

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

February 7, 2025

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 Goldenrod Conference Room

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln, NE

To join the Zoom Meeting:

Meeting URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81433006712>

Meeting ID: [814 3300 6712](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81433006712)

Join by Phone: [+1 346 248 7799 US \(Houston\)](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81433006712) or [+1 312 626 6799 US \(Chicago\)](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81433006712)

AGENDA

- 9:30**
- 1. Call the Meeting to Order, Welcome, *Pledge of Allegiance*, General Directions on Zoom, and Introductions – Rachel Siffring and Kristen Larsen**
Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, general directions on Zoom, and Council members will be asked to introduce themselves.
 - 2. Nebraska Open Meetings Act Announcement – Rachel Siffring**
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 – Rachel Siffring**
All public meetings must allow time on their agenda for people who are not on the Council to comment.

4. Approval of Minutes – Shaistha Kiran Karipi

Draft minutes of the November 22, 2024 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 22, 2024 meeting need to abstain when voting.

[Vote to approve minutes.](#)

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest – Rachel Siffring

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: Shauna Graham, Tony Green, George Griffith, Ashley Hansen, Eddie Kraska, Beth Libra, Cheryl Montgomery, Stephen Morton, and Amy Rhone.

6. Financial Report – Kristen Larsen

Kristen Larsen will review the first quarter financial report for FFY2025 (October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024).

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. Late Notices of Awards Affecting Obligation of Funding – Kristen Larsen

NCDD received our first partial Notice of Award (NoA) for FFY2025 on October 25, 2024, for \$116,788. When Congress authorizes partial funding in Continual Resolutions (CRs), then DD Councils receive their annual awards in partial payments throughout the year. Congress approved a second CR to fund the government through March 14, 2024. NCDD received the second NoA on January 15, 2025 for \$121,104. Council staff were not able to finalize the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Training with Munroe-Meyer Institute

(MMI) until NCDD received the 2nd NoA, since we had already obligated the \$116,788.

Another challenge with on-goings CRs is that all FFY2025 funds are supposed to be obligated by September 30, 2026, with work completed by September 30, 2026. However, CRs are a justifiable reason to seek a No-Cost Extension.

8. Dr. Mill's Year 2 Final Report – Kristen Larsen

Dr. Lisa Mills submitted the final report for her second contract with NCDD, titled ***An Essential Priority – Changing the Way Nebraska Does Supported Employment***. This brief report summarizes the work accomplished during the contract period (July 3, 2023 through November 15, 2024) and is included as a handout in the meeting packet for reference.

9. Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy (HETRA) Year 2 Continuation – Rachel Ward

Rachel Ward will present year two of HETRA's continuation subaward *Life Skills Program* proposal. Year Two timeline: April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026. The Council will consider the proposal, discuss, and vote to approve continuation subaward funding with/without recommendations/contingencies.

[Discuss and vote on funding HETRA Year 2 Continuation up to \\$20,000.](#)

10. Break

11. Report of the Legislative & Advocacy (L&A) Committee –Quinton Corwin and Kristen Larsen

The hybrid L&A Committee meeting was on Thursday – February 6, 2025. Relevant legislative bills for the 109th Legislature, 1st Session were reviewed. Quinton Corwin, 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.](#)

12. Conference Request – Rachel Siffring

Beth Libra will present a request for funds to attend the 9th Annual Charting the LifeCourse Showcase on April 30 and May 1, 2025, in Kansas City, Missouri. Beth and Rachel Ward submitted a presentation proposal that was approved, so they will be representing Nebraska in a break-out session.

[Vote on Beth's fund request to attend the national 9th Annual Charting the LifeCourse Showcase Conference.](#)

13. Lunch

Working lunch with time for networking among members.

14. Nebraska Association of Service Professionals (NASP) Innovation Generation Conference; Governor's Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamation; and The Arc of Nebraska's 55th Annual Senatorial Dinner – Kristen Larsen

- NASP is partnering with The Arc of Nebraska to provide two full days of events on **March 24 and 25, 2025**. NASP's Annual Conference provides a service provider focus on Monday, March 24th. On Tuesday, March 25th, NASP's sessions are geared towards self-advocates and family members.
- NCDD is helping coordinate Governor Pillen's Developmental Disability Awareness Month proclamation at the NASP conference on the afternoon of March 25, 2025, at the Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel.
- The Arc of Nebraska's 55th Annual Senatorial Dinner will be the **evening of March 25, 2025**. Folks are encouraged to attend the NASP conference prior to the dinner. There is a separate registration for the dinner. To register, visit The

Arc of Nebraska's website at https://www.arc-nebraska.org/senatorial_dinner_2025.

15. 2027-2032 Five Year State Plan Development – Kristen Larsen

Kristen Larsen will provide an update on the 2027-2032 Five Year State Plan Development.

Council staff and Chair are recruiting non-Council members to serve on the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee Five Year State Plan Development launch meeting will be on **Monday, March 3, 2025**, from 1:00-4:00 pm. The Planning Committee will meet again on **Thursday, April 10, 2025**, 1:00-4:00 pm, before the April 11, 2025 Council meeting. Both meetings will be hybrid meetings, with in-person attendance encouraged at the Nebraska State Office Building in Lincoln, Lower Level Goldenrod. NCDD will be working with MMI contractor, Dr. Kerry Miller, to develop the Needs Assessment questions and focus areas to collect data over the summer. The Needs Assessment will be published in October 2025 and will guide the Planning Committee with setting State Plan Goals and Objectives to share at the November 21, 2025 meeting.

16. 2025 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 2025 Tri-Board training will be on **Friday – June 13, 2025**. The topic will be Effective Advocacy to improve Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). 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.

17. End of the Waitlist Update – Tony Green, Division of DD Director

Director Green will provide an update on the End of the Waitlist and other policy changes.

18. Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) Ambassador Training and Nebraska CtLC Ambassador Workgroup Update – Rachel Ward

Rachel Ward will provide a CtLC Ambassador Training and Nebraska CtLC Ambassador Workgroup update.

19. Updates from Agency Representatives –Tony Green, Developmental Disabilities Division and State Unit on Aging; Dr. Tom Janousek, Behavioral Health; Amy Rhone, Department of Education – Office of Special Education; DJ Plautz, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation; Jennifer Severe-Oforah, Maternal and Child Health, Division of Public Health; VACANT, Medicaid and Long-Term Care, although Dawn Sybrandt will provide the MTLC update.

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

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. Public Comment Period #2 – Rachel Siffring

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

24. Adjourn – Rachel Siffring

The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2025. The Planning Committee meetings will be held the afternoons of March 3, 2025 and April 10, 2025.

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.