

**DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities and Aging, State Unit on Aging
Aging Advisory Committee Meeting
December 16, 2025**

Members Present: Gloria Aron, Kimberly Baumann, Richard Brandow, Colleen Claassen, Danny DeLong, Ira Nathan, Linda Schweitzer, Alma Rosa Varela

Members Absent: Marilyn Alber, Sharon Busch, Charlotte Dowart, Philip Lyons

Committee Staff Present: Josie Rodriguez, State Unit on Aging Administrator; Joni Dulaney, State Unit on Aging Program Specialist

Guest: Tony Green – Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities and Aging

This meeting was held virtually. A link for Committee members and members of the public to attend was provided. Colleen Claassen, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. The roll was taken.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act Announcement

Colleen announced that Committee meetings fall under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A copy of the Act can be found on the Committee webpage.

Review of Minutes

A motion to approve the October 23, 2025, minutes was made by Kim Baumann and seconded by Linda Schweitzer. No changes or corrections were requested. It was agreed that the group photograph taken at the last meeting should be added to the Committee’s webpage. Joni Dulaney will submit the photo to be published.

A roll call vote to approve the minutes was taken: Yes – 8; No – 0; Abstain – 0.

Division of Developmental Disabilities and Aging Update

Tony Green, Director, gave an update of changes within the Division of Developmental Disabilities and Aging that will be proposed through legislative bills in the 2026 session. One proposed bill would change the division name to the Division of Disabilities and Aging. Another bill that will be introduced follows efforts over the last couple of years to eliminate duplication of work by different boards, councils, and commissions. The bill will propose consolidating the Aging Advisory Committee with the Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council. This will reduce the amount of staff time required to support or attend multiple meetings. There is no intent to minimize the work of either the Committee or the Council. The bill will include requirements for membership roles and representation. Once the bill is introduced, it will be shared with members to provide feedback.

The Committee can add an agenda item to discuss the bill at an upcoming meeting and vote on whether to send someone to testify at the public hearing.

A question was asked about receiving background on the Alzheimer's Council. The agendas and meeting minutes from the last 12 months, the State Alzheimer's Plan, and a list of members are available on their [webpage](#).

SUA Updates

Josie Rodriguez provided an overview of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and the Comprehensive Program List that breaks out the different areas of the OAA, what services are included, a description, and the funding source. Josie noted that not all Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) offer all the services listed in the Comprehensive Program List. In their Area Plans, AAAs provide details on the rationale for which services they will provide based on the needs in their communities.

Funds that the SUA receives for Title VII – Legal Services Development are used only for supporting the SUA Legal Developer; no funds go to the AAAs. Instead, Title III-B funds are used to contract with Legal Aid of Nebraska or other, local attorneys.

Funds for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program are calculated based on nursing home beds and number of older adults in each AAA service area with an ombudsman (not all AAAs have an ombudsman). AAAs use state funds or Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) funds from the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) to supplement the limited ombudsman funding.

Although the table in the Comprehensive Program List shows that the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council receives State General Funding through LB903, there is no funding for the Council.

The 2025 AAA Area Plan Goals and Objectives were emailed to Committee members prior to the meeting. Josie asked the members to review these as it will help them prepare for the State Plan meeting with SUA and AAA staff in Kearney on January 21, 2026,.

It was suggested that the AAAs could use a template for the next Area Plan that would include a chart broken into four areas for each goal: Objective, Measure, Target, Initiative. Another thought is to have the plans reflect how much was accomplished, how well it was accomplished, and a measure of how people are better off. A speaker from the University of Nebraska – Kearney will give an hour long presentation on goals and objectives at the January 2026 State Plan meeting. Setting goals toward addressing the greatest economic need and greatest social need, as prioritized for tribal populations in the State Plan, are areas that could be highlighted in the training with the UNK presenter.

Josie shared the Intrastate Funding Formula document on screen and reviewed this with the members. This Excel form is used to calculate the funding weight for each program and how funds are distributed to each AAA for each program. The AAAs had input on the weights four years ago. If there were to be changes to any variables, there could be changes to the funding for each AAA.

Next Meeting

A suggestion was made to meet the first Tuesday of each month in 2026. Members were asked if this would work for their schedules. More frequent meetings could shorten the meeting length from

all day to a couple of hours. At least one half of the meetings must be held in person per the Nebraska Open Meetings Law. The Committee could meet for longer meetings quarterly. Creating subcommittees will allow up to six Committee members per subcommittee to meet virtually each month or as needed. Subcommittees will provide reports to the full Committee. Members volunteered to serve on two subcommittees. Meeting dates scheduled to date are listed below.

State Plan Subcommittee: Colleen, Rich Brandow, Alma Infante, and Ira Nathan. The first meeting will be held February 4, 2026, from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. A meeting link will be sent.

State Plan Data Subcommittee: Ira Nathan, Danny DeLong, Colleen, Kim Baumann, and Gloria Aron. The first meeting will be determined and a link emailed.

State Plan meeting: Committee members have been invited to join SUA and AAA staff for this in person meeting on January 21, 2026, in Kearney from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Aging Advisory Committee meeting: April 21, 2026, in Kearney – specific location to be determined. Subcommittees may meet in Kearney on April 20. This will be finalized at a later date.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.