

**DHHS Division of Disability and Aging, State Unit on Aging
Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, April 17, 2026
10AM – 12PM**

**In-Person Meeting Location:
Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center
301 S. 68th Street Place
Lincoln, NE 68510**

Link for Members of the Public to Attend:

<https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=m3512d279dce42a5b073de83d5b4c1fd0>

AGENDA

Welcome – Tracy Lichti, Chair

Roll Call and Introductions

Roll will be called; Council members and staff will introduce themselves.

Notice of Public Meeting

This meeting is being held in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

Approval of Minutes

Council members will vote to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2026, meeting.

Public Comment

Members of the public are provided time speak.

Conflict of Interest Statements

Members of the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council who still need to submit their annual Conflicts of Interest statement. Members will publicly state any conflicts of interest.

Legislative Update

- Update on LB845, the bill that would merge the Alzheimer's Council with the Aging Advisory Committee, being moved into LB867.
- LB913, to appoint a dementia services coordinator

Aging Advisory

- Open discussion with chair and vice chair of Aging Advisory Committee.

Annual Update Report

The new priorities to be addressed in the 2026 Annual Update Report were determined at the February meeting. Time is provided for any updates or comments from subcommittees.

Upcoming Meetings

- The next meeting will be in person at the Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center on Friday, May 15, 2026.
- Members will discuss whether monthly meetings are necessary for 2026.

Adjourn

**DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities and Aging
State Unit on Aging
Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, March 20, 2026**

Voting Members Present: Alex DeGarmo, Christopher Kelly, Tracy Lichti, Julie Kaminski, Kierstin Reed, Mary Ann Stallings, David Thompson

Voting Members Absent: John Croghan, Jean Holt, Lisa Marks, Corie Sass

Non-Voting Members Present: Josie Rodriguez

Non-Voting Members Absent: Timothy Tesmer, LTC Ombudsman Position (now vacant)

Council Staff Present: Joni Dulaney

Division of Developmental Disabilities and Aging Staff Present: Tony Green, Division Director; Ben Stromberg, State Unit on Aging

This meeting was held in person. It was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Tracy Lichti, Council Chair. Tracy announced Odessa Schoenberg's departure on March 17. Also, today, March 20th, is the last day for Julie Kaminski and Joni Dulaney, who held the Council Staff position. The roll was taken by the Council Staff, and Council members introduced themselves. There was only one person from the public on the call.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act Announcement

Tracy announced that Council meetings are governed by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A copy of the Act can be found on the Council webpage. She also noted that the Official Meetings Act is posted on the wall and on their website.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 20th, 2026, meeting was made by Alex DeGarmo and seconded by Julie Kaminski. No corrections were requested to the minutes.

A roll call vote was taken: Yes – 6; No – 0; Abstain –1.

Public Member Introduction:

Colleen Claassen, a member of the public, is also the chairperson of the Aging Advisory Committee. She joined the call to check in and hopes that, if the Aging Advisory Committee and Alzheimer's Advisory Council merge, she will be able to work with them.

Committee Members announced any conflicts of interest:

Chris Kelly, UNO, No Conflicts of Interest.

Alex DeGarmo, Registered Lobbyist on Behalf of Alzheimer's Association, No Conflicts of Interest.

David Thompson, Alzheimer's Board, Aging with Spirit Foundation, No Conflicts of Interest.

Kierstin Reed, Leading Age Nebraska, No Conflicts of Interest.

Tracy Lichti, New Cassel Retirement Center, Nebraska Health Care Association Board, National Centers of Assisted Living, No Conflicts of interest.

Mary Ann Stallings, Bridge to Better Living, Board for Lincoln Community Endowment, No Conflicts of Interest.

Josie Rodriguez, DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities, No Conflicts of Interest.

Legislative Update

According to Tony Green, Legislative Bill (LB) 845 has been incorporated into LB 867, a priority bill that combines three other items for DHHS. It is progressing and has moved out of committee. Tracy Lichti inquired about any amendments. Tony Green said they plan to add an amendment to the bill to revise some of the language the group requested. These changes are being worked on and are meant to be included before the final vote.

Alex DeGarmo mentioned they are considering ACL grants. There was talk about advancing the bill during the short legislative session. With fewer than thirteen days remaining, however,

Tracy Lichti mentioned LB913, which appoints a Dementia Service coordinator, and it was advanced to the general file for enrollment and review, with a check for grammar and planning the next steps for floor debate. Tony Green stated that it will soon go to the floor for a second reading. He also explained that it takes an existing FTE position and clarifies the duties DHHS wants the position to perform. Tony added that there was no opposition to the language within the bill.

Tracy Lichti mentioned LB1055, which covers training for APS staff. This would include onboarding training on Alzheimer's and other dementias for staff. It is now in the select file.

Alex DeGarmo asked Tony Green about the RHTP (Rural Health Transformation Program) funding for waivers. Tony responded on a broader level. He suggested subscribing to the rural health transformation website and mentioned that the plan includes language about working with assisted living facilities. He also talked about funding for assisted living facilities, healthcare, and technology. Applications for some of this funding are due in October. Tony also advised contacting Jennifer Clark for more information.

Tracy mentioned that they will be responsible for the annual update report by August 17th, 2026, focusing on subcommittee reports and their connections with legislative bills, etc. She emphasized the importance of their actual work this year. Tracy also highlighted the efficiency of the meetings.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Chris Kelly:** The Public Health Subcommittee met last week. They will hold educational events throughout the year. There will be an Alzheimer's workshop in Kearney, so a report on that will be provided next time. They are looking forward to more face-to-face meetings and education sessions.
- **Kierstin Reed:** The memory care Medicaid rate subcommittee is scheduled to meet next week. She invited RHTP individuals but will need to reschedule the meeting because of scheduling conflicts.
- There was a strong discussion about building the dementia care workforce and the possibility of creating a new subcommittee. This included ensuring that the health sciences career cluster of the Nebraska State Board of Education, along with other curricula, contains current content on dementia. The committee was assessing whether establishing this as a new subcommittee was feasible. Additionally, there was talk about who could lead this subcommittee.
 - The group presented an Excel document listing different categories of information, with recommendations prioritized within each category. These recommendations included numerous activities that would be or could be “tackled” by a subcommittee.
 - On the Excel sheet, note the asterisks next to each priority, which indicate items to add to a subcommittee. There was discussion of examples within the community, whether in rural or urban areas. There was also discussion about the funding needed to implement some of these priorities. It was mentioned that recruiting individuals, such as interns, would be difficult in rural areas.
 - Tracy Lichti mentioned that last year, Nebraska was well represented at a Dementia Convention. She stated that we have great resources within our state that we sometimes don't realize. She noted that after the convention training, the feedback was very well received, and it's important to share these experiences, especially with long-term care facilities in rural areas. Being able to experience what it's like to be a person with Dementia in an LTC is a valuable experience and something that those who serve them should experience, know, and understand.
 - Josie Rodriguez mentioned that in the RHTP, item 3 discussed payments to licensed facilities. She highlighted many aspects of the Rural Health Transformation Program, including its implementation timing and locations. She also mentioned the DHHS site and the possibility of applying for these funds.
 - It was mentioned that the next meeting might discuss this further. Tracy Lichti asked if the group was okay with that, and they agreed. The committee continues to discuss organizations that provide services, identify resources, and locate resources, such as 211. Ben Stromberg explained the procedures for using 211 and how to navigate the available services.

- Alex DeGarmo mentioned attending a conference to identify what best serves Nebraskans and what could be brought back to improve referral coordination for counseling and related services. Alex provided an example of an individual visiting a local provider to receive the needed services. The discussion also covered Joni's now-vacant position and the role it would play.
- Josie Rodriguez asked the group what the FTE position should focus on and what would be more important in rural areas. Alex responded that it's more about ensuring the state (position) has the necessary resources. Josie mentioned that the ADRCs are already handling this, and an open position could help gather more information on which ADRC to contact. The discussion included topics like 211, ADRCs, websites, and information that benefits clients. Funding was also brought up. Josie noted that the public health department might need to apply for specific funds.
- Tracy Lichti requested a consensus on the Public Health Subcommittee, Medicaid Funding (with Adult Day added), to move forward. Respite will form its own subcommittee, and Tracy is open to chair that. Workforce and Education will finalize research on whether to establish a subcommittee, and 211 will remain silent for now (TBD). The committee unanimously supported this approach.
- TRACY REITERATED the August Deadline! THERE WILL BE A REVIEW IN JULY, THEN SUBMITTED ON AUGUST 17TH!
- Tracy mentioned that the meeting discussion was productive and lively. She opened the floor to decide if the group should meet monthly. Kierstin Reed said it should depend on the Legislative Bill. Kierstin agreed that another monthly meeting should happen. Tracy said she was open to the April 17th date.
- There was a discussion about the outcome of the Bill and the Aging Advisory Council (12 positions). Josie Rodriguez discussed the responsibilities of the positions that would be assigned if these two groups were combined. Chris Kelly stated that by April's meeting, we should know what will happen with the merger. Many future decisions depend on the result of the merger and what future meetings or subcommittees may look like.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting Schedule for 2026

The January and February meetings were virtual, the March meeting was in-person, and the April meeting is scheduled to be in-person. The meeting will be scheduled for April 17th, 2026!

Announcements

******The council would like to invite the chair and vice chair of the Aging Service Advisory Council to be our guests at our next meeting.******

Thank you to Joni Dulaney for her role as the Council Staff from the SUA! There will be a post for her position soon.

Tracy Lichti asked for a motion to adjourn, and Julie Kaminski seconded it.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

DRAFT