission (training, research, clinical service, information dissemination) and in advocacy efforts across Nebraska.

Council Chair and Staff Updates

A Letter to the Editor from Joe Valenti was published in many Nebraska newspapers. It was regarding the Beatrice State Developmental Center. A copy of the letter was provided as a handout at the meeting.

Four final reports were included in the meeting packet for your review.

- Best Buddies International, Inc. – *Best Buddies Ambassador Project*
- Educational Service Unit 13 – *Empowerment & Employment through Entrepreneurship Education*
- People First of Nebraska – *Continuation*
- The Arc of Buffalo County – *Technology Training and Outreach*

Newline2022 will be sent out at the conclusion of the session.

Council Member Updates

Shauna Graham said that on March 4, 2022 they opened their store, *You Are Worth It*, in Central City. It is a toy and candy store and they will also screen print t-shirts. Shauna's goal is for Bailey to find meaningful work in rural Nebraska. Bailey is a great salesperson!

Sharon Orduña mentioned that her daughter wants to be a flight attendant. They went to Savannah, Georgia and she applied and interviewed with Allegiant Airlines. She did not get the position but was invited back in September to reapply.

Ryan mentioned that he spoke to a few classes, at the school he works at, about dwarfism and a few of the modifications he uses. He was spreading awareness to the students and explained that we all have more similarities than differences.

In May, Jason will be powerlifting in the Nebraska Special Olympics Games. In June, he will be traveling to Orlando, Florida to bowl in the USA National Games Special Olympics. In July, he will be participating in the Cornhusker State Games. Then in September, he may be going on a cruise.

Cheryl Montgomery mentioned that the Association of Community Professionals Conference will be held in Kearney on September 8 and 9, 2022. It will be an in-person conference and Dr. Emily Tanis, Associate Research Professor at Kansas University Center in Developmental Disabilities, Life Span Institute, University of Kansas, will be providing the keynote address. She is nationally recognized for her expertise in applied technology solutions. The Transition Conference will be held in Norfolk this fall with a presentation by the Transition College. The date is to be determined.

Jennifer is moving on to transition with her daughter and she is finding that it is difficult for parents to navigate through transition process and to know what to expect. Work is great and supported employment is booming in the state.

Caiti Donaldson mentioned that her first year of services were through the state. However, her service provider did not meet her needs. Towards the end of her employment service, she learned about the provider, Hands of Heartland, and shared her struggles with them. She will be working with them to set up day services.

Kirsten Wilcox said that things have been going well. She advocated for herself with her manager at Hu-Hot for a raise and he said YES! She has been working there for seven years.

Public Comment

Jennifer opened the meeting for public comment.

Stacy Pfeifer, Nebraska State Treasurer – Enable Savings Plan [State Capitol, Room 2005], mentioned that one of the things the Able Program nationally is working on legislatively is the Aged Adjustment Act. Currently, you can only participate in the program if your disability started before the age of 26. They are trying to adjust that age. Senator Sasse is on the Finance Committee that is reviewing the proposed legislation.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:05PM, CDT.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2022. The virtual Grant Review Committee meeting will be held August 4, 2022.

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.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Sheri Dawson, Director, Division of Behavioral Health

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

988 – Work groups have finished meeting and are preparing recommendations to be reviewed and approved by the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Next focus is on mapping processes for activation of Mobile Crisis Response, follow-up after call, and transferring/warm handoff calls to other agencies such as 211 and 911. Work continues to implement crisis services across the state.

Current Agency activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD:

988 – Michelle Nunemaker met with Jesse Bjerrum to provide information regarding 988 and discuss training on serving individuals with I/DD who may experience a crisis. Link to 988 DHHS webpage for information and stakeholder webinars:
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/988.aspx>

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

May is Mental Health Month

One activity is the Pony Express (by motorcycle), which will take place the weekend of May 21, 2022. This is the 15th anniversary of this event. We will have more riders than previous years and excited to be able to have a large in-person event this year. There will be booths and tables set up at the capital for children and their families. We are planning on doing FB live interviews throughout the month. Stay tuned for events, messages, and social media.

If you would like to pose a question to the DHHS Division of behavioral health, please send to:
DHHS.BehavioralHealthDivision@nebraska.gov

If you would like to join our Key Partner listserv to receive education, training, or other announcements, please send your contact information with your email to:
DHHS.BehavioralHealthDivision@nebraska.gov

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities
State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

April 8, 2022

Representative: Tony Green, Director

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities and Home & Community Based Services

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

2021-2022 DHHS Business Plan <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Reports-and-Statistics.aspx>:

- Person-Centered Systems
 - The Division joined NASDDDS Community of Practice December 2021;
 - A state-wide Stakeholder Kick-Off Meeting was held on March 9, 2022;
 - The Division has actively engaged with Answers for Families to develop Charting the Life Course training to go-live in April 2022;
 - The Division has begun meeting with stakeholders from DD and AD waiver programs to redesign the ISP to include Charting the LifeCourse principles and tools.
- Aged & Disabled Rate Modeling
 - Intent is to establish a rate model for services to the Aged and Disabled;
 - Contractor, Optumas, has been secured for the project;
 - Communication sent out to all external partners (including independent Providers).
- Home and Community-Based Services Single Case Management System
 - Intent is to streamline the processes;
 - Notification sent out to all external partners Service Coordinators about training opportunities;
 - May 1st, Therap open for Service Coordinators and the requirement to start entering information begins.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 – HCBS:

- Documents are on the DHHS public website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Providers.aspx>

Waiver Updates:

- Amendments to HCBS Aged and Disabled waiver and the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver:
 - Submitted to CMS on March 18, 2022, anticipated effective date July 1, 2022;
 - Copy of proposed amendments and summary of changes are available on the public website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DD-Public-Comment.aspx>.
- DD Waivers Renewals submitted to CMS in November 2021 were approved and became effective date March 1, 2022.
- Appendix K: All 4 HCBS waivers were approved by CMS on March 18, 2022 for January 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

- Charting the LifeCourse Stakeholder Engagement Events:
 - April 27, 2022 - Lincoln—DHHS Office 5220 S. 16th St. Lincoln, NE (and Online)
 - May 9, 2022 - North Platte—224 S. Silber Ave. North Platte, NE (and Online)
 - May 16, 2022 - Omaha—ESU3 6949 S. 110th St. La Vista, NE (and Online)
 - May 18, 2022 - Scottsbluff—250114 Skyport Dr. Scottsbluff, NE (and Online)
 - May 23, 2022 - Kearney—2020 1st Ave. Kearney, NE (and Online)
 - June 2, 2022 - Norfolk—209 N. 5th St. Norfolk, NE (and Online)
- DD Advisory Committee Meeting – April 14, 2022, 10:00-2:00 PM, Conference Room P, 5220 South 16th St, Lincoln, NE
- Monthly HCBS Stakeholder Meeting – May 2, 2022, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM CST WebEx Meetings. Link on the DD Event Calendar <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Developmental-Disabilities.aspx>

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Sara Morgan

Agency: NDHHS Division of Public Health

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

- 1) Title V Nebraska Connecting Families Network RFP re-released due to vendor feedback around previous timeframes. New RFP is available for a shorter period, but expecting some response.
- 2) Title V initiated a process of exploring with key informants the root causes and possible approaches to address disparities in behavior management at school. Recognizing that methods to manage behavior in developmentally appropriate ways exist but may not be implemented consistently, Title V is interested in learning more about how to support school personnel, students, families, advocacy groups, and other partner organizations to address disparities related to disproportionate suspension and harsher discipline practices of children with disabilities, especially children of color.
- 3) Bill to require cytomegalovirus education added to another bill – LB 741 – and has moved to Final Reading.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

- Title V Application/Annual Report submission; update annual and five-year plans

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Amy Rhone

Agency: Nebraska Department of Education

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

1) With the passing of LB 527 which will be codified at Neb. Rev. Stat. § 83-1225, Nebraska statute will require transition planning to be documented in Individual Education Programs (IEPs) as required by both federal and state law and must occur in the first IEP meeting held after the student reaches the age of 14.

The Office of Special Education held a public hearing on January 4, 2022 and moved forward with the change in 92 NAC 51 to reflect Neb. Rev. State Statute. The Attorney General's office has approved the below changes to 92 NAC 51 and it is now awaiting signature of the Governor to make this official.

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 83-1225 states:

- Each school district shall provide transition services for each student with a disability no later than when the student reaches fourteen years of age and until the student graduates from a special education program or no longer meets the definition of a child with a disability pursuant to section 79-1117.
- Transition services shall consist of a coordinated set of activities for a student, designed within an outcome-oriented process, which promotes movement from school to postschool activities, including postsecondary education, vocational training, integrated employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, and community participation.
- The coordinated set of activities shall be based upon the individual student's needs, taking into account, the student's preferences and interests, and shall include instruction, community experiences, the development of employment and other postschool adult living objectives, and, when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

With the above stated changes to Nebraska Revised State Statute, Title 92 *Nebraska Administrative Code* Chapter 51 (Rule 51) has been updated to state the following:

007.07A9 Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child turns ~~16, or younger if deemed appropriate by the IEP team~~ 14, and updated annually thereafter:

007.07A9a Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills; and

007.07A9b The transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the child in reaching those goals; and

007.07A9c If a participating agency, other than the school district or approved cooperative fails to provide the transition services described in the IEP, the school district or approved cooperative shall reconvene the IEP team to identify alternative strategies to meet the transition objectives for the child set out in the IEP.

007.07A9c(i) Nothing in this Chapter relieves any participating agency, including the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, of the responsibility to provide or pay for any transition service that the agency would otherwise provide to children with disabilities who meet the eligibility of that agency.

2) The Office of Special Education had the annual Transition Conference in February where several topics around transition were discussed. The area of 18 – 21 year old services continues to be one that is in need of clarification. The following information will be shared as part of the new/updated Transition Planning Guide that will be coming out this summer. Please review the information and contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Services through Age 21

Some students with disabilities remain in high school until they are 21 years old. This means they are often receiving services in classrooms with much younger students. In some cases, students with disabilities may be repeating classes they have taken in the past. Since most high school students typically graduate at 17 or 18 and go onto higher education or employment, students with disabilities who remain in high school until the age of 21 have fewer opportunities to interact with same-age peers without disabilities. These services are developed to increase the opportunity to interact with same-age peers in age-appropriate settings and provide further transition skills and employment opportunities in the community. Furthermore, they should provide a continued connection to a student's home community.

Students ages 18-21 who have not met graduation requirements

Districts must make a free appropriate public education (FAPE) available to any student who has not graduated with a regular high school diploma until the end of the school year in which the student turns 21. The IEP team may determine that the student needs

extended school year services, which would be available through the summer break of the school year in which the student turns 21. The school must provide the student age 18 and over, and the parents with Prior Written Notice that the services will be discontinued at the end of the school year, however, parental consent is not required. A reevaluation is also not required when a student graduates or ages out of eligibility for services upon turning age 21.

Secondary Transition - Services for 18-21 Year Olds

As has been emphasized numerous times throughout this document, the term ‘transition services’ means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that (A) is designed to be a results –oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child’s movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living or community participation.

B) is based on the individual child’s needs, taking into account the child’s strengths, preferences and interests; (C) includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

Who is Eligible for 18-21 Services?

Students receiving special education services who have an IEP (Individualized Education Program) are able to access 18-21 services through their school districts. They may have met the minimum requirements for graduation in their districts, but have ongoing transition needs identified in their IEPs, by the IEP team, and based on assessment data. Students who have earned the minimum graduation requirements may participate in a “social graduation” but cannot accept high school diplomas to receive 18-21 services(refer to local district policies for social graduation information). FAPE (free and appropriate education) ends once a diploma has been issued to a student. Students who have IEPs but leave traditional school settings to attain their

GEDs (General Educational Development) retain their right to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) until age 21 or they receive a regular high school diploma. A regular high school diploma does not include a general equivalency diploma, certificate of completion, certificate of attendance, or similar lesser credential [34 C.F.R. § 300.102(a)(3)(iii)].

Student Ages 18-21 Transition Services (aligned with requirements for ALL students with IEPs):

- Must be instructional, standards-driven and identify requirements for attendance/performance
- Must be part of the individualized transition continuum
- Must not have an arbitrary purpose or point of entry/exit
- Must identify transition needs/goals, outcomes, and agency linkages through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Process
- Must focus on transition needs aligned with postsecondary goals (i.e., college, employment, and independent living supports)
- Must create and maintain a schedule of direct services corresponding to hours of service identified on IEP
- Must award some credit – credit must transfer to school transcripts
- Exit determination prior to reaching a maximum age is determined by issuance of a diploma (if earned) or through an IEP Eligibility Review (§ 300.305)

Best Practices to Consider for 18-21 Services:

- Should be community-based with a focus on connections to adult resources and/or services, as well as postsecondary education and/or employment opportunities.
- Should clearly identify course and activity objectives aligned with individual transition needs and goals
- Should provide flexibility for school and community experiences based on individual preferences, interests, strengths and needs aligned with postsecondary goals
- Should include clearly outlined processes for phasing out services and supports as well as facilitating linkages to adult services and/or post-school environments.

Current Agency activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD:

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Paige Rose

Agency: Nebraska VR

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

- Order of Selection Update
 - Priority Group 1: Open, no wait list
 - Priority Group 2: Open, no wait list
 - Priority Group 3: Nebraska VR has been contacting individuals on the wait list to determine who is in need of services. There are fewer than 350 individuals on the Priority Group 3 wait list

Current Agency activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD:

- Nebraska VR and the other WOA state plan partners held a public meeting on 3/3 to seek input on the two year modifications.
- Written public comment on the WIOA state plan draft was requested during a 30-day period beginning February 16, 2022 and ended March 18, 2022. The modification draft is accessible online at <https://tinyurl.com/2022NCSP>.
- The state plan will be submitted by Neb Dept of Labor no later than March 25, 2022.
- Nebraska VR is finalizing its corrective action plan as a result of its 2021 federal monitoring. Nebraska VR has been issued four (4) findings (two performance areas and two fiscal areas):
 - Timeliness developing IPEs
 - Formal documented process for conducting case reviews and desk audits
 - Updated formal processes documenting period of performance, time/leave
 - Contract Monitoring processes documented

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

Updated List 04/07/2022

[This replaces the list that follows Paige's report.]

Transition Summer Programs

Angel Guardians in Omaha will host a program for up to 24 students ages 14-21, in June and July, incorporating the 5 pre-employment transition services and focusing particularly on workplace readiness and work-based learning experiences. Contact Hannah Tamayo at hannah@angelguardians.org

Camp Scott in Scottsbluff will provide job exploration, workplace readiness, instruction on self- advocacy and work-based learning experiences for 25 students ages 14-21 during a 5-week summer camp from June 2nd- July 1st. Contact Lorene Berry at berryyreenie@yahoo.com and pennykbusing@gmail.org.

CASA of South Central Nebraska/Maryland Living Center in Hastings will provide the 5 pre-employment transition services for up to 10 students in Hastings. The summer program will be in June and July. Contact RuAnn Root at ruannroot.casa@gmail.com or Michelle Kohmetscher at michellekohmetscher@live.com.

EasterSeals Nebraska will provide 2 Empowered Youth Camps. One at Schramm State Park and the other at Halsey 4H Center for up to 20 students. The camps will emphasize self-advocacy, youth leadership and independent living skills and will also provide instruction on workplace readiness and job exploration. Email Goodwill Omaha will provide a program for 18 students including job readiness and work-based learning, job exploration and instruction on self-advocacy at 3 sites in Omaha and Blair in June and July. Contact ESN staff at campesn@ne.easterseals.com or call 800-471-6425.

Goodwill Industries Inc in Omaha will provide work-based learning experience for up to 18 students. The summer program will also provide job exploration and work readiness services. Contact Steven Andrews at sandrews@goodwillomaha.org.

LUX Center for the Arts in Lincoln will provide job exploration, workplace readiness for up to 30 students in April -June. They will also provide work-based learning experience for up to 6 students in June and July. Contact Lindsey Claussen at lindsey@luxcenter.org

Munroe-Meyer Institute in Omaha will provide activities in job exploration and post-secondary enrollment opportunities for up to 90 students with disabilities from Millard Public School and Westside Community Schools from April-July. Contact Rachel Ray at rachel.ray@unmc.edu.

Educational Service Units

ESU 1 will host a hybrid program for up to 24 students for a hands-on pre-employment teaching program that will include job exploration and workplace readiness. Contact Angie Guenther at aguenther@esu1.org

ESU 4 will host A Transition Academy for up to 30 students from 5 schools in the ESU 4 area. They will provide activities in job exploration, workplace readiness, post-secondary exploration, and instruction in self advocacy from May-July. Contact Ellen Stokebrand at estokebrand@esu4.net

ESU 5 will host a Transition Academy for up to 30 students from 10 different schools in the ESU 5 area. They will provide activities in all 5 Pre-Ets areas from May-July. Contact Jamie Thavenet at jthaven@esu5.org, Matt McNiff at mmcniff@esu5.org, Brenda Mcniff at bmcniff@esu5.org and Jan Reimer at jreimer@esu5.org.

ESU 6 will host a Transition Academy for up to 60 students. Students will participate in activities in all 5 pre-employment transition services at each school district in May-June. Contact Michele Rayburn at michele.rayburn@esu6.org

ESU 7 will host an Employment Readiness Bootcamp to provide a hands-on pre-employment skill teaching program for up to 16 students. Contact Amy Slama at asalama@esu7.org

ESU 10 will host a Transition Academy in Kearney. Up to 24 students will participate in activities in all 5 pre-employment transition services in May-June. Contact Blair Hartman at bhartman@esu10.org

ESU 13 will provide a camp on the Western Nebraska Community College campus. The camp will be from June 20-23rd, and will encompass workplace readiness, job exploration and instruction on self-advocacy for up to 20 students. Contact Diane Reinhardt at dreinhardt@esu13.org

ESU 16 will host The College and Occupational Readiness Exploration Program (CORE) in North Platte. The program will provide activities in all 5 pre-employment transition services. Up to 15 will be participating in the program in June. Contact Lou-Cox Fornander at lcox-for@esusixteen.org or Megan Lantis at mlantis@esusixteen.org

Public Schools

DC West from DC West Public Schools will provide job exploration and counseling on post-secondary enrollment opportunities for 10 students in grades 10-12th from June 6th-June 24th. Contact Director of Special Education Nicki Pechous at npechous@dcwest.org.

Grand Island Public Schools will implement a transition summer work program for up to 18 students in Grand Island. The program will provide activities in all 5 Pre-ETS services which includes career exploration, employment preparation and work experience. Contact Kris McMullen at kmcmullen@gips.org or Lori Watts at lwatts@gips.org

Papillion LaVista Public Schools will provide a program for approximately 50 Papillion LaVista students that will increase their skills in all 5 Pre-ETS categories. Students will engage in community-based activities and hands-on activities at the school. Contact Heather Post at heather.postplcschools.org

UmonHon Nation Public School in Macy will provide a program for 10 students focused on all 5 pre-employment transition services. Contact Kari Bappe at kbappe@unpsk-12.org or Erica Carter at ecarter@unpsk-12.org

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Nate Watson, Deputy Director

Agency: DHHS – Medicaid & Long-Term Care

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

Medical Care Advisory Committee

Medicaid's next Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) meeting will be held on April 21, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at the Benson Branch of the Omaha Public Library. We are still seeking additional members to join the committee, particularly to represent Medicaid beneficiaries and their advocates. More details on the MCAC, including the agenda for the next meeting, are on our website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/MCAC.aspx>

COVID Update Calls for Providers

Nebraska Medicaid invites providers or anyone interested to join us for monthly calls with updates on how Medicaid continues to respond to COVID-19.

The next calls will be held on Wednesday, April 6, at noon (Central). You can subscribe to our website to get notifications when details about the calls become available, like instructions on how to join the calls.

Managed Care Re-procurement

The procurement process for Medicaid's managed care health plans is still underway, but Medicaid expects to be able to share more details on our request for proposals this month (April). If interested in more information, be sure to follow DHHS's press releases.

Interpretation Services

On March 28, Medicaid released a provider bulletin with more details on interpretation and translation services that are available from our managed care plans. Each of the three current plans offer these services, and more details are available in our provider bulletin:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20Provider%20Bulletins/Provider%20Bulletin%202022-08.pdf>

Current Agency activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD:

Please see above, which includes current and upcoming activities.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

Please see above, which includes current and upcoming activities.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

Developmental Disabilities Network Representative
Report to Council Members
April 8, 2022

Representative: Seamus Kelly/Eric Evans

Agency: Disability Rights Nebraska

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

- No Student Discipline Act in this year's legislature!
- LB 1216 did not make it out of committee, LR 368 introduced to study guardianship issues.
- We testified at legislative committee hearings on: LB 834 (S), LB 1029 (S), LB 1053 (S), LB 1066 (S), LB 1104 (S), LB 1159 (S), LB 1216 (O), LB 1260 (S)
- Supported Decision Making steering committee continued to meet monthly and the Task Force met in February. We have produced draft brochures on SDM and provided education about SDM at the NDE Transition Conference, the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council and the NBIA Annual Conference. The National Council on Independent Living has expressed a strong interest in our SDM initiative.
- Continuing the collaborative effort with MMI LEND to provide public policy internships for individuals with disabilities.

Current Agency activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD:

- Remote monitoring of BSDC continues, 87 residents (77 LTC and 7 CSP). In January still had active COVID cases and 3 buildings in quarantine. No COVID 19 cases or quarantine in February.
- Met with staff at Nebraska Wesleyan University to discuss possibility of modifying inclusive education lay advocacy training to offer as continuing education credit for special education teachers.
- Established referral process so special education related intakes go to the Inclusive Educative Lay Advocacy coordinator to match up with a trained lay advocate.
- CEO Search Committee placed CEO job announcement on the National Disability Rights Network employment board and is preparing to interview applicants.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

- 6th Inclusive Special Education Lay Advocacy training cohort is scheduled to begin in April, 2022.
- Disability Rights Nebraska Board, Advisory Council and Staff Retreat April 30, 2022.
- Modified Social Role Valorization workshop May 10, 11 and 12, 2022 at Nebraska Wesleyan University.
- Supported Decision Making educational session with DD Service Coordinators in June, 2022.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Mark Shriver_____

Agency: University Center for Excellence in Development Disabilities-Munroe-Meyer Institute

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

Alice Schillingsburg has accepted an offer to be our new Director for our integrated Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (iCASD). Dr. Schillingsburg serves as Senior Vice President of Children's Clinical Services and Training at May Institute, providing clinical leadership to all children's programs including the May Center Schools and our home- and center-based services. She holds a joint appointment as Assistant Director of the National Autism Center at May Institute. She will join us officially later in the summer.

We are currently working on contracts for the next academic year, and we plan to contract with at least three school districts for transition services. Rachel Ray was invited to the Nebraska Transition Conference to present on our college-based transition services, as well as to write an article on our program for Impact, a journal published by the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota.

In our Advocacy and Arts program with the University of Nebraska Omaha, we held the spring Advocacy and The Arts workshop with Robert Dewaele, a professional sculptor. The theme was Wax Casting and Bronze Sculpture. Theresa Sindelar and Tom McLaughlin, the Trailblazers Program artists, have plans for summer art pop-up programs for individuals with disabilities of all ages, as well as siblings and parents. The Advocacy and the Arts program will host an art exhibit to celebrate a year of art in the new building and our partnership with Robert Dewaele. This event will coincide with the Yanney conference room dedication at MMI.

Current Agency activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD:

The NE NCI team has been recognized by the Human Research Services Institute and the National Association of State Developmental Disabilities Directors for our diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, and Rachel Ray has been asked to join both agencies' national training efforts. We have hired four new surveyors. Our new surveyors reside in Scottsbluff, Blair, Norfolk, and Lincoln, and all surveyors have extensive experience within the disability community. We have completed our first wireframe/mock-up of our NCI data dashboard. The dashboard will allow for a visual representation of the NCI, NCI-AD, and Staff Stability surveys.

We were awarded a \$48,000 contract from NE-VR for a summer transition program. We are partnering with Millard Public Schools and Westside Community Schools and will be providing work-based learning and college exploration opportunities for up to 90 transition students.

Our contracts for Respite Coordination for Eastern Nebraska and Northern Nebraska Regions and for our Respite Employer Engagement project were renewed with NE DHHS Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network.

We have received funding from Nebraska's Title V program to create a training program on providing family-centered care for Community Health Workers (CHWs) across the state. Faculty and staff from the UCEDD program, MMI's Program Evaluation, Psychology, the UNMC College of Nursing and Parent Resource Coordinators (PRCs) compose our development team. Five topic areas are addressed: Person & Family Centered Care, Working in Interdisciplinary Teams, Person-Centered Care Across the Lifespan, Cultural Humility and Trauma-Informed Care. We have video-taped 3 families who shared their story on Family Centered Care and worked with UNMC E-Learning team to develop an animated problem-based learning module regarding a family from Sudan who has a child with autism. The video shows the family being supported by a community health worker (CHW) and the need for cross-systems support and the barriers that are frequently encountered. We have 2 years of funding to help sustain and expand the module. We have completed both internal piloting with several PRCs and piloting with graduate students at UNO. Our next steps include piloting with community partners to screen for accessibility and make any necessary adjustments. The course will then be uploaded to NU Connect, an externally facing registration platform for Canvas, which will allow us to enroll learners across the state. We are also in the process of creating outreach and marketing materials to bring attention to and help enroll potential learners.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

We are awaiting notice of award for Public Healthcare Workforce funding from the Administration on Community Living (ACL) for MMI UCEDD which we plan to use to utilize the funding to help support hiring, training, and sustaining our parent resource coordinators in our Family Care Enhancement Project.

We are currently writing the MMI UCEDD five-year proposal for continued funding from ACL due April 25th. Our goals and objectives over the next five years include more emphasis on training and mentoring self-advocates to facilitate inclusion in MMI in all areas of our mission (training, research, clinical service, information dissemination) and in advocacy efforts across Nebraska.