Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities
August 21, 2026 at 9:30AM, CDT

In-Person Meeting
Nebraska State Office Building
[Lower-Level Meadowlark Conference Room]
301 Centennial Mall South Street
Lincoln, NE

The agenda was mailed to Council members prior to the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Beth Libra and called to order at 9:31AM, CDT, and the *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited. Quorum was present.

Present (In-Person): Amanda Anderson, Christopher Chambers, Diane Cochran, Quinton Corwin, Brent Hoffman, Shaistha Kiran Karipi, Seamus Kelly, Beth Libra, Jacob McIver, Hannah Mercer, Sasha Reeks, Jennifer Severe-Oforah, Mark Shriver, Judy Trent, Joe Valenti, Josh Whitfield, and Sadie Worthing.
Absent: Dr. Jamar Dorsey, Shauna Graham, Tony Green, Eddie Kraska, Diane Meadors, Angie Ohlrich, DJ Plautz, and Dawn Sybrant.
Guest (In-Person): Lisa Bickford, Larry Cochran, Tania Diaz, Linda Mercer, Stacy Pfeiffer, and Kathy Rohwedder.
Staff: Kristen Larsen, Rachel Ward, and Nikki Krause.

Welcome and Introductions
Beth Libra welcomed everyone to today's meeting. Attendees had the opportunity to introduce themselves.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act
Beth explained that Council meetings fall under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is posted on the entrance door by the sign-in table.

The Governor's Public Meeting Calendar referred members of the public and media to the Council's Meetings webpage for additional information (posted July 24, 2026).

Federal Compliance Reminder
Given the current climate, it is important to remember that the Council must comply with certain federal requirements. In your meeting packet, there was a July 2026 Advocacy Activity iTACC Guidance handout. Councils may educate and inform policymakers, not lobby. This distinction is being scrutinized and may affect the next legislative session. The Council may need to go on record as neutral regarding the legislative bills and provide education on their pros and cons.

Public Comment Period #1
Beth 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 themselves, including an address and the name of any organization represented.

Shauna Paolini – Director of Enable Savings Plan – 1445 K Street, Room 2027, Lincoln, NE
[Kristen Larsen read an announcement from Shauna Paolini for public comment, as Shauna could not be here.]
A letter of support was submitted from the Enable Savings Plan and the Council to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) supporting the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities' (NACDD) application for the cooperative agreement, *Expanding Financial Literacy and Empowerment: Increasing Awareness and Use of ABLE Accounts for Americans with Disabilities*. The selection announcement should be made on September 30th. National Able to Save Day was celebrated on August 14th. Additionally, there have been multiple updates to the EnableSavings.com website.

Approval of Minutes
Beth asked the Council members if there were any corrections to the *DRAFT* April 17, 2026, Council meeting minutes. There were no corrections. Council members were reminded to abstain from voting if they were not in attendance for the April 17th Council meeting. As there were no corrections,
Sadie Worthing made the motion to approve the minutes, and Brent Hoffman seconded.
A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 14, No – 0, Abstain – 2.*** Motion carried.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest
As required by Council policy, at the first meeting of each federal fiscal 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.

Judy Trent	The Arc of Buffalo County

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

Kristen reviewed the Financial Report for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026, a handout at the meeting. At the August 15, 2025 Council meeting, the Council approved the budget of $372,718 for FFY2026 (October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026). The Year-to-Date Expenditures for the third quarter of FFY2026 (October 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026) were $261,720 – 70.2% of the FFY2026 budget.

NOTE: Functions of the DSA is listed at $43,056 (163.6% of the budget). This should be $26,316. The DSA can only take 5% of total funds. Kristen will work on getting this adjusted.

The report reflects the balance of funds from FFY2025 and FFY2026. Available Current Funds totaled $354,311.26. Expenditures (obligations) totaled $171,314.49. Balance of Current Funds Available was 182,996.77.

One of the responsibilities of Council members under the DD Act is to approve the annual Financial Budget. A handout was provided with the *proposed* FFY2027 Financial Budget (October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027). The Estimated Council Expenses for FFY2027 is $348,368.

- Personal Expenses & Benefits - $249,140
- Operating Expenses - $37,510
- Travel - $35,515
- Functions of the DSA - $26,203

NOTE: Per the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, no more than half of the meetings can be held virtually. Therefore, the November 2026 and February 2027 Council 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: For FFY2027, Council meetings will be held at the Nebraska State Office Building (NSOB) in Lincoln. This will save on facility rental fees and food costs.

A motion was made by Joe Valenti to approve the *proposed* FFY2027 Financial Budget in the amount of $348,368 and Shaistha Kiran Karipi seconded.
A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 16, No – 0, Abstain – 0.*** Motion carried.

FFY2027 Meeting Dates and Location
Committee and Council meeting dates for FFY2027 were set.

Grant Review Committee meeting – November 19, 2026 - Virtual
Council meeting – November 20, 2026 – Hybrid
Legislative & Advocacy Committee meeting – February 4, 2027 - Hybrid
Council meeting – February 5, 2027 – Hybrid
Planning Committee meeting – May 6, 2027 - Hybrid
Council meeting – May 7, 2027 – In-Person
Grant Review Committee meeting – August 19, 2027 - Virtual
Council meeting – August 20, 2027 – In-Person

Meetings will be held at the Nebraska State Office Building – Lincoln (301 Centennial Mall South).

SAVE THE DATE! For 2027, the Tri-Board meeting will be on June 11th.

Member Reappointments and Recognition of Outgoing Members
Eligible Council members whose term expire on October 1, 2026, and are interested in continuing to serve on the Council, were 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-req or by mailing a **completed** Executive Appointment Application to Pat Selk at the Office of the Governor. Council members eligible to apply for reappointment are:

Brent Hoffman (Individual)
Shaistha Kiran Karipi (Family)
Joe Valenti (Family with Relative at ICFMR)

The following Council members, whose second term is ending on October 1, 2026 or who have decided not to seek a second term were recognized for their time with the Council:

Quinton Corwin (Individual)
Seamus Kelly (P&E – Disability Rights Nebraska)
Judy Trent (Family)

The outgoing Council members took a few minutes to say a few words about their time on the Council. Outgoing Council members were reminded that they would still serve on the Council until the Governor appoints their replacement.

Election of FFY2027 Council Officers

Per the By-Laws, officer elections for FFY2027 were conducted at today's Council meeting. This included the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. These officers were elected to serve a term of office from October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027. Officers may be re-elected for a maximum of an additional two (2) consecutive terms. That limit on terms being only for that office; they may be elected to another office without a break in service. Agency representatives are not eligible to serve as Chair or Vice-Chair of the Council. On June 25, 2026 and July 27, 2026, Nikki Krause sent emails to all Council members seeking nominations for Council Officers.

Chair – The Chair presides at all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee, provides overall direction for Council activities, and is an ex officio member of all Council standing and ad hoc committees. Beth Libra had indicated that she would be willing to run for the office of Chair. When asked if there were any nominations from the floor, there were none.

(Sasha) Reeks nominated Beth for the position of Chair, and Sadie seconded. By unanimous consent, Beth Libra will be the Chair for FFY2027.

Vice-Chair – The Vice-Chair assists the Chair in the performance of his/her duties and performs all duties of the Chair in his/her absence. Shaistha Kiran Karipi had indicated that she would be willing to run for the office of Vice-Chair. When asked if there were any nominations from the floor, there were none.

Reeks nominated Shaistha for the position of Vice-Chair, and Joe seconded. By unanimous consent, Shaistha Kiran Karipi will be the Vice-Chair for FFY2027.

Secretary – The Secretary (along with the Council Chair) will review the *draft* minutes taken by Council staff prior to them being posted on the Council's public webpage and included in the meeting packets mailed to Council members, and the Secretary will present the Council minutes for formal approval at the subsequent Council meeting. Eddie Kraska and Brent Hoffman had indicated that they would be willing to run for the office of Secretary. When asked if there were any nominations from the floor, there were none.

Reeks nominated Eddie for the position of Secretary, and Seamus Kelly seconded. Shaistha nominated Brent for the position of Secretary, and Judy Trent seconded. Brent was allotted time to explain why he should be elected Secretary. (Eddie was not at the meeting due to illness.) A vote was taken by secret ballot. Brent Hoffman will be the Secretary for FFY2027. (Brent 11 votes, Eddie 6 votes)

Kristen will forward the Council's recommendation for the office of Chair to the Governor's Appointments Office. Per Council By-Laws, the Governor appoints the Council Chair based on the Council's recommendation.

Committee Preferences
All Council members are expected to serve on one of the standing committees – Legislative and Advocacy, Planning, or Grant Review. Beth gave a summary of each committee's responsibilities. Members were asked to complete the FFY2027 Committee Preference form included in the meeting packet and return it to Nikki by the end of the meeting. Council staff and the Chair will review Council members' preferences. Committee preferences will be followed as closely as possible while adhering to iTACC's recommendation of being mindful of potential conflicts of interest for those serving on the Planning and Grant Review Committees.

NOTE: You do not need to be on the same committee that you were on in FFY2026. Each year you can change your committee preference if you would like.

NOTE: You are also not limited to serving on only one committee. You may serve on two or all three committees if you would like. A lot of discussion/heavy lifting is done at the committee meeting.

Council members were asked to note their interest in running for Chair of a committee on the Committee Preference form. Committee Chair elections for FFY2027 will be held during the November 20, 2026 Council meeting.

Council members were also encouraged to recommend non-Council members who would make good representatives to one of the three standing committees. Their names and contact information can be listed on the back of the Committee Preference form.

Report of the Planning Committee
Judy mentioned that the Planning Committee met on Thursday – August 20, 2026, to make recommendations for FFY2027 formal competitive/noncompetitive subaward/direct contract projects, and funding for up to two opportunity subawards.

NOTE: Council members were reminded to follow the Conflict-of-Interest Policy. Those with conflict(s) related to the proposed formal Request for Applications (RFAs) were asked not to participate in the discussion and to abstain from voting. This will provide transparency in the voting record.

NOTE: Becki Koehler is listed as a non-Council Planning Committee member; however, she withdrew from the Committee due to a potential conflict of interest in applying for a subaward.

Opportunity Subawards
The committee recommended:

- Fund up to two subawards at $20,000 each.
- Opportunity Subawards allows applicants to address any area within the State Plan.

- NCDD will remove the language stating, “Subawards may be renewed for an additional one (1) year period, subject to DHHS’ discretion.”
- Subrecipients wishing to continue their project in a second year will need to submit a new proposal.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 16, No – 0, Abstain – 0.*** Motion carried.

Self-Advocacy Organization Subaward

The Committee recommended:

- Fund one subaward at $25,000.00.
- Include special consideration language for organizations engaging high schools to recruit youth into the self-advocacy movement. Potential collaboration partners include ASD Network, transition facilitators, and Nebraska VR Pre-ETS counselors.
- Remove language referencing renewal at DHHS’ discretion. This provides an opportunity to release an RFA next year, offering flexibility to fund another self-advocacy organization, especially if the current organization is not demonstrating outcomes.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 16, No – 0, Abstain – 0.*** Motion carried.

Mini Grants for Youth Self-Advocacy Groups

The Committee recommended:

- Use an application process instead of an RFA.
- Fund 20 groups (instead of 10) at $500 each, totaling $10,000.
- Allow private schools to apply, including Madonna School (Omaha) and Villa Marie (Lincoln). NCDD staff will work with Diane Cochran, Stacy Pfeifer, and SEAC to distribute information.
- The Grant Committee will vote on these applications; the full Council will not.
- Add a sustainability question to the application.
- Add a section where schools may note in-kind match or support (e.g., teacher special duty pay). This is optional but demonstrates long-term commitment.
- Allow rural/small schools or areas to partner and submit one combined application.
- Include special consideration language for schools collaborating with other organizations/programs (e.g., local 4-H Extension Office).
- Add language noting that funding supports a group of self-advocates. Clarify that funding is not intended for unified groups, including neurotypical peers, in order to support leadership development among students with I/DD.
- Note that the intent is not to fund a unified approach that includes neurotypical peers. This provides an environment for the students with I/DD to step up into leadership roles.
- Exclude renewal language; schools must reapply annually.
- NCDD staff will create a flyer and cover letter to accompany the mini-grant application.
- A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 16, No – 0, Abstain – 0.*** Motion carried.

Formal Subaward

The Committee recommended:

- Fund one subaward at $50,000.00
- Include broad **employment-focused** language in the RFA, with the following specific areas as suggestions:
    - Address **transportation** barriers (e.g., research, look at Oklahoma DD Council Transportation Mobility Specialist work).
    - Support **transition** for youth/young adults leaving high school, including person-centered planning using the Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) framework. CtLC PCP activities may also help identify transportation solutions.
    - Provide **training** and development outreach to businesses and potential employers.
    - Do not include recommendations related to SE job coach training, as this falls under Nebraska VR's role.
- Remove language referencing renewal at DHHS' discretion.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 15, No – 0, Abstain – 0.*** Motion carried. [Jennifer Severe-Oforah stepped out of the room.]

DD Council Executive Director Annual Evaluation

One of the duties of Council members is to complete an annual evaluation of the DD Council Executive Director, Kristen Larsen. The shorter and briefer 2026 Executive Director Evaluation was included in the Council meeting packet. The evaluation needs to be completed and returned to Beth by October 1, 2026. Either scan and email the completed evaluation to Beth at bplisek111@gmail.com or snail mail the evaluation to:

Beth Libra
84816 559 Avenue
Hoskins, NE 68701

The outgoing Executive Committee (FFY2026 Officers and Committee Chairs) and incoming Executive Committee (FFY2027 Officers) will reference these evaluations when they meet to complete the formal recommended 2026 Executive Director Evaluation, which will be presented and voted on at the November 20, 2026 Council meeting.

DD Council Executive Committee Meeting Summary

The Executive Committee met virtually on August 4, 2026, and decided to write a letter from the Executive Committee to Governor Pillen regarding recent concerns in the DD community.

NOTE: The Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and the Letter to Governor Pillen were included in your day of handouts.

In the day of handouts, you will find a DHHS News Release entitled "DHHS Partners with Independent Third Party to Evaluate InterRAI Implementation for Developmental Disability Waivers". This was a no-bid contract and the state picked out who it would work with. Additionally, this is the same company that Kristen Smith left DHHS to work for.

Also, Disability Alliance held a press conference on August 19th. The Council (Kristen) was not there, as it could have been perceived as lobbying. Joe said that he attended the press conference. It was done very well and was well attended.

In the day of handouts, you will also find an article titled “Gov. Pillen Issue Memo Directing Further Reductions in State Spending; Outlines Processes to Ensure Compliance”. Governor Pillen wants a 5% cut in budgets. With that, changes will happen fast.

If self-advocates want to tell their stories, Brad Meurens with Disability Rights Nebraska can assist with writing letters. The local Arc chapters may be able to help as well.

June 12, 2026 Tri-Board Meeting Summary
The theme for this year’s Tri-Board meeting was *Strengthening Disability Advocacy through Resilience and Collaboration*. This was very timely and appropriate. The meeting was well attended and successful. The national panel was good and illustrated that they see some of the same problems at the national level that we see at the state level. We are not alone in our advocacy. The importance of collaboration was emphasized.

SAVE THE DATE! For 2027, the Tri-Board meeting will be on June 11th.

2027-2031 Five-Year State Plan and FFY2027 Work Plan
The 2027-2031 Five-Year State Plan and FFY2027 Work Plan have been submitted and have been conditionally approved. Both plans are being peer-reviewed and will then be sent to ACL Project Specialist Sara Newell-Perez for final approval.

Updates from State Agency Representatives
NOTE: Agency representatives were asked to briefly touch on any pressing issues or important updates the Council needed to be informed of. The written reports are attached at the end of the minutes and Council members are encouraged to read the written reports in their entirety. (Tony Green, Diana Meadors, Jennifer Severe-Oforah, DJ Plautz, and Dawn Sybrant were absent and not able to present their reports.) [Christopher Chambers, Department of Education – Office of Special Education; Tony Green, Division of Developmental Disabilities; Diana Meadors, Division of Behavioral Health; Jennifer Severe-Oforah, Division of Public Health – Maternal and Child Health; DJ Plautz, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation; Dawn Sybrant, Medicaid and Long-Term Care and Aging]

Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) – Office of Special Education (OSE)
All 245 Districts in Nebraska received their District Determinations based on their Nebraska Counts data, and Nebraska meets requirements. Districts in the Indicator 8 Parent Survey for the 2025-2026 school year will soon have their results and feedback from parents of students with disabilities.

OSE continues with focused monitoring of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for students with disabilities. Part of that is ensuring that all Districts meet the state criteria for identifying students with disabilities within the 45- school-day or 60-day timeline. Indicator 13 – Self-

Assessment opens on September 7th for District Monitoring of Transition Planning and Services (students 14-21). OSE continues to refine its General Supervision of Monitoring in response to guidance and changes from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

OSE is excited about its new transportation guidance document that was just released and can be found on its website under technical assistance. This is a huge hot topic now in the state of Nebraska for students of all ages with disabilities.

The transition website (transition.ne.gov) is as up-to-date as possible. There are six transition facilitators across Nebraska who provide technical assistance, advocacy, and other support to students in transition age. Once the *Along the Way Guides* are updated, they will put that information out on their website and in their Friday blast.

Future/upcoming activities:

- The 2026 NEMTSS Summit- Destination Impact is October 8-9, 2026, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska.
- The 2026 Tri-State Law Conference is November 12-13, 2026.
- The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Network Conference is April 8-9, 2027, in Kearney, Nebraska.

Division of Disability and Aging

From Tony Green's report, Beth shared that the renewal of the DD Waivers (Family Support Waiver (FSW), Developmental Disabilities Adult Day Waiver (DDAD), and the Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities Waiver (CDD)) will be effective March 1, 2027. They anticipate going to public comment in October 2026.

- The DD Advisory Committee meeting is September 9, 2026.
- The Monthly DHHS Stakeholder meeting is September 14, 2026.
- The Nebraska Olmstead Advisory Committee meets on November 17, 2026.

Division of Public Health – Maternal and Child Health (DPH-MCH)

From Jennifer Severe-Oforah's report, Beth shared that a major component of the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) is expanding the Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce. Each Local Health Department (LHD) is eligible to apply for funding to hire up to 10 CHWs, and this opportunity has now been extended to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Many LHDs have already hired their CHWs and begun training activities.

Updates from the DD Network Representatives

NOTE: DD Network representatives were asked to briefly touch on any pressing issues or important updates the Council needed to be informed of. The written reports are attached at the end of the minutes and Council members are encouraged to read the written reports in their entirety. [Seamus Kelly, Disability Rights Nebraska; Mark Shriver, Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI)/University Center of Excellence for Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)]

Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI)/University Center of Excellence for Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

The annual UCEDD performance report was submitted to ACL on July 29, 2026. Some examples from the report are outlined below.

- Core Function: Education/Training
    - A total of 247 students received interdisciplinary clinical training. Of these, 62 students participated in LEND Core interdisciplinary clinical training.
    - They have three Graduate programs, including Applied Behavior Analysis (MS and PhD) and Genetic Counseling (MGC), with successfully graduated students (7 for MS ABA, 5 in PhD ABA, 8 in MGC)
    - 83 continuing education events were provided to 3,694 participants.
    - 195 community trainings were provided for 8,740 participants.
        - 295 adults with disabilities participated in the community trainings, and there were 1,269 families/caregivers.
    - 982 hours of technical assistance were provided through 201 technical assistance activities.
- Core Function: Community Services
    - 26,921 individuals received services this year.
        - These individuals received at least 155,000 services, including clinical visits, recreation program visits, contracted services, and school visits/services offered at Omaha Public and Bellevue Public Schools by their Psychology, Occupational, and Physical Therapy Departments.
    - The total count for clinical services provided directly by MMI was 7,331 individuals.
    - The Transition to Lifespan Care clinic provided interdisciplinary services to 28 individuals aged 14 and older this past fiscal year.
- Core Function: Research
    - MMI faculty published 91 peer-reviewed articles.
    - MMI UCEDD faculty and staff presented 184 papers or posters at over 30 state, regional, national, and international conferences.
- Core Function: Information Dissemination
    - There were 10 webinars provided by their Family Care Enhancement Project team.

MMI will be working on its new 5-year work plan due this next fiscal year, based on the recent needs assessment completed with the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Disability Rights Nebraska (DRN)

Monitoring continues at the Beatrice State Development Center (BSDC). The number of permanent residents continues to drop (now 67 people) while the number of younger temporary residents at the Crisis Stabilization Unit fluctuates each month. Of concern, DRN observed paper logs in residential spaces documenting medication refusals. Administrator Jesse Bjerrum

met with Amy Miller and assured them that medication refusals are recorded immediately on their digital system, Therap, and the paper logs are a remnant of an older situation.

DRN met with Nebraska Supreme Court Administrator Corey Steel to discuss implementation of the new caseload limits and other statutory changes. They learned that the court has hired three new specialists to scrutinize the financial filings in every case where a guardian has five or more wards. [This past legislative session, LB985 was passed, which limits the number of people an individual guardian can serve to 20 people.]

Policy documents were requested from the Douglas County Youth Center (DCYC) to evaluate their use of segregation and restraint. Their state reports indicate a high number of youth are placed in segregation for very long periods of time. DRN received the documents just as the quarter was ending. In the next quarter, they will determine whether DCYC rules comply with state statutes on solitary and identify areas for reform.

The Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy training concluded at the end of March. The dates for the fall training are August 25 – October 1, 2026.

DRN continues to work with Senator Rountree's office on several legislative efforts related to Olmstead. DRN felt that greater legislative involvement, education, and awareness was important to further the goals of Olmstead implementation in Nebraska. LB737, which was approved, requires the Legislature's Urban Affairs Committee and Health and Human Services Committee to hold a joint public hearing to discuss state planning and possible legislative activity regarding housing, employment, education, community supports, and transportation for Nebraskans with disabilities. The joint hearing is scheduled for September 18th at 9:00am.

Finally, DRN continues to conduct voter registrations alongside its monitoring work.

Council Chair and Staff Updates

Beth mentioned that Norfolk has been very busy. Over 450 people attended the Norfolk Disability Pride event. Buddy Baseball is in full swing. They started with 14 players and are now at 72 players. Evolve for All is a nonprofit gym for able-bodied people and people with disabilities, with a focus on parents and caregivers. September 12th is the Light Up the Night Dance in Norfolk. There are 100 dancers expected, and the DJ, catering, room, and dresses/tuxes have all been donated.

Kristen mentioned several things.

- Paid caregiving and links to fraud, waste, and abuse are hot topics right now.
- ACL's Administration on Disability Commissioner is visiting each state.
- The Governor's DD Advisory Committee has been very busy trying to leverage its membership there to move systems. For example, at the last meeting, they heard from Donna Barker, The Arc of Nebraska. She lives in Scottsbluff, in Western Nebraska, and faces all kinds of challenges in receiving Medicaid across state lines. It makes more

sense for her to go to Children's over in Denver than it does to go across the state to Omaha. She has brought this to the attention of the Governor's DD Advisory Committee, the Medicaid Advisory Committee, and the Beneficiary Advisory Committee.
- Drew Gonshorowski, Director of Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC), has resigned. Jeremy Brunssen, MLTC's Deputy Director of Finance and Program Integrity, has been appointed by Governor Pillen to serve as the interim director.
- She wrote a LEND letter of support and contributed language to the letter of support for NACDD's application.
- Mark Friedman, who worked with the Council years ago on person-centered planning, is planning an event on how to use artificial intelligence (AI) safely. The Council has agreed to be a sponsor of this event. The workshop will be in November, and more information will come.

Rachel mentioned that all the Disability Pride groups need to get together to talk and share ideas. The Lincoln Disability Pride event began with the Resource Fair outside, then moved into the Auld Pavilion. Unfortunately, the food trucks did not show up.

Charting the LifeCourse Community of Practice is evolving, working to communicate better, and engaging more ambassadors.

TransCen's employment project is coming to an end. They will finish up the summer institute next month and hold a webinar with PTI.

Nikki reminded everyone to turn in their expense reimbursements and Committee Preference forms before they left for the day.

Member Updates

Josh Whitfield mentioned that he had had a very busy summer. He had PCP in June. Scooping is going well. He went on a five-day cruise and will be going to a Cardinal baseball game.

Seamus mentioned that this is his last meeting, and he has appreciated working with everyone. He is figuring out adult services for his daughter. If anyone is interested or knows someone who is looking for a new job, he is looking for a new assistant.

Diane said that in June, she attended the American Association of IDD (AAIDD) national conference in Chicago. She made a connection with the president of AAIDD, and he is fearful for the future of IDD. She will be attending a Reimagining Quality Conference in Baltimore. She went to the Caribbean for five days and will be an auditor for various magazines.

Reeks mentioned that she has recently moved back to Omaha, and next week she will be going to court regarding the termination matter with the Department of Correctional Services.

Brent has been league bowling through Parks and Rec. He also went to the Disability Pride event in Lincoln.

Hannah Mercer has been babysitting her two nephews, ages four and two. She started doing cornhole for Special Olympics this is her second year. She went to the prom dance in April.

Sadie has been working with the Lexington Public Schools. They have a STARS program for elementary students during summer school, for special needs kids. They had a short trial (two weeks) for the older kids, during which they went to the pool and did homework. She has a senior this year.

Amanda Anderson mentioned that her brother's provider is changing to no community activities starting September 1st. As a result, they are looking for a new provider. As a family, they are anxious about a second time for her brother's interRAI assessment.

Jacob McIver said he is taking a trip next week to see his 94-year-old grandma in Kansas.

Joe mentioned that BSDC deals with some of the toughest cases in the crisis stabilization unit. Regarding supported employment, his son works independently at BSDC, and other individuals have total independence on campus.

Judy mentioned that her sister got a gold medal in bocce at the Special Olympics. They went to Kearney's Disability Pride Day. There was a resource fair and a dance. Judy is now serving on The Arc of Buffalo County Board.

Public Comment Period #2
Beth 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 themselves, including an address and the name of any organization represented.

Reeks mentioned OPS and shock gloves. Omaha has decided not to have School Resource Officers (SROs) use them.

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 2:38PM, CDT.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2026, and will be held in a hybrid format. The Grant Review Committee will meet virtually in the afternoon of November 19, 2026.

NOTE: 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.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Christopher Chambers

Agency: Nebraska Department of Education- Office of Special Education

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

- All 245 Districts in Nebraska received their District Determinations based on their NE Counts data (Nebraska meets requirements)
- Districts in the Indicator 8 Parent Survey for the 2025-2026 school year will soon have their results and feedback from parents of students with disabilities
- New personnel, new opportunities at the Office of Special Education

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

- Indicator 11 Child Find Monitoring- Initial evaluation (data for initial evaluations due August 31, 2026)
- Indicator 13- Self Assessment opens September 7, 2026, for District Monitoring for Transition Planning and Services (students 14-21)
- Continuing to refine/refine our General Supervision of Monitoring based on guidance and changes at the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)

New Guidance Document on Transportation
Transportation as a Component of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and Documentation within the Individualized Education Plan

Future/upcoming Agency activities:
Indicator 8 Parent Survey- All 245 Districts this school year- opens
2026 NeMTSS Summit- October 8-9, 2026 Kearney, Nebraska Younes North Center
2026 Tri-State Law Conference
Save the Date: ASD Network Conference, April 8-9, 2026 Kearney, Nebraska

As always check out our Office of Special Education website: Special Education – Nebraska Department of Education

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Tony Green, Director

Agency: Division of Disability and Aging

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

1. Division Name Change:
   - The Division of Developmental Disabilities became the **Division of Disability and Aging** on July 18, 2026. The division name change reflects years of strategic work to better align programs, people, and resources that serve Nebraskans with disabilities and aging-related needs.

2. State Long-term Care Ombudsman:
   - The state long-term care ombudsman program has moved from a hybrid model to a full centralized DHHS run program under Stepanie Beran, State Long-Term Ombudsman.

3. Omstead Strategic Plan:
   - Olmstead Evaluation of the 6-year Olmstead Strategic Plan went out for RFP (Request for Proposal)
   - Letter of intent to award was issued August 4, 2026 to Partners for Insightful Evaluation (PIE) for the evaluation.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

1. Developmental Disabilities Waiver Renewals:
   - Renewal of the DD waivers (Family Support Waiver (FSW), Developmental Disabilities Adult Day (DDAD) Waiver & Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities (CDD) Waiver) will be effective March 1, 2027.
   - Anticipate going to public comment in October 2026.

2. National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys
   - Developmental Disabilities NCI Survey anticipated start date November 2026
   - Aging and Disabled NCI Survey anticipated start date February 2027
   - DD and AD State of the Workforce surveys to merge into a singular survey for all waivers with an anticipated start date of March 2027

3. Upcoming Meetings - *All Information available on DD Calendar of Events page on DD Homepage*
   - DD Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, September 9, 2026
   - Monthly DHHS Stakeholder Meeting – Monday, September 17, 2026
   - Nebraska Olmstead Advisory Committee - Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Diana Meadors, Deputy Director of Operations

Agency: Division of Behavioral Health

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:
DBH continues to work on the Rural Health Transformation Initiatives. DBH's initiative is Rural Emergency Behavioral Health: 5.1 to 5.4
5.1 Integration of Behavioral Health Services in rural communities with a focus on specialty healthcare clinics.
5.2 Telehealth Crisis responders for Law enforcement:
Providing Crisis intervention Trainings to law enforcement across Nebraska. Avel Healthcare platform is a telehealth platform where law enforcement will have access to a nurse and or therapist when responding to a crisis call by pushing a button. RideCare is a secure transportation service for individuals needing transport to alleviate law enforcement from having to drive for hours.
5.3 RFA for crisis centers for minor items such as furniture, ADA accessible doors, generators and or crisis vans/cars. As well
5.4 Behavioral Health nursing home pilot program. To assist hospitals with placement of individuals needing additional behavioral health care while also meeting criteria for nursing home level of care.

All RHTP contracts/Grants are active and in the implementation stage as of July 31, 2026.

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

We have our upcoming mini block grant application due in September 2026. We will be working with UNL PPC to conduct a needs assessment as well as develop our strategic plan for the behavioral health system in Nebraska.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:
September 1, 2026 at 9:00 am recovery month proclamation.
September 10, 2026 DBH DHHS Recovery Month Celebration See Attachment.


2026
Nebraska
Recovery
Month
Celebration
September 10
3 pm - 6 pm
Shildneck Bandshell Antelope Park
1630 Memorial Dr, Lincoln, NE
Celebrate the journey of recovery & learn about community resources.
Play with therapy dogs.
DHHS will present Excellence in Recovery awards to outstanding individuals and organizations.
Hope Healing Recovery
NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: DJ Plautz

Agency: Nebraska VR

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

- Technical Assistance to Providers: Nebraska VR continues to provide technical assistance to agency providers to support and improve the quality of service delivery, with an ongoing focus on effective Supported Employment (SE) and Customized Employment (CE) practices.

- Supported/Customized Employment Outcomes: Nebraska VR achieved 175 successful SE/CE outcomes during Program Year 2025, reflecting continued progress in helping individuals with disabilities obtain and maintain competitive integrated employment.

- Collaboration with Agency Partners: Nebraska VR continues to collaborate with agency partners in response to the findings of the Dr. Mills study and the subsequent action plan. These collaborative efforts remain focused on strengthening services and improving employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

- Olmstead Planning: Nebraska VR and the ATP continue to be actively engaged in the development and implementation of Nebraska's Olmstead Plan. The VR Director leads the employment workgroup, while the ATP Director serves as chair of the housing workgroup. The agencies' involvement helps ensure that employment and accessibility remain priorities for Nebraskans with disabilities.

- WIOA State Plan: Nebraska VR and other workforce partners have spent the past several months developing updates and documenting progress on implementation of Nebraska's four-year WIOA State Plan. Nebraska was recently notified that the WIOA Combined State Plan Modification has been approved by federal partners. Nebraska VR's portion of the plan includes specific goals and strategies focused on improving Supported Employment outcomes.

- Nebraska EmployABILITY Project: During July, implementation of the Nebraska EmployABILITY Project officially began in three pilot offices: Omaha West, Lincoln, and Norfolk. Selected staff from each office completed hands-on training with Transfr virtual reality headsets and Sphero robotics and coding products, including BOLT+, RVR+, indi, and littleBits. The training was designed to increase staff knowledge, confidence, and

proficiency in using these technologies to support client engagement and skill development.

- Summer Work-Based Learning: Nebraska VR funded five summer programs providing community-based work-based learning experiences for students with disabilities ages 14–21. These programs provided students with opportunities to develop job skills and explore career pathways based on their individual interests.

- Student Participation: A total of 187 students participated in paid work-based learning experiences during the summer.

- Project SEARCH: Three Nebraska Project SEARCH teams received recognition at the National Project SEARCH Conference for their employment outcomes. The teams met the Project SEARCH employment outcome criteria of individuals working 16 or more hours per week.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Jennifer Severe-Oforah

Agency: Division of Public Health, DHHS

The Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) remains a key priority for the Division of Public Health. During the past quarter, efforts were primarily directed toward obligating available funds to support program objectives.

A major component of RHTP is expanding the Community Health Worker (CHW) workforce. Each Local Health Department (LHD) is eligible to apply for funding to hire up to 10 CHWs, and this opportunity has now been extended to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Many LHDs have already hired their CHWs and begun training activities.

MCH has two other RHTP Initiatives:

1) Perinatal Regionalization aimed at reducing maternal morbidity and mortality by easing access to high-risk pregnancy care and standardizing clinical best practices through education and collaboration.

- **Hub-and-spoke care model**: Creates a regional network where rural sites integrate into broader perinatal care systems, reducing travel burdens and improving care continuity.
- **Maternal Fetal Medicine Rural Provider Pairing Program**: for structured mentorship, case consultation, and streamlined patient referrals.

2) Maternal Mobile Health Clinics are designed to bring maternity services directly to underserved rural areas to improve maternal and infant health outcomes by increasing access to care, expanding early intervention, and reducing rural disparity in maternal health.

More information is available at:

https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Rural-Health-Transformation.aspx

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Dawn Sybrant – Administrator II

Agency: Medicaid and Long-Term Care

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

Approved: State Plan Amendment (SPA) NE 26-0004 -- Targeted Case Management (TCM) for Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) and Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) eligibility groups.

Effective July 1, 2026, this SPA specifies which providers can provide TCM services to these groups by aligning it with the 1915(b)(4) waiver that was approved by CMS last year.

Providers allowed to provide TCM services for these groups include

- State staff employed by DHHS
- Entities awarded a contract through DHHS' competitive bid process to provide TCM services
- Entities for whom DHHS has entered into a sole source award for the provision of TCM

The SPA was submitted May 18, 2026

- Submission

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

State Plan Amendment (SPA) 26-0007: Nursing Facility Inflation Factor

- Effective July 1, 2026, the inflation factor for the nursing facility rate period is -2.07%

State Plan Amendment (SPA) 26-0008: Intermediate Care Facility Inflation Factor

- Effective July 1, 2026, the inflation factor for intermediate care facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities (ICF-DD) is 24.0%

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

Upcoming federal changes from H.R.1 (The "One Big Beautiful Bill Act"):

H.R.1 Section 71109: Eligibility Changes for Immigrants – October 1, 2026
This change removes certain immigration statuses from being eligible for full Medicaid coverage.

Noncitizens who may continue to qualify after October 1, 2026:	**Noncitizens who may no longer qualify after October 1, 2026:**

• **(Green Card Holders)** Lawful Permanent Residents*
• **Cuban/Haitian Entrants**
• **Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants**, including individuals from Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau
• Lawfully present noncitizens who are:
  o Pregnant, or
  o Under the age of 19
 	
*Green card holders (lawful permanent residents) must:
• Meet the five-year bar;
• Be credited with 40 working quarters; or
• Be exempt from meeting the 5-year bar.
	• Refugees*
	• Asylees*
	• Victims of severe trafficking*
	• Noncitizens whose deportation is being withheld*
	• Noncitizens granted conditional entry
	• Noncitizens victims of domestic violence by a spouse or parent
	• Iraqi and Afghani Parolees*
	• Amerasian Immigrants
	• Noncitizens who are veterans or active-duty military and spouses or unmarried dependents who also have qualified noncitizen status*
	• Other humanitarian parolees
	Other noncitizens
	
	*These groups of noncitizens do not have to meet the five-year bar.

For more information:
- Webpage: https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Eligibility-for-Noncitizens.aspx
- FAQ: https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-Eligibility-for-Noncitizens.aspx#docaccess-cbc4eb2af768e44fe92e4d0d1849e82d

H.R.1. Section 71112: Retroactive Coverage Limits – January 1, 2027
- Current (prior to 1/1/2027): States are required to provide up to three months of retroactive coverage if the applicant would have been eligible during that time.
- Change (effective 1/1/2027): Limits retroactive coverage to 1 month for the Medicaid expansion group and 2 months for all other Medicaid beneficiaries (such as Waiver recipients).

Disability Rights Nebraska
Report to Council Members
August 2026

Representative: Seamus Kelly/ Tania Diaz

Agency: Disability Rights Nebraska

Monitoring of Beatrice State Developmental Center:

The number of permanent residents continues to drop (now 67 people) while the number of younger temporary residents at the Crisis Stabilization Unit fluctuates each month.

Routine monitoring throughout the quarter revealed some efforts to improve recreational spaces for grilling outdoors, which is appreciated, though we have seen no movement on improving the barren rooms in the Crisis Stabilization Unit nor completion of the classrooms that are intended to permit in-person instruction. As the quarter ends ahead of the new school year, we will be requesting further updates about the educational opportunities for residents.

While monitoring this quarter, we observed paper logs in the residential spaces that recorded medication refusals. This gave us concern: how did medical staff learn about the paper notes of front line staff? If a resident is refusing medications regularly, is someone evaluating the situation? The logs mostly recorded over the counter medications, such as stool softeners, but at least one entry noted the refusal of Trazodone. We wrote to request any policies around medication refusals and had a positive experience with leadership: they did produce the policies and then Administrator Jesse Bjerrum met with Amy Miller on her next monitoring visit to review in person.

Mr. Bjerrum assured us that medication refusals are recorded immediately on their digital system Therap, and the paper logs are a remnant of an older system. He thanked us for bringing the matter to his attention, acknowledging that it could be dangerous if information was only in paper form, and indicated he would review with all staff.

Guardianship Reform:

This quarter included more macro level advocacy around guardianship reform. We met with the Nebraska Supreme Court Administrator Corey Steel to discuss implementation of the new caseload limits and other statutory changes. It was a positive meeting and we learned that the court has hired three new specialist positions to scrutinize the financial filings of every case where a guardian has five or more wards. We were very gratified to find this proactive step since up until now, the judicial branch has seemed to deny there was an issue.

In response to intakes and in order to provide a detailed view of how one guardian with over 60 clients is serving people, we engaged in two individual case reviews. One is a resident of the Norfolk Regional Center who asserted this guardian is not providing him with adequate spending money—as of the end of this quarter, we are awaiting records from NRC. The second client is a woman living with serious mental illness in North Platte who says this guardian has been verbally abusive and inattentive. By entering our appearance in court on behalf of this woman, we hope to gather more information than we normally have access to through court files and determine whether there is financial misconduct.

During this quarter, we conducted additional macro level research for next steps in guardianship reform that we believe will be necessary to complete this several-years-long-project: requiring guardians to post bond and to pass a clean credit history check. Currently, state court rules permit judges to waive bonds, and while credit history checks are done, they don't seem to be taken into account even when red flags like active debt collection lawsuits pop up. We've renewed our communication with the American Bar Association (since they conducted judicial education sessions in 2023 on the need for guardianship reform in Nebraska) and hope to have a final report next quarter that outlines remedies that other states have adopted.

Monitoring Veterans' Home:

The Nebraska state veterans' home system refused our access authority last quarter when we sought to conduct a monitoring visit at their Norfolk facility. This quarter, we reached out directly to the state director, John Hilgert, with a full outline of our legal authority. We were gratified to have a prompt response agreeing with our position, and immediately conducted a monitoring visit at the Eastern State Veterans Home in Bellevue. The visit

was conducted without incident, and it appears that we have successfully resolved this issue for all future VA home monitoring.

Monitoring in individual facilities also proceeded throughout the quarter. We have been examining the business practices of one-star-rated facilities that are owned by large out-of-state corporations, which guided us to a number of both rural and urban facilities with exceedingly poor track records. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services have documented grievous safety concerns at many of these facilities in Nebraska. Several of these facilities turn out to have bewilderingly mixed populations: adults with serious mental illness living alongside people who are aged/elderly as well as adults with intellectual disabilities. We are observing patterns in these facilities: lack of real recreation or activities designed to return someone to independence, severe staffing shortages, dirty conditions. Since one of the facilities was locked all day long—only staff have the key pad code to exist—but was not a dementia unit requiring safety precautions, we submitted a formal complaint to DHHS Licensure and the Long Term Care Ombudsman that is pending as this quarter ended.

Douglas County Youth Center:

Previously, we requested policy documents from the Douglas County Youth Center ("DCYC") in Omaha to evaluate their use of segregation and restraint. Their state reports indicate a high number of youth are placed in segregation for very long periods of time. We wanted to examine the policies to determine whether there is a need to reform their written rules or whether this is a staff re-education issue. Initially, DCYC refused, citing security concerns. After providing them with a full explanation of our access authority, we received these policy documents just as the quarter was ending. In the next quarter, we will determine whether their rules comply with the state statutes relating to solitary and examine areas to propose reform.

Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy:

The spring Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy training concluded at the end of March and dates were set for the fall training for August 25-October 1. Recruitment and registration materials were developed and sent out.

On May 28 an advocate meeting was held for all those who have participated in the training since the beginning in 2019. Successes were shared including the story of one young man with Down Syndrome whose mother is an advocate and has advocated for her son since the first training session in 2019. Her son graduated from high school this year with his typical class and was chosen as one of the student speakers at the ceremony. Another

advocate shared an art installation she created to demonstrate the physical and emotional toll that the use of restraint and seclusion causes for children with disabilities. The project was shared with members of the public this past spring at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Eleven (11) referrals were made to the Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy program. Five (5) of the referrals were assigned an advocate to assist with IEP meetings. The Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy Coordinator attended IEP and 504 meetings with five (5) families.

Olmstead:

During the third quarter, we continued to work with Sen. Rountree's office on several legislative efforts related to Olmstead. In our discussions with his office, we felt that greater legislative involvement, education and awareness was important to further the goals of Olmstead implementation in Nebraska. As a result, Sen. Rountree introduced LB 737. Legislative Bill 737 requires the Legislature's Urban Affairs Committee and Health and Human Services Committee to hold a joint public hearing to discuss state planning and possible legislative activity regarding housing, employment, education, community supports, and transportation for Nebraskans with disabilities. The bill creates a space for legislators to hear from people with disabilities, advocates, and other agencies on important disability policy. Disability Rights Nebraska supported this legislation. The bill was approved by the Legislature on a 47-1 vote and Governor Pillen signed LB 737 into law April 14, 2026. The joint hearing before the Health and Human Services and Urban Affairs Committee is scheduled for September 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

The Olmstead Advisory Committee met on April 28, 2026, during the third quarter. The committee received updates from the Health and Human Services Division of Developmental Disabilities regarding the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services waiver amendments for the Aged and Disabled and Traumatic Brain Injury Waivers. Following a second round of public comments on the proposed waivers, the Division has made revisions addressing the public's concerns. This included elimination of the 40-hour weekly cap on personal care services for live-in caregivers and elimination of the 70-hour combined limit on Legally Responsible Individual (LRI) personal care and companion services. Previously, the proposed waiver included a cost limit set at 150% of the average nursing facility rate. While exceptions to this limit were allowed through a Developmental Disabilities (DD) Clinical

Team review, the waiver did not specify how the exception would be implemented when using in-home providers exclusively or in combination with out-of-home providers. Under the updated waiver, participants using both in-home and out-of-home services are eligible to request a threshold exemption.

The committee discussed concerns regarding the role and direction of its work emphasizing the need to continue to push the plan and implementation forward and to begin addressing goals for the next iteration of the plan.

Disability-Related Public Policy:

Brad Meurrens met weekly with Courtney Hurd as the advisor for her Applied Practice and Experience program. Courtney attended the legislative hearing for LR 422 which calls for Congress to fully fund IDEA and Brad worked with Courtney to develop her position statement on the resolution. Brad helped Courtney hand deliver her statement to every senator on the Education Committee. Here is a link to some photos. Courtney is a person with disabilities and a mom to a daughter with disabilities.

Brad met bi-weekly with Michele Zephier as her policy mentor for the Policy Mentor project with Civic Nebraska. Michele is a mom to a son with developmental disabilities.

Voting:

We continue to conduct voter registrations alongside our monitoring work so that we are in the field to accomplish multiple goals at once. For example, while monitoring the Inavale facility, we had a quarter of the residents complete voter registrations. Similarly, while monitoring at a Lincoln facility, a resident recognized us from previous visits and happily told us that he'd taken our voting rights materials and obtained a State ID card for the first time in decades so he can vote and use the card for all other purposes. Last quarter, while monitoring a day program for adults with intellectual disabilities in Norfolk, we discussed voting rights with staff, who promptly scheduled us to return this quarter to attend their monthly meeting between three different providers' clients. We met at the Norfolk Public Library and spoke to a gathering of approximately 60 adults about their voting rights and distributed information to them and their staff.

Finally, we continued our partnership with Tectonic Change to plan a get out the vote initiative under the Rev Up grant they received last quarter. We

offered our experiences about what questions people ask during voting registration, recommended having our partners take the training to become election registrars, and joined in the planning for activities to occur in the fall.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Mark Shriver

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

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

Annual UCEDD performance report submitted to the Administration on Community Living on July 29. 2026. Some examples from the report are outlined below

Core Function: Education/Training:

- There were 100 intermediate (150-300 hours) and 147 long-term (over 300 hours) students for a total of 247 students who received interdisciplinary clinical training.
- Of these students, 62 participated in LEND Core interdisciplinary training provided.
- Majority of students are in clinical rotations and included disciplines such as Applied Behavior Analysis, Genetic Counseling, Law, Mental/Behavioral Health, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Psychology, Public Health, School Psychology/Counseling, Speech-Language, Family/Community members.
- We have 3 Graduate programs including Applied Behavior Analysis (MS and PhD) and Genetic Counseling (MGC) successfully graduated students (7 for MS ABA, 5 in PhD ABA, 8 in MGC)
- We provided 83 continuing education events to 3,694 participants.
- We provided 195 community trainings for 8,740 participants.
- Participants included trainees, professionals and paraprofessionals in the community, family members and caregivers and public/community members.
- Health-Related and Education and Early Intervention were the most often presented areas of emphasis.
- There were 295 adults with disabilities who participated in the community trainings and 1,269 families/caregivers.
- We provided 982 hours of technical assistance through 201 technical assistance activities.

Core Function: Community Services

- 26,921 individuals received services this year

- These individuals received at least 155,000 services including clinical visits, recreational program visits, contracted services, and school visits/services offered at Omaha Public and Bellevue Public Schools by our Psychology, Occupational and Physical Therapy Departments.
- The total count for clinical services provided directly by MMI (excluding school-based and other contracted services) was 7,331 individuals. Of these, 3,116 (42.5%) were 14 years or older. When we look at those in Nebraska who are 21 years and older, there were 2,032 (27.7%) individuals between the ages of 21-101 who received clinical services in fiscal year 2026.
- The Recreation department provided services to adults through programs including evening respite, adult swim, wheel club, garden club, cooking club, leisure explorer club, urban adventure club, art club, dance, acting classes, theater cam, and yoga. Participants ranged from 12 adults in Integrity Club to 84 adults in the Urban Adventure Club.
- The Recreation department also partnered with Millard Public Schools to offer social activities for middle school and Madonna Catholic High School and Transition program in Omaha to offer transition programming. There were 52 students who participated with programs with these school districts.
- We also provide transition, college and career exploration, and employment skills training through our collaborations with UNO, local provider agencies, Nebraska Medicine, Local School Districts and Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation. A total of 463 transition age students (14 -21 years-old) and adults were served through these programs.
- The Transition to Lifespan Care clinic provided interdisciplinary services to 28 individuals ages 14 and older this past fiscal year.

Core Function: Research

- MMI faculty published 91 peer-reviewed articles
- Another 24 manuscripts have been submitted for peer-review.
- In addition, the faculty had 9 book chapters published.
- MMI UCEDD faculty and staff presented 184 papers or posters at over 30 state, regional, national, and international conferences.

Core Function: Information Dissemination

- There were 10 webinars provided by our Family Care Enhancement Project team
    - These are available at Family Care Enhancement Project – YouTube
    - The FCEP team also hosted 6 informational sessions for Spanish-speaking families
- We had 279,268 unique page views for our MMI website.
- There were 99,224 unique visitors and 4,277 returning visitors. Most visitors were from the United States, but we also had visitors from China, Singapore, India, and Sweden.

- MMI Facebook had 6,287 followers and 638,154 views.
- Instagram had 1,818 followers and 33,193 views.
- X had 926 followers and Bluesky had 114 followers.

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

Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Grant 5-year renewal submitted July 10th. Dr. Jenny Burt (Psychology) new LEND Director. Dr. Whitney Strong-Bak (Psychology) new LEND Associate Director. Kellie Ellerbusch continues as LEND Program Coordinator.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

We will be working on our new 5-year workplan due this next fiscal year and based on the recent needs assessment completed with the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities