

**State Unit on Aging
Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, March 21, 2025
Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center
301 S. 68th Street Place
Lincoln, NE 68510**

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

Voting Members Absent: Corie Sass

Non-Voting Members Present: Lisa McGuire, Terri Ridder, Josie Rodriguez, Timothy Tesmer

Non-Voting Members Absent: NA

Council Staff Present: Joni Dulaney

State Unit on Aging Staff Present: Ben Stromberg

This meeting was held in person at the Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center in Lincoln. A link was provided for members of the public to attend virtually. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 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 February 21, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Chris Kelly and seconded by Mary Ann Stallings. No corrections were requested to the minutes.

A roll call vote was taken: Yes – 8; No – 0; Abstain – 0. One member was not present for voting.

State Plan

The State Alzheimer’s Plan was submitted to DHHS on February 28, 2025. DHHS has not provided any feedback or updates on the Plan. They will forward this to the legislature and governor by March 31, 2025. Once it has been submitted, it will be sent to Council members and posted on the Council webpage. Tracy thanked everyone involved in the creation of the Plan.

Tracy opened discussion on implementation of the Plan and the prioritized recommendations that will be used in the annual report. The annual report is due to the legislature and governor

by October 1, 2025; it must be submitted to DHHS by August 26, 2025. She suggested a review of what services are already happening that match the recommendations. For example, the recommendation for getting information about dementia to students from kindergarten through eighth grade matches up with the what the Nebraska Hospital Association's [Health Careers Pipeline Initiative](#) is doing (click on this link, then on the Targeted Program Development Healthcare Talent Initiative for more information).

Council members' recommendation priorities were tallied. This Excel sheet was shared on the screen during the meeting. Members were asked how they envision reporting back on the recommendations. Topics discussed include:

- Present what is happening now and how to continue or expand on these areas.
- How to continue to support caregivers as nursing home memory support units close.
- We are unable to provide data on the number of Nebraskans who have dementia and the number of caregivers because the data does not exist. A dementia registry could help with this.
- Make it clear that dementia impacts everyone – regardless of income – and what things would improve life for individuals with dementia and their caregivers.
- Discuss the Medicaid waiver gap and how to help individuals who may be qualified for the waiver but haven't applied. How to get the word out to people in that gap.
- Educate the public on the services that are available through the Older Americans Act and state-funded services such as respite.
- The need for facilities and more Medicaid beds.
- Highlight and publicize what is happening at the Area Agencies on Aging.
- Focus specific caregiving information to spouses and, separately, focus specific information to adult children about checking on their aging parents.
- Should caregivers be looking for information, or should information be provided to the caregivers? Or both?
- Hospitals use a software program for the critical access side; it may be possible to get information there to create a centralized system for locating beds in facilities. Some hospitals have a referral system used by discharge planners that alerts facilities when someone being discharged is in need of a bed, however each hospital system has their own referral system, and the long-term care facilities have to pay to be included on the list. Include the Hospital Association on discussions.
- UNMC–Kearney has established the [Kearney Health Opportunities Program](#) to train physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and therapists. Look at having the Council connect with them to address needs in rural areas.
- The concept of a core medical home, especially in the rural areas.
- Promote the on-demand recorded trainings of the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), presented in coordination with the Grace Abbott School of Social

Work, to health care professionals. These trainings would be relevant for people in rural areas, and they provide continuing education credits.

- Peer-to-peer presentation of information at the annual Nebraska Hospital Association conference.
- Ask your personal physician what they do when they have a patient with a dementia diagnosis?
- Ideas for public awareness campaigns:
 - Local television news
 - Now What? with Dr. Anna Fisher (WOWT Omaha)
 - Seniors Everyday (KOLN Lincoln)
 - Aging Partners' Live and Learn (on YouTube)
 - Local newspapers
 - Nebraska Examiner
 - Flatwater Press
 - Area Agency on Aging publications
 - DHHS social media blasts
- Identify or establish partnerships and leverage those partnerships
 - Alzheimer's Association
 - Hospital Association
 - Area Agencies on Aging
- Connect with Vocational Rehabilitation about programs to teach skills for people to be work in assisted living and long-term care facilities.
- Tap into Nebraska HOSA | Future Health Professionals
- Engage students working on strategic plans or writing their capstone
- Partner with the Division of Developmental Disabilities to present information during their statewide listening tour
- Look for partners to apply for federal grants to further Plan

The list will be revised to show the top three recommendations for each section and emailed to Council members. Members have been asked to review the list and narrow it down to their top five overall recommendations. Members should also look at the list and make note of what is already happening in the state and submit this to Tracy and Joni.

Josie was asked whether the State Unit on Aging would be able to provide the \$185,000 for Trualta. She noted that it is possible that there may be funds, but she would want to learn more about Trualta and their utilization rates. It was suggested to look at Iowa since they have Trualta in place statewide. There are also state procurement requirements to be met. This idea will require additional research.

As the Public Health representative, Dr. Tesmer asked members to think about any big asks that may be made of DHHS so he can bring these to the appropriate DHHS staff.

Conflicts of Interest Statements

Council members who were not present at the February 21, 2025, meeting were asked to publicly state any conflicts of interest. The following members stated:

Terri Ridder	None
Timothy Tesmer	None
David Thompson	Board Chair of the Nebraska Alzheimer’s Association

Council Vacancies

Four members will rotate off the Council in December. Currently, the Governor is not appointing new members to councils, boards or commissions. However, it is important that members begin to recruit individuals to fill those roles and encourage them to apply. Members were reminded that they may apply for reappointment. The list of roles was shared on screen noting which seats would term in December 2025.

Per the Council by-laws, members whose terms are up and have not been reappointed or replaced may be asked to remain on the Council until a replacement has been appointed. Joni will contact the Appointments Office to ask about how long an application for appointment is valid and whether a member whose term is up can/should remain on the Council until a replacement is appointed to ensure quorum.

Announcements

The next meeting will be held in person on April 18, 2025, at the Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.