

**State Unit on Aging
Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, February 21, 2025
10AM – 12PM**

Meeting Link for Council Members and Members of the Public to attend:

<https://sonvideo.webex.com/sonvideo/j.php?MTID=mdf2a5dc07f4c4c1221c6f781ffb94f47>

In-Person Meeting Location:
Nebraska State Office Building
301 Centennial Mall South, Room 4N*
Lincoln, NE 68509

*Visitors must check in at the DHHS reception desk on 3rd floor.

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.

Public Comment

Members of the public are provided time speak.

Approval of Minutes

Council members will vote to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2024, meeting.

By-Laws

The draft Council by-laws will be reviewed. Members will vote on acceptance of the by-laws.

State Plan

- Discussion on the State Alzheimer's Plan draft. Council members were asked to review the statute, compare it to the draft, and provide information to be added to the Plan as needed.
- Review the appendices – bibliography, resource, and ongoing research projects lists.
- Review the list of recommendations. Council members were asked to add the projected costs for their/subcommittee recommendations.
- Discussion on implementation of the Plan.

Schedule of Remaining 2025 Meetings

The third Friday of each month has been tentatively set for meetings in 2025. Members will discuss whether to continue meeting monthly, which meetings will be in person, and which will be virtual. As a reminder, at least one half of all meetings must be held in person.

Legislative Bill Review

Several bills relevant to the work of the Council have been introduced in the Nebraska Legislature. Kierstin Reed will provide information on these bills.

Conflicts of Interest Statements

Members of the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council will submit their completed Conflicts of Interest statement. This will be completed annually. Members will publicly state any conflicts of interest.

Council Vacancies

There are currently two vacancies on the Council. Due to member rotations, four members will rotate off the Council at the end of 2025. A list of members and the statutory roles they fill was sent to members with the meeting materials. We will review the list and ask members to recruit potential members to fill current and upcoming vacancies.

Announcements

The next meeting will be held in person at the Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center on March 21, 2025.

Adjourn

**State Unit on Aging
Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, January 17, 2025
Virtual Meeting via Webex Link**

**In-Person Meeting Location:
301 Centennial Mall South, Conference Room 4N
Lincoln, NE 68509**

Voting Members Present: Julie Kaminski, Christopher Kelly, Tracy Lichti, Lisa Marks, Julie Masters, Kierstin Reed, Corie Sass, Mary Ann Stallings, David Thompson

Voting Members Absent: John Croghan

Non-Voting Members Present: Josie Rodriguez

Non-Voting Members Absent: Lisa McGuire, Timothy Tesmer

Council Staff Present: Joni Dulaney

State Unit on Aging Staff Present: Ben Stromberg

This meeting was held via Webex. A link was provided for Council members and members of the public to attend virtually. A conference room at the Nebraska State Office Building was staffed by Council staff Joni Dulaney as a location for anyone to attend the meeting in person. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Tracy Lichti, Council Chair. Roll was taken and Council members introduced themselves.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act Announcement

Tracy announced that Council meetings fall under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A link to the Act is available on the Council webpage.

Public Comment

All public meetings must allow time on the agenda for people who are not members of the Council to comment. No public comments were given.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the December 20, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Julie Masters and seconded by Chris Kelly. No corrections were requested to the minutes.

A roll call vote was taken: Yes – 9; No – 0; Abstain – 0.

By-Laws

A draft of the Council by-laws was sent to members with the meeting materials prior to the meeting. Tracy led the discussion of the by-laws as they were presented on screen for members to make any recommendations or changes. Members requested changes, to include adding the definition of Council staff, changing the wording to request that resigning members stay on the Council until a new member is appointed, adding attendance requirements for non-voting

members, wording for length of term for the Chair and Vice Chair to include that they may be re-elected to serve again after a 12-month break, and adding that the by-laws will be reviewed annually by the Chair and Vice Chair. Instead of voting on the by-laws at today's meeting, members requested that the changes be made and presented for voting at the February meeting.

State Plan

State Plan Draft 7 was sent to members prior to the meeting. This draft is much shorter than the previous drafts. A list was created to compare the draft to what is in statute and will be sent to Council members. Members are asked to review the two documents to determine what may need to be added back into the Plan. One area that was discussed to be added back is on research. A list of research projects underway will be created as an appendix.

There was discussion on Statute Section 35 (3) (n), "improving the ways in which the government evaluates and adopts policies to assist individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia and their families." The Council would not suggest the policies but rather would suggest how the policies could be decided upon. Suggestions for evaluating and adopting policies could include input through listening sessions and town halls as well as from public health departments, the Aging Advisory Committee, Area Agencies on Aging, and others. Josie Rodriguez will look more at how DHHS evaluates and adopts policies and will report back on what she finds.

Tracy requested that if members have or come across any resources that match the areas highlighted in red (note that this color will be changed to yellow in the version that is sent to members) that can help address the areas of the Plan in question, please forward them to Joni for dissemination to the appropriate person. Members volunteered to review and revise different areas of the draft:

- Chris – the Research section
- Julie M. – appendices, bibliographies, resources
- Kierstin – National Core Indicators for A&D waiver
- Josie – how DHHS evaluates and adopts policies

The draft one-page flyer and list of recommendations by category were shared onscreen. The flyer will be run through the DHHS Graphics Department for assistance with making it readable to everyone. The columns on page one will include the list of recommendations once finalized. They could also include the projected costs for the different recommendations. The history of the legislation would be on page two.

Tracy directed the members to the Excel spreadsheet list of recommendations by category. This was shared on-screen and reviewed. The list will be revised to include a column for projected costs and sent out to members add the costs associated with implementing their

recommendations. Members will send this back to Tracy or Joni. Once this is completed, the list will be sent out again for members to prioritize each recommendation.

This list includes a sixth category of Increase Availability and Quality of Facility-Based Care. Members are asked to review this and determine whether to keep this category that was not in the original five categories from the October 18, 2024, meeting.

Members are asked to think about the implementation committees. It was asked whether the subcommittees that were formed to create the Plan are a good place to start with the conversation of implementation of the Plan. Some adjustments could be made to bring in additional subcommittee members to ensure there are subject matter experts who will bring their perspective and knowledge. Implementation committees would evaluate whether what is being recommended is happening, whether the recommendations have been accepted by the legislature and are moving forward, whether the legislature taking action, and, if not, if there are adjusts needed to what we are recommending.

Conflicts of Interest Statements

Members received a Conflicts of Interest Disclosure form to complete and return to Joni. These will be completed annually. Due to time limitations at this meeting, the public statement any of conflicts of interest will be completed at the February meeting. Members should submit their completed disclosure forms to Joni.

Announcements

At the next meeting, Kierstin Reed will provide an update on legislative bills that are relevant to the work of the Council. This includes LB346, a bill regarding councils, boards and commissions, and LB61 regarding memory care rates for assisted living. As a reminder, if members want to provide testimony on any bill, it must be on their own behalf or their organization's behalf, not on behalf of the Council.

The next meeting will be held virtually on February 21, 2025.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

| Priority | Recommendations | Category | | | | | | Projected Costs |
|----------|--|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | Increase Support for Caregivers | Provide Care Navigation Through Area Agencies on Aging | Increase Availability and Quality of Facility-Based Care | Increase Access for Rural and Underserved Communities | Increase Public Awareness and Education | Build the Dementia Care Workforce | |
| | Explore feasibility of implementing Trualta or other on-line caregiver support platform and make access free for all Nebraska residents. | X | | | X | X | | |
| | Seek grant funding for long-term care and assisted living communities to establish adult day care programs. In rural areas consider including senior centers. | X | | X | X | | | |
| | Develop a respite admission program for long-term care communities to enable quick admissions for emergent respite stays. | X | | X | X | X | | |
| | Establish independent respite centers that service rural communities. | X | | | X | X | | |
| | Create a pilot project within one of the AAAs that serves both urban and rural caregivers/ care partners. | X | X | | X | | | |
| | Establish a care navigator position within each Area Agency on Agency following the conclusion of the pilot. | X | X | | X | | | |
| | Engage with local hospitals, nonprofits, and support groups to create a comprehensive directory of services available for individuals with dementia. | X | X | | X | X | | |
| | Provide funding to the Area Agencies on Aging to counsel families on available programs and benefits such as the Caregiver Tax Credit. | X | X | | | X | | |
| | The state should strongly consider increasing the reimbursement rate for memory care, which would increase availability for ADRD individuals as identified in the "Rate Study for AD Waiver, TBI Waiver and PAS Services (updated September 2023). | | | X | X | | | |
| | Analyze previous efforts to develop centralized system for locating available beds in facilities across the state to simplify referral system. | | | X | | | | |

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|----------|--|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
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| | Expand Medicaid waiver home and community-based services to include all areas of need. This could include adult day service level of engagement within the home. | X | | X | X | | | |
| | Explore tax incentives from state or financial aid to promote home care and home health as specialties. | | | | X | | X | |
| | Develop program for building partnerships between individual facilities and the communities where they are located. | X | | | X | | | |
| | Provide wage or bonus incentives to home care and home health workers to work in rural areas. | | | | X | | X | |
| | Implement targeted outreach by churches, doctor's offices, etc. to raise awareness about dementia within rural and ethnic communities. | | | | X | X | X | |
| | Create grant opportunities for healthcare staff members to learn a new language or pursue cultural studies focused on the populations they serve. | | | X | X | X | X | |
| | Establish programs encouraging more immigrants to enter health care professions generally but dementia care in particular. | | | | X | X | X | |
| | Establish partnerships with public health departments and the AAAs to develop awareness and education campaigns focused on brain health for individuals of all ages, with a specific focus on individuals in Nebraska's underserved communities. | | X | | X | X | | |
| | Create brain health curriculum that can be distributed to public school districts and taught to K-12 students. | | | | | X | X | |
| | Ensure local health departments utilize the existing HBI Road Map tools. | X | | | X | X | X | |

| | | Category | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Priority | Recommendations | Increase Support for Caregivers | Provide Care Navigation Through Area Agencies on Aging | Increase Availability and Quality of Facility-Based Care | Increase Access for Rural and Underserved Communities | Increase Public Awareness and Education | Build the Dementia Care Workforce | Projected Costs |
| | Fund internship and apprenticeship programs that offer students hands-on experience in dementia care settings. | | | X | X | X | X | |
| | Ensure that the Health Sciences Career Cluster of the Nebraska State Board of Education and other curricula have current content devoted to dementia. | | | | | X | X | |
| | Work with the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science to develop dementia-specific conference sessions for teachers. | | | | | | X | |