

**State Unit on Aging
Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council Meeting
Friday, December 20, 2024
Virtual Meeting via Webex Link**

**In-Person Meeting Location:
301 Centennial Mall South, Conference Room 3K
Lincoln, NE 68509**

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

Voting Members Absent: Mary Ann Stallings

Non-Voting Members Present: Josie Rodriguez, Timothy Tesmer

Non-Voting Members Absent: Lisa McGuire

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 David Thompson, Council Chair. Roll was taken and Council members introduced themselves.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act Announcement

David 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. Jina Ragland with AARP provided a statement on behalf of AARP Nebraska acknowledging and thanking the Council for their work on the State Alzheimer's Plan.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the October 18, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Chris Kelly and seconded by Tracy Lichti. No corrections were requested to the minutes.

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

Alzheimer's Council Leadership

David addressed the Council to talk about the approach he took in the creation of the State Alzheimer's Plan and feedback he has received from Council members. He concluded his comments by tendering his resigning from his position as Council Chair effective immediately. Tracy Lichti thanked David for his time and efforts.

Nominations were taken for the Chair position. Chris nominated Tracy Lichti; Kierstin Reed nominated Chris; Julie Kaminski nominated Kierstin. No other nominations were received. Members used the Webex chat feature by to send their secret vote to State Unit on Aging staff member Ben Stromberg. Ben tallied the results and announced the votes by nominee:

Tracy – 6 votes; Chris – 1 vote; Kierstin – 2 votes

With Tracy being elected as the new Council Chairperson, her Vice Chairperson position was vacated. Nominations for Vice Chair were taken. Chris nominated Kierstin; Kierstin nominated Chris. No additional nominations were received. Members sent their secret votes to Ben through the Webex chat. Ben tallied the results and announced the votes for each nominee:

Kierstin – 4 votes; Chris – 5 votes

Tracy and Chris are the new Council Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Tracy led the meeting from this point.

Council Meetings Schedule for 2025

Prior to the meeting, Council staff Joni Dulaney sent an email informing members that a letter (from David on behalf of the Council) is being sent to the Legislature and Governor on December 31, 2024. The letter states that while the Council has met monthly to work on the State Alzheimer’s Plan, it is not yet ready for submission and that the Plan will be submitted in the first quarter of 2025.

Tracy noted that following the submission of the Plan, work will start on implementation. With no meetings on the calendar after today’s meeting, she opened discussion on setting a meeting schedule for 2025. Due to the work that still needs to be completed on the Plan and beginning work on implementation, it was suggested to meet more frequently in the first quarter before considering meeting less frequently the remainder of the year. Implementation committees could meet more frequently even if the Council does not meet monthly.

Members agreed to continue meeting on the third Friday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. beginning with virtual meetings on January 17 and February 20 and an in-person meeting on March 21. Meeting dates for the remainder of the year will be determined as the Plan is submitted and implementation is started. Joni will send calendar invitations for these three dates with hold-the-date invitations for the remainder of the year.

State Plan

The most recent version of the State Plan notes that it is the final. However, there is some clean up and additions remaining. Council members commented that the recommendations piece of the plan should be the focus. Tracy asked for ideas on handling the recommendations to finish up the Plan. Members discussed that the top five categories (below) suggested by John Croghan at the October 18 meeting can be the starting point for reviewing the recommendations. It was requested that Joni sort the Plan’s recommendations by each of the categories, adding an “other” category for recommendations that do not fit under any of these categories.

- Develop a dementia care workforce through partnerships with educational institutions and healthcare organizations.
- Create dementia care navigators at Area Agencies on Aging to assist families with care planning (Trualta).
- Expand public education on brain health and dementia prevention.
- Increase support for caregivers, including tax credits and respite care programs.
- Assure access to dementia services in rural areas through grants and infrastructure development (Medicaid reimbursement/access).

Julie M. specified that the second bullet would be a pilot project for the Area Agencies on Aging. Julie K. suggested it could read as “Explore dementia care navigators” to avoid over-promising and under-delivering.

Joni reminded the members that as an advisory council, they are not tasked with the implementation of the recommendations. Instead, they should provide details on what it would take to implement the recommendations. Members discussed that some of the current recommendations will need to be rephrased to reflect this. This would begin with putting the current recommendations under the categories so that the committees could then massage and reword them. These categories can be taken on by the subcommittees to begin implementation. Julie M. volunteered to take the lead on the dementia care navigators category with Lisa and their subcommittee.

David has offered to continue cleaning up and incorporating the changes and additions by December 31, 2024. Joni will sort the recommendations into the top five categories and send the Plan out to members. It was requested that the appendices to the Plan be include when it is sent to members. Council members will review wording of the top five categories and the recommendations, weed out what does not fit, and changing the wording as needed. These changes will be reviewed at the January 17, 2025, meeting. The agreed-upon wording of the top five categories could become the one-page document that gets the attention of the senators and governor and draws them to read the full Plan.

Council members agreed to table to vote on approval of the State Alzheimer’s Plan as they will continue to work on the final.

Announcements

Tracy referred members to the email from Joni sent on December 4 with sample by-laws. She noted that she will take the sample and edit it to make it a draft for the Council to review and potentially approve at the next Council meeting. Julie K. and Chris volunteered to help with this.

The next Council meeting will be held virtually on January 17, 2025.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.