

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

**In-person meeting location:  
301 Centennial Mall South, 3K  
Lincoln, NE 68509**

Voting Members Present: John Croghan, Nick Faustman, Julie Kaminski, Christopher Kelly, Tracy Lichti, Julie Masters, Kierstin Reed, Corie Sass, Mary Ann Stallings, David Thompson

Voting Members Absent: Lisa Marks

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 virtually through 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 copy of the Act is posted 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. KoriAnne Moslander, University of Nebraska Omaha gerontology student and subcommittee member, inquired about whether the BOLD grant would be included in the State Alzheimer’s Plan as a recommendation for DHHS to pursue.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the August 16, 2024, meeting minutes was made by Julie Kaminski and seconded by Tracy Lichti. No corrections were requested to the minutes.

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

**State Plan**

Council members began to provide comments on different sections the State Plan that was

emailed to them prior to the meeting. Some updates were made to the plan during the meeting.

The Part II. Home Care section was retitled Home Health and Home Care to reflect paid caregivers, whether medical or non-medical. Chris Kelly, Julie Kaminski, Tracy Lichti, and Kierstin Reed volunteered to work together to create additional information to add to this section. Recommendations to be added included:

- Staffing and reimbursement for home health and home care providers.
- Improving the recruitment and retention of direct care workers. This could be done through increasing the funding for the DHHS program that pays for nursing classes to reach more potential care givers.
- Provide funding specifically for nurse training in the long-term care area. Grants made to facilities could be used to recruit and pay for staff to attend CNA, Medication Aide, or nursing classes.

Chris, Julie K., Tracy, and Kierstin will also add recommendations to the Paying for Long-Term Care section. This could reference the 2021-22 DHHS report on home and community-based services for assisted living.

A recommendation for the Role of Community Organizations section was to create a pilot project for a care navigator at an Area Agency on Aging (AAA). This brought up the topic of Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) funds and how they can be used by AAAs, potentially for a care management/care navigator pilot project. Josie Rodriguez and State Unit on Aging Manager Ben Stromberg will provide information on MAC funds that can be included in the state plan.

Bringing awareness to senior centers so they can be used more effectively was discussed. Funding would be required to support senior centers. A University of Nebraska–Omaha study showed that people are unfamiliar with senior centers and AAAs. More promotion of the AAAs specifically and senior centers overall could increase utilization of the services they offer.

The plan's appendices need to be cleaned up. Subcommittee member Sarah Wilson has started working on this and will complete this task. Julie Masters and subcommittee member Anna Fisher will work on the web addresses.

Nebraska was invited to participate in the Healthy Brain Initiative Data for Action Project. This project would run from January through September 2025. Nick Faustman provided background and an overview of the Healthy Brain Initiative, a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Alzheimer's Association. The project uses the data that the state already collects. Participation would provide new ways to present the data to lawmakers and stakeholders and collaboration with other states that are or have participated in the project. This would set the stage for the broader goal of applying for the BOLD grant. There is also a Healthy Brain Initiative Roadmap with recommended actions for communities, states,

and public health officials pursue to address the growing population of individuals living with dementia. Additional information on the initiative will be sent to Council members. Council members will revisit the idea at the October Council meeting to determine whether to recommend that DHHS apply to join the Data for Action Project.

David added that the Brain Health section of the state plan is one of the most important parts of the plan. With the advances being made through research, there needs to be information added regarding prevention of dementia.

Nick requested that information on biomarker testing that was removed from the plan be added back. The recommendation is that the State move toward public and private insurance covering access to and paying for biomarker testing.

It was requested that a list of the state plan recommendations be compiled into a survey where members can choose their top five recommendations. These top five would then be used in the one-page flyer. Joni will create a Doodle Poll or Survey Monkey and distribute it to Council members.

#### **Announcements**

The next Council meeting will be held in person at the Jack J. Huck Continuing Education Center on October 18, 2024.

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.