

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

November 22, 2024

9:00 AM, CST

In-Person Meeting

Country Inn & Suites – Nebraska Ballroom

[North Hotel and Conference Center]

5353 N. 27th Street

Lincoln, NE

AGENDA

- 9:30 1. **Call the Meeting to Order, Welcome, and *Pledge of Allegiance* – Rachel Siffring and Kristen Larsen**
Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, 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 August 16, 2024 meeting are included in the meeting packet. The Council will review them and, following any needed corrections, vote to approve them through a roll call vote as required by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Council members who were not at the August meeting need to abstain when voting.

[Vote to approve minutes.](#)

5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest – Rachel Siffring

Council policy requires members to declare any conflicts of interest they might have at the first meeting of the federal fiscal year. The policy, as well as a list of conflicts declared by members last year, is included in the meeting packet.

6. Financial Reports – Kristen Larsen

Kristen Larsen will review the final financial report for FFY2024 (October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024) and the financial report for the first month (October 1, 2024 to October 31, 2024) of FFY2025 (October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025).

Handouts of the FFY2024 Final Financial Report and the Financial Report for the first month of FFY2025 will be provided at the meeting.

7. State Plan Needs Assessment Contract with University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) Update – Kristen Larsen

Kristen Larsen met with Mark Shriver and Kerry Miller from UNMC MMI on September 30, 2024 to discuss establishing a contract for the new State Plan Needs Assessment. The budget proposal came to \$42,911. This is higher than the estimated \$30,000 that was approved for the budget in August 2024. Kristen is requesting that the Council vote to increase the \$30,000 amount to \$42,911 to account for the increase in salary costs and 40% Facilities and Administrative Costs (F&A).

[Vote to increase budgeted Needs Assessment Contract Amount to \\$42,911.](#)

8. Update on the HCBS Final and Quality/Access Rules Training Proposal and Elevating Family Expectations Year Two Proposal – Rachel Ward

Rachel Ward will provide updates on the:

- Home and Community-Based Services Final Settings Rule Formal Subaward Proposal

- TransCen (Sean Roy) Family Engagement (Elevating Family Expectations) Year Two Proposal

[Discuss and vote on funding TransCen \(Sean Roy\) \\$46,108.00](#)

9. Review Proposal from University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) LifeCourse Nexus for Funding to Train a New Class of Ambassadors – Rachel Ward

The Nebraska Supporting Families Community of Practice (CoP) workgroup focuses on Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) as the foundation for effective person-centered and family-centered planning. Rachel Ward and Kristen Larsen are on this workgroup. The Nebraska CoP team is recommending that Nebraska invest in training up to 45 new Ambassadors in 2025.

[Discuss and vote on funding UMKC for a new class of Ambassadors.](#)

10. BREAK

11. Committee Assignments and Election of Standing Committee Chairpersons – Rachel Siffring

The FFY2025 committee assignments were emailed on October 25, 2024 and are also included in the meeting packet. Per the By-Laws, Committee Chair elections for FFY2025 will be conducted at today's Council meeting. The Standing Committees include the Planning Committee, the Legislative and Advocacy Committee, and the Grant Review Committee. Chairpersons of standing committees shall serve at least a one (1) year term and may serve an additional two (2) terms.

- Those interested in running for **Chair of the Planning Committee**: Matt Kaslon, Beth Libra.
 - [Vote for Chair of the Planning Committee.](#)
- Those interested in running for **Chair of the Legislative & Advocacy Committee**: Quinton Corwin, Caiti Donaldson, Beth Libra.
 - [Vote for Chair of the Legislative & Advocacy Committee.](#)

- Those interested in running for **Chair of the Grant Review Committee:**
Quinton Corwin.
 - [Vote for Chair of the Grant Review Committee.](#)

12. University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL) Public Policy Office Proposal – Edith Titamoh and Kristen Larsen

Edith Titamoh and Kristen Larsen will present the UNL Public Policy Office Proposal to do a Disability Employment Survey.

[Vote to approve funding contract with UNL Public Policy Center for \\$49,977 to conduct a Disability Employment Survey](#)

13. 109th Legislature, 1st Session – Kristen Larsen

For the 108th Legislature, 1st and 2nd Sessions, Senator Arch, Speaker of the Legislature, sped up the hearing process on introduced legislative bills. Hearings started during the bill introduction period. In February 2023, the Legislative & Advocacy (L&A) Committee suggested that the Council could allow Council staff more flexibility to be reactive to introduced legislation. The consensus was that since legislative hearings started earlier during the 108th Legislature than in past years, chances are that the legislative hearings for future sessions would start as early, or earlier. Last year the Council voted to allow the Director and Council staff to take positions on proposed legislative bills with hearings up to and including the day of February Council meeting after conferring with the L&A Chair and both agree on the position the Council should take. Consider a vote to approve this process for 2025.

[Vote to allow the Executive Director and Council staff to take positions on proposed legislative bills with hearings up to and including February 7, 2025 after conferring with the L&A Chair and both are in agreement on the position the Council should take. The Executive Director would then follow-up with the Executive Committee to convey the position the Council will be taking.](#)

14. CY2024 NE DD Council Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation – Rachel Siffring

The Executive Committee completed the CY2024 Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation. Rachel Siffring will report the Executive Committee's recommendation. Upon approval of the Executive Committee's recommended CY2024 Executive Director's Annual Evaluation, Rachel S. will submit the CY2024 Executive Director's Annual Evaluation to the Designated State Agency's (DSA's) representative, Sue Medinger.

[Vote to go into a Closed Session to discuss the Executive Director's Annual Evaluation.](#)

Kristen Larsen, Rachel Ward, Edith Titamoh, Nikki Krause, and any members of the public (non-Council members) will need to recuse themselves from the meeting room for the discussion regarding the annual evaluation of the Executive Director.

[Vote to open the meeting to the public.](#)

[Vote to accept and submit the Executive Committee's recommended CY2024 Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation to the DSA representative, Sue Medinger.](#)

15. Lunch

Working lunch with time for networking among members.

16. Council Member Conference Report Summary – Judy Trent

Judy Trent will present her Conference Report Summary on the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) 2024 Annual Conference that she attended July 22-26, 2024 in Washington, DC.

17. Updates from Agency Representatives –Tony Green, Developmental Disabilities Division; 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 and Aging, 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.

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

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

19. Council Chair and Staff Updates

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

20. Member Updates – Council Members

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

21. 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.

22. Adjourn – Rachel Siffring

The next Council meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2024 and will be hybrid (in-person and virtually). The Legislative and Advocacy Committee meeting will be held the afternoon of February 6, 2025 and will also be a hybrid meeting. Both meetings will be held at the Nebraska State Office Building – Lincoln, 301 Centennial Mall South.

NOTE: In accordance with the provisions of Section 84-1401-1414 Nebraska Statutes (Nebraska Open Meetings Act) passed by the Unicameral, minutes of this meeting will be on file ten working days from the date of this meeting in the office of the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, 301

Centennial Mall South, PO Box 95026, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5026. All items known at time of distribution are listed and a current agenda is available. These meeting sites are accessible. If special accommodations are needed, please contact our office at (402) 471-2330 / TDD (800) 833-7352 by November 14, 2024.

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.