

**State Unit on Aging
Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, April 18, 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: Terri Ridder, 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 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 was posted in the room on the wall near the door.

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 March 21, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Chris Kelly and seconded by John Croghan. No corrections were requested to the minutes.

A roll call vote was taken: Yes – 8; No – 0; Abstain – 0.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act Training

Joni Dulaney presented a PowerPoint training on the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A copy of this training was emailed to Council members.

State Plan

Council members were asked to narrow the list of recommendations from 18 to their top five priorities. These were tallied and presented onscreen for discussion. Because several recommendations received the same number of votes, a total of six priorities were presented. The top priorities by vote count are:

6 votes:

- 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.

5 votes each:

- Engage with local hospitals, nonprofits, and support groups to create a comprehensive directory of services available for individuals with dementia.
- 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).

4 votes each:

- Explore feasibility of implementing Trualta or other on-line caregiver support platform and make access free for all Nebraska residents. The fiscal cost for this recommendation is \$132,000 to \$180,000 annually.
- Create a two-year dementia care navigator pilot project within the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging that serves both urban and rural caregivers/care partners. The projected fiscal expenditure for this recommendation is \$100,000 per year.
- Implement targeted outreach by churches, doctor's offices, etc. to raise awareness about dementia within rural and ethnic communities.

Discussion on implementation of the recommendation to increase the reimbursement rate for memory care included:

- Start with a definition of who qualifies for the Aged and Disabled waiver.
- Coming up with an approximation of how many people on Medicaid would be impacted.
- How many people are on Medicaid waiver and currently living in a memory care unit, whether assisted living or skilled nursing?
 - There are only 44 memory care units in the state. Because Nebraska does not split this out by diagnosis, Medicaid cannot tell us the number of people fitting this criterion. It is unknown what facilities accept the Medicaid waiver in their memory care unit.
 - Ask for assistance from skilled nursing partners as they sometimes transition to skilled nursing because of the payer source.
- Review the assessment tool used by service coordinators to see how individuals are deemed eligible for the Aged and Disabled waiver. Have someone from DHHS could present on this.
 - Josie Rodriguez will look into this.

On the recommendation to engage local hospitals, nonprofits and support groups, there are already comprehensive directories and books out there. Is the question more that the information isn't getting out to those who need it?

- The [Area Agencies on Aging](#) (AAA) across the state have information. How do we get families to understand that they can contact their local AAA to provide information? Making the AAAs more visible is important.
- [Aging and Disability Resource Centers](#) (ADRCs) use [211](#), run by United Way of the Midlands, as a resource directory. Anyone who provides services can add themselves to 211. This is available online or by calling 211. 211 should be promoted so more people know about this resource also.
- Elder Connect is a new website directory of services that will start soon.
- One way to increase awareness of the ADRCs and 211 is to fix the algorithm to take people to the [State Alzheimer's and Dementia](#) website where there is information and links to ADRCs and 211.
- The DHHS website has a [Roster of Facilities and Services](#) and [Medicare](#) has [Nursing Home Compare](#) as resources for finding local skilled nursing facilities.

A question was asked about the recommendation on targeted outreach to ethnic communities and language. Discussion included:

- Do ADRCs and 211 have resources available in languages in addition to English?
 - All AAAs and ADRCs have access to/use the language line to facilitate communication and provide services.
 - Larger metro areas have other resources available, such as the Intercultural Senior Center in Omaha.
 - Google Translate is another option.
- The predominant source in communication with non-English speakers is through their family members.
 - How do we educate family members on where to turn for information.

The prioritized recommendations will become the new subcommittees. Council members will select their three top preferences for serving on subcommittees that best fit their knowledge and experience (this does not necessarily mean that members will serve on three subcommittees). New external subcommittee members will be recruited. Any interested members of the public can contact Joni Dulaney for more information. Members can spread the word through social media and ask existing subcommittee members to serve again or recommend new members. As a reminder, subcommittees can meet virtually, so consider expanding recruitment outside of the Omaha/Lincoln area to provide a different, regional perspective.

The Trualta recommendation would require funding from the legislature. When you sign up for Trualta, there is a list of focus areas to select the services and information you need. One focus

available is for intellectual and developmental disabilities. Perhaps the Division of Developmental Disabilities would provide some amount of funding to bring Trualta to Nebraska?

Next steps before the next meeting:

- Joni will send out the priorities list for members to select their top three preferences for serving on subcommittees.
- Begin recruiting subcommittee membership.
- Determine whether the six priorities should be narrowed to five.
- Look for other resources that already exist. Send these to Joni before the May meeting.

Announcements

On Council member appointments, Joni learned that if a member of the public has applied for appointment to the Council and it has been a year or more since they applied, they will need to reapply. Current members whose terms end this year are invited to reapply.

Lisa McGuire, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, has resigned. Her position is currently posted on the State jobs webpage. Her last day is April 25.

If members know of speakers who could present on different topics important to the State Alzheimer's Plan, let Joni know so she can work with them to get them on a meeting agenda.

The next meeting will be held in person on May 16, 2025, at the Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.