

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

February 6, 2026

9:30AM, CST

HYBRID MEETING

In-Person Site:

[Members of the public or media may participate either at the in-person site or via Zoom.]

Nebraska State Office Building

Lower-Level Meadowlark Conference Room

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln, NE

To join the Zoom Meeting:

Meeting URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83717481446>

Meeting ID: 837 1748 1446

One tap mobile

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AGENDA

9:30 1. Call the Meeting to Order, Welcome, *Pledge of Allegiance*, and Introductions

– Beth Libra and Kristen Larsen

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and Council members will be asked to introduce themselves.

- Amanda Anderson – Family
- Dr. Jamar Dorsey – Non-Governmental
- Jacob McIver – Self-Advocate
- Hannah Mercer – Self-Advocate
- Angie Ohlrich - Family
- Joshua Whitfield – Self-Advocate

- Sadie Worthing - Family

2. Nebraska Open Meetings Act Announcement – Beth Libra

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

3. Public Comment Period #1 – Beth Libra

All public meetings must allow time on their agenda for people who are not on the Council to comment.

4. Approval of Minutes – Eddie Kraska

Draft minutes of the November 21, 2025 meeting were included in the meeting packet. The Council will review them and, following any needed corrections, vote to approve them through a roll call vote as required by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Council members who were not at the November 21, 2025 meeting need to abstain when voting.

[Vote to approve minutes.](#)

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest – Beth Libra

Members are asked to declare any conflicts of interest as required by Council's policy. To fulfil this requirement, the following Council members are asked to verbally declare any conflicts of interest at the meeting today: Amanda Anderson, Dr. Jamar Dorsey, Shauna Graham, Tony Green, Jacob McIver, Hannah Mercer, Angie Ohlrich, Joshua Whitfield, and Sadie Worthing.

6. Financial Report – Kristen Larsen

Kristen Larsen will review the first quarter financial report for FFY2026 (October 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025).

A handout of the financial report will be emailed to Council members prior to the meeting (and a hard copy will be provided at the meeting). Kristen will share the reports on the Zoom screen.

7. Report of the Legislative & Advocacy (L&A) Committee – Joe Valenti and Kristen Larsen

The hybrid L&A Committee meeting was on Thursday – February 5, 2026.

Relevant legislative bills for the 109th Legislature, 2nd Session were reviewed.

Joe Valenti, the L&A Committee Chair, will present recommendations on positions that the Council should take on various bills. Positions include Support with Testimony, Support with Letter, Oppose with Testimony, Oppose with Letter, Neutral Testimony, Neutral Letter, or Monitor.

NOTE: State agency representatives are not permitted by agency policy to vote on a bill unless the Governor or the State Board of Education has taken a matching position on the bill. A chart of the bills being considered will be emailed prior to the meeting.

Vote on relevant legislative bills.

8. Lunch

Working lunch with time for networking among members.

9. Upcoming Events – Kristen Larsen

- Nebraska Association of Service Professionals (NASP) 2026 Annual Conference is March 31st and April 1st. “The Next Wave Conference” in Lincoln
- NCDD is working with DHHS Communications to schedule the Governor’s Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamation in March
- The Arc of Nebraska’s 57th Annual Senatorial Dinner will be the **evening of March 3rd**. To register, visit The Arc of Nebraska’s website at https://www.arc-nebraska.org/senatorial_dinner.

**10. 2027-2031 Five Year State Plan Development & Public Comments Update
Judy Trent and Kristen Larsen**

Kristen Larsen and Judy Trent will provide an update on the 2027-2031 Five Year State Plan Development.

The draft 2027-2031 Five-Year State Plan Goals and Objectives were open for public comment December 8, 2025, to January 23, 2026. The Planning Committee

met on January 29, 2026, to review the public comments that were received. Judy Trent, the Planning Committee Chair, will report on any potential suggestions or changes to the draft goals and objectives, and recommend a second public comment period following the February meeting to recruit additional input.

Vote: Discuss comments that were received and suggest another round of public comments.

11. 2026 Tri-Board Meeting Update – Kristen Larsen

The Tri-Board consists of the DD Network Partners (the DD Council, Disability Rights Nebraska, and Munroe-Meyer Institute/University of Nebraska Medical Center UCEDD). The 2026 Tri-Board training will be on **Friday – June 12, 2026**. The topic will be **Disability Advocacy Training** to strengthen the voice of people with lived experience. We will meet at the Munroe-Meyer Institute facility located near the UNO Scott Campus at 6902 Pine Street. More information and details will be shared at the April Council meeting.

12. Aged and Disabled Waiver Renewal Application Concerns – Kristen Larsen

Every five years, DHHS must renew Home and Community-Based Services waivers with CMS. Nebraska's Aged & Disabled (A&D) Waiver renewal is due July 1, 2026. DHHS posted the draft application for public comment Dec. 5, 2025–Jan. 5, 2026, and held four informational sessions.

DHHS will review all comments, post a summary with responses on the DDD website, and include them in the CMS submission. If comments require significant changes, the waiver will be revised and re-posted for another comment period.

Key concerns raised by the disability community include:

- Individual cost limits and unclear high-utilization review process.
- Cost caps tied to Medicaid nursing home rates (175% limit), which may not meet some individuals' needs, suggesting referrals to other services or institutional care.

- Service hour caps: Proposed 40-hour weekly limit for personal care, LRI personal care, and companion services combined, compared to the current 112-hour allowance for those meeting nursing facility level of care.

Kristen Larsen submitted comments on behalf of NCDD; these are included in the meeting packet.

13. Updates from Agency Representatives – Tony Green, Developmental Disabilities Division and Aging; Diana Meadors, Behavioral Health; Chris Chambers, Department of Education – Office of Special Education; DJ Plautz, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation; Jennifer Severe-Oforah, Maternal and Child Health, Division of Public Health; Dawn Sybrant, Medicaid and Long-Term Care

Council members representing state agencies will provide brief oral and written updates on activities that have occurred since the last meeting.

14. Updates from our DD Network Representatives – Seamus Kelly, Disability Rights Nebraska; Dr. Mark Shriver, Munroe-Meyer Institute/University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

Council members representing our DD Network will provide brief oral and written updates on activities that have occurred since the last meeting.

15. Council Chair and Staff Updates

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

16. Member Updates – Council Members

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

17. Public Comment Period #2 – Beth Libra

All public meetings must allow time on their agenda for people who are not on the Council to comment.

18. Adjourn – Beth

The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2026. The Planning Committee meeting will be held the afternoon of April 16, 2026.

NOTE: In accordance with the provisions of Section 84-1401-1414 Nebraska Statutes (Nebraska Open Meetings Act) passed by the Unicameral, minutes of this meeting will be on file ten working days from the date of this meeting in the office of the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, 301 Centennial Mall South, PO Box 95026, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5026. All items known at time of distribution are listed and a current agenda is available. These meeting sites are accessible. If special accommodations are needed, please contact our office at (402) 471-2330 / TDD (800) 833-7352 by January 30, 2025.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

Mission

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