

**DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities and Aging
State Unit on Aging
Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, July 18, 2025**

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

Voting Members Absent: John Croghan, Kierstin Reed

Non-Voting Members Present: Terri Ridder, Josie Rodriguez, Odessa Schoneberg, Timothy Tesmer

Non-Voting Members Absent: none

Council Staff Present: Joni Dulaney

State Unit on Aging Staff Present: Ben Stromberg

This meeting was held virtually. A link was provided for Council members and members of the public to attend virtually. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 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 members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the June 20, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Julie Kaminski and seconded by Chris Kelly. No corrections were requested to the minutes.

A roll call vote was taken: Yes – 6; No – 0; Abstain – 2.

State Plan

Subcommittees provided updates on the work they have accomplished toward the selected State Alzheimer's Plan priorities for the first annual update report.

- Sadie Hinkel, Alzheimer's Association Nebraska Chapter Program Director and subcommittee member, gave a presentation on the Healthy Brain Initiative (HBI) on behalf of the subcommittee looking at partnerships with public health departments and Area Agencies on Aging to develop awareness and education campaigns focused on brain health. A copy of the presentation slides and links will be sent to members after the meeting.

The HBI is under the umbrella of the National Alzheimer's Association Public Health Department. It is a public health strategy intended to provide a road map for Public Health Departments at state and local levels to bring awareness of brain health into their communities. Sadie outlined the outcomes for the four domains of the road map: Strengthen Partnerships and Policies; Measure, Evaluate, and Utilize Data; Build a Diverse and Skilled Workforce; and Inform and Educate the Public. HBI is a step toward applying for [BOLD](#) grant funding.

The subcommittee brainstormed on ideas for where this would work best. It was agreed that the central and northeast areas of the state could benefit from the HBI road map. Specifically noted were the Kearney–Hastings–Grand Island area where there are strong connections with AAAs, regional health care centers, and UNMC programming, and in collaboration with the Northeast Nebraska AAA to reach these underserved areas. AAA directors would be able to help identify additional underserved areas and potentially apply for grants along with the local Public Health Departments. Julie Masters, the AAA representative on the Council, will forward Sadie's presentation slides to the AAA directors and ask for their input on this idea.

- Corie Sass and Terri Ridder reported that their subcommittee, engaging with community organizations to create a director of dementia services and targeted outreach to raise awareness, has created a document that lists resources such as hospitals and clinics, faith based or cultural support groups, home health in-home support, legal and financial planning resources, memory care and respite programs. Their members asked for more information on 211. A representative from 211 will present at the August Council meeting.
- Tracy reported on behalf of the subcommittee doing research on increasing the reimbursement rate for memory care. She noted that subcommittee members have been able to pull together a lot of data from providers that currently accept Medicaid waiver and those that currently have long-term care memory support in assisted living. One question they asked was: if the rate was different, would providers make a change in how they operate their business? Data from the providers is being collected and will be shared in the annual update report.
- Julie Masters, lead for the subcommittee looking into the feasibility of implementing Trualta or other on-line caregiver support platform, reported that they invited the representative from Trualta to present on that platform. Trualta can serve caregivers supporting people of all ages, those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, people caring for kids, people caring for people in general, dementia and Alzheimer's, diabetes, heart health, and more. Many organizations across Nebraska could benefit from this platform. It is being used in 38 states. It is available 24/7 to provide support and coaching to caregivers. ADRCs and

AAAs could use Trualta to distribute information. The platform also provides caregiver training to health care providers, which would be beneficial in rural, underserved areas. For areas where broadband is not readily available, Trualta offers assistance over the phone or can be available in person at a senior center. Information and resources are available in both English and Spanish and can be printed and handed out.

Josie Rodriguez added that she discussed with the subcommittee the GetSetUp! online program that the State Unit on Aging already offers. There could be an option to add caregiver resources to this. The subcommittee will look further into this option and others.

Mary Ann Stallings added that Gordon Whitten, CEO and Founder of I See It Ventures in Omaha, reached out to her about Grace – Your Memory Friend. Grace is an artificial intelligence voice companion for individuals with dementia. It connects patients, care givers, and medical professionals through a central and secure memory data base. It serves as a 24/7 memory companion with personalized reminders of names, routines, and cherished life events in a reassuring tone to reduce confusion. It can transcribe notes from a medical visit to capture key information and summarize the doctor’s instructions for future playbacks. The doctor receives progress updates from Grace and is able to provide more insight for the mood, memory, and behavior routines. It is currently being piloted. Mary Ann asked whether the Council would be interested in having a demonstration from Gordon at a future meeting. She will send the information to Joni Dulaney to forward on to Council members.

- Julie Masters, lead of the care navigator pilot project subcommittee, stated that individuals with an early onset diagnosis cannot be forgotten. The support they would need from a care navigator at age 45 would be different than someone at age 85. The subcommittee continues to explore the differences between care navigators and case managers and community navigators. They are also looking at care navigators and their role in the AAA, and how this dovetails into the ADRCs.

Tracy reminded members that we are approximately 30 days out from submitting the annual report to DHHS by August 20, 2025, for submission to the legislature and governor by October 1, 2025. Tracy and Chris Kelly will work on the introduction for the report. Subcommittee reports will:

- include any new findings, any barriers encountered, and suggestions for next steps;
- be one page in length;
- may include graphs or data; and
- must be submitted to Tracy by August 10, 2025.

The final report will be reviewed at the August 15 Council meeting. Also at the August meeting, members will be asked their thoughts on identifying the next set of priorities.

Announcements

The next meeting will be held virtually on August 15, 2025.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.