

**DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities and Aging, State Unit on Aging
Aging Advisory Committee Meeting
February 18, 2026**

Members Present: Kimberly Baumann, Richard Brandow, Colleen Claassen, Danny DeLong, Philip Lyons, Ira Nathan, Alma Rosa Varela

Members Absent: Marilyn Alber, Gloria Aron, Sharon Busch, Charlotte Dowart, Linda Schweitzer

Committee Staff Present: Josie Rodriguez, State Unit on Aging Administrator; Joni Dulaney, State Unit on Aging Program Specialist

Guest: Tony Green – Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities and Aging

This meeting was held virtually. A link for Committee members and members of the public to attend was provided. Colleen Claassen, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. The roll was taken.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act Announcement

Colleen announced that Committee meetings fall under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. A copy of the Act can be found on the Committee webpage.

Review of Minutes

A motion to approve the December 16, 2025, minutes was made by Kim Baumann and seconded by Rich Brandow. No changes or corrections were requested.

A roll call vote to approve the minutes was taken: Yes – 7; No – 0; Abstain – 0.

LB845 Update

Danny DeLong provided an update on [LB845](#), the bill that would combine the Aging Advisory Committee and Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council. The name of this merged group would be the Aging, Alzheimer’s, and Dementia Advisory Council. It is believed that this bill, which is still in Committee, will come out of Committee and be brought to the Legislative floor for debate. There is a [fiscal note](#) attached to this bill that establishes a cash fund.

A copy of the recommendations for membership of the merged Council was sent to Committee members prior to the meeting. Colleen talked about this list with Committee members. There was a suggestion that the medical professional have experience not just in diagnosing and treating Alzheimer’s and dementia, but that it goes beyond Alzheimer’s. The roles of an individual at large representing those aging in Nebraska and an individual or advocate with experience or expertise with aging and special populations were clarified. The at-large member would be similar to the at-large members of the Aging Advisory Committee; the individual or advocate with experience with special populations would represent individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and dementia, as well as other groups such as Tribal or Spanish speaking populations.

There are several Committee members whose terms expire at the end of February. Colleen was in contact with the Governor's Appointment Office to say that most members are applying for reappointment. The Appointments Office staff responded that appointments will be on hold until it is known whether LB845 passes. Current members are permitted to continue to serve until they are reappointed or until another individual is appointed in that role. Josie asked all members to let her and Colleen know whether they want to continue on the Committee.

There was a request to reach out to the Alzheimer's Council to begin getting to know each other. This is already in the works for a near future meeting. In the meantime, a meeting invitation will be sent to Committee members to attend the next Alzheimer's Council meeting on February 20 as members of the public.

Another bill ([LB913](#)) would require DHHS to hire a Dementia Services Coordinator to support dementia-related policies. During the public hearing, the Alzheimer's Association clarified that this was the original intent of the bill that created the Alzheimer's Council.

State Plan and Data Subcommittees Update

Ira Nathan provided an overview of the Peer Place data he received from SUA staff member Ben Stromberg for Fiscal Years 2019 – 2025. (Peer Place is the reporting software used by Area Agencies on Aging to report the number of individuals served.) Ira created tables by different service types in a document that was shared onscreen and can be found at the end of these minutes. He talked about the trends and how the data can be analyzed and used in the State Plan. The next steps will be to have the Data and State Plan subcommittees work together to come up with measurements for various strategies.

Danny DeLong added that this data can be used to help meet the demands of current and future aging Nebraskans.

Colleen talked about the meeting in Kearney on January 21, 2026, where Committee members worked alongside AAA staff and SUA staff on ideas for State Plan goals. If LB845 passes, it was suggested that there may be members of the Alzheimer's Council who would be interested in working on the State Plan with the Aging Committee.

Next steps: SUA staff will review the notes and recommendations from the Kearney meeting to identify commonalities before meeting again with the State Plan and Data subcommittee. Title VI Tribal partners will also be invited to ensure their needs are identified. There will be areas/topics that the Committee could be asked to work on and bring back ideas to the SUA at the April meeting.

Josie and Colleen have met with the University of Nebraska Omaha to discuss the project they will do for the State Plan. UNO is reviewing the scope of work to determine their costs. There has been no word from them yet.

Public Comments

No members of the public attended the meeting.

Next Meeting

The meeting schedule for 2026 was discussed to include possibly meeting monthly. Under the current Public Meetings Law, at least half of the meetings must be in person. (A legislative bill, [LB898](#), would change this requirement to at least one in-person meeting with the remaining meetings allowed to be virtual.) The cost of travel for members to attend in-person meetings and other related expenses and the amount of business to be conducted does not justify meeting monthly. At the December 16, 2025, meeting, the next meeting date was determined to be April 21 in Kearney.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

DRAFT

PEER PLACE DATA

OBJECTIVE 1: Has Utilization Reached Pre COVID Level?

OBJECTIVE 2: Show trends from Fiscal Years 2019 – 2025.

OBJECTIVE 3: Explore value of data for State Planning Report.

OBJECTIVE 4: Analyze population served – Age, Frail/Disabled, Rural, Gender, Lives With, Poverty, Race, Low Income, Minority, and Ethnicity. This will be a later study.

COVID INFORMATION

9.30.2020: First case in Nebraska was 9.3.2020

6.30.21: Nebraska state emergency ends. State dashboard and emergency response winds down.

4.23.23: Public Law 118-3, 4/10/23 and World Health Organization end COVID.

5.11.23: US Federal Public Emergency and National emergency phase concludes.

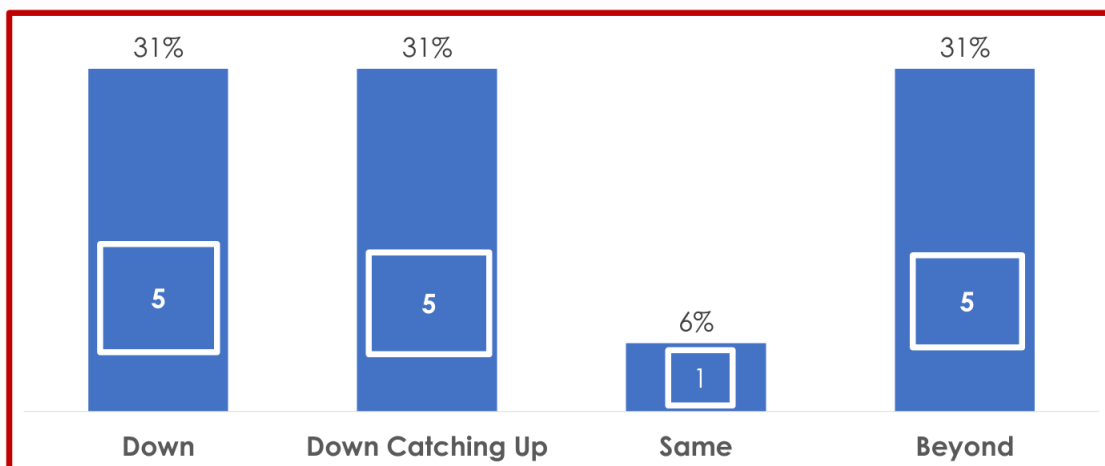
National Council on Aging Service, 8/22 **Survey “Senior Centres – Managing within a Pandemic in 2022.”** was given to Nebraska Association of Senior Centers (NASC) on September, 2023

NASC SURVEY PARTICIPANTS (16/31 = 52%)

Number	Senior Center Name	City	County	Area Agencies on Aging Name (AAAs)
1	Lied Senior Center	Seward	Seward	Aging Partners
2	Milford Senior Center	Milford	Seward	Aging Partners
3	Nutrition and Programming Manager	Multiple	Multiple	Midland
4	Nuckolls County Senior Services	Superior	Nuckolls	Midland
5	Columbus Senior Center	Columbus	Patsnao	Northeast
6	Elgin Community Center	Elgin	Antelope	Northeast
7	Pilger Senior Center	Pilger	Stanton	Northeast
8	Bertrand Young at Heart Senior Center	Bertrand	Phelps	South Central
9	Peterson Senior Activity Center	Kearney	Buffalo	South Central
10	Phelps County Senior Center	Holdrege	Phelps	South Central
11	Prairie Pioneer Center	Broken Bow	Custer	South Central
12	Cozad Grand Generation Center	Cozad	Dawson	West Central
13	Heritage Senior Center	McCook	Red Willow	West Central
14	Lexington Grand Generation Center	Lexington	Dawson	West Central
15	Perkins County Senior Center	Grant	Perkins	West Central
16	Wauneta Senior Services Center	Wauneta	Chase	West Central

COMPARED TO 2019 (PRE-PANDEMIC) LEVELS HOW HAS IN PERSON PARTICIPATION CHANGED AT YOUR SENIOR CENTER?

PERCENT OF 16 RESPONSES (Number of Responses in Boxes)



FISCAL YEAR 2025 STATE SERVICE TYPE

State Service Type	Units	Unduplicated Clients
Assisted Transportation	17,811.50	176
Benefits Assistance	4,174.32	1,526
Care Management	36,947.85	2,472
Caregiver Assistance: Case Management	1,891.25	389
Caregiver Assistance: Information & Assistance	11,484.50	189
Caregiver Consumable	839.00	81
Caregiver Day OOH	10,266.81	55
Caregiver In-Home Respite	33,220.66	373
Caregiver In-Home Service	2,185.75	90
Caregiver Meals	6,895.00	53
Caregiver Outreach	105.00	22
Caregiver Respite	38.00	3
Caregiver Technology & Equipment	3,643.00	422
Case Management	10,132.00	1,147
CG Technology & Equipment	131.00	18
Chore	7,384.00	602
Congregate Meals	541,905.00	12,893
Consumable Supplies	2,621.50	419
Counseling	4,291.25	2,867
Health Activities	79,666.80	4,069
Health Programs	21,972.00	1,213
Home Delivered Meals	597,475.00	5,802
Home Maintenance	3.00	2
Homemaker	48,098.08	1,383

FISCAL 2025 STATE SERVICE TYPE

State Service Type	Units	Unduplicated Clients
Information & Assistance	80,992.55	3,795
Information & Referral	38,543.50	6,897
Information Services	117,415.00	9,156
Legal Assistance	13,802.90	24
Legal Outreach	4.00	94
Legal Referral Screening	0.00	-
Mobility Training	30.00	24
Nutrition Education	12,695.00	1,983
Options Counseling	1,809.25	864
Out of State Legal	0.00	-
Outreach	1,812.00	12,064
Personal Care	8,446.25	209
Retail Meal	0.00	19
Senior Center Hours	134,235.35	176
Senior Volunteer Program	16,765.55	119
SH Chore	467.75	47
SH Companionship	837.20	15
SH HDM Delivery	9,542.75	8
SH Household Assistance	812.00	43
SH Special Projects	147.50	5
SH Training	82.50	1
SH Transportation	170.00	10
Social Activities	84,187.25	2,136
Technology & Equipment	17,643.00	2,430
To Go Meals	114,952.00	4,127
Transitional Options Counseling	31.75	23
Transportation	1,903.00	12
Volunteer Program	9,174.42	-

Table 1 - Congregate Meals

Fiscal Year	Meals	Unduplicated Clients	Meals per Client
2019	221,491	12,727	17
2020 – SOME COVID	433,530	14,248	30
2021 - COVID	304,335	10,185	30
2022 - COVID	601,105	12,586	48
2023 - COVID	590,335	13,055	45
2024	592,439	13,750	43
2025	541,905	12,893	42

Table 2 - Home Delivered Meals

Fiscal Year	Meals	Unduplicated Clients	Meals per Client
2019	180,548	4,241	86
2020 – SOME COVID	717,236	8,386	107
2021 - COVID	816,972	7,635	103
2022 - COVID	877,350	8,547	100
2023 - COVID	822,874	8,200	94
2024	666,097	7,105	103
2025	597,475	5,802	86

Table 3 - Combined To Go (COVID 19 TO GO, COVID TOGO NSIP & TO GO)

Fiscal Year	Meals	Unduplicated Clients	Meals per Client
2020 – SOME COVID	180,349	5,816	31
2021 - COVID	235,208	8,200	29
2022 - COVID	99,653	3,444	29
2023- COVID	102,814	5,195	20
2024	118,131	4,138	29
2025	114,952	4,127	28

Table 4 - Total

	Meals #	Unduplicated Clients	Meals per Client
2019	402,039	16,968	24
2020 – SOME COVID	1,331,115	28,450	47
2021 - COVID	1,356,515	26,020	52
2022 - COVID	1,578,108	24,577	64
2023 - COVID	1,516,023	26,450	57
2024	1,376,667	24,993	55
2025	1,254,332	22,822	55

Between 2022 and 2025, the total number of meals was **5,725,130**, while from 2019 to 2025, it was **8,814,799**.

Table 5 – Chores #

Fiscal Year	Hours	Unduplicated Clients	Hours per Client
2019	5,104.25	592	10
2020 – SOME COVID	7,630.00	742	12
2021 - COVID	7,114.90	617	11
2022 - COVID	8,073.85	762	12
2023 - COVID	9,036.00	758	12
2024	8,884.17	721	12
2025	7,384.00	602	10

Does not include SH Chore

Table 6 - Social Activities

Fiscal Year	Activities	Unduplicated Clients	Hours per Client
2019	599,241.21	3,174	189
2020 – SOME COVID	234,653.65	3,544	66
2021 - COVID	473,105.70	2,307	205
2022 - COVID	487,179.30	2,223	219
2023 - COVID	354,648.04	2,481	143
2024	84,187.25	2,136	39
2025	599,241.21	3,174	189

Table 7 - Caregiver Respite

Fiscal Year	Hours	Unduplicated Clients	Hours per Client
2019	4,811.90	226	21
2020 – SOME COVID	29,476.92	411	72
2021 - COVID	32,849.42	479	69
2022 - COVID	34,359.37	440	78
2023 - COVID	33,220.66	373	89
2024	8,432.08	207	41
2025	4,811.90	226	21

Submitted by the Data Subcommittee as a preliminary report. Further analysis is recommended.

February 15, 2026