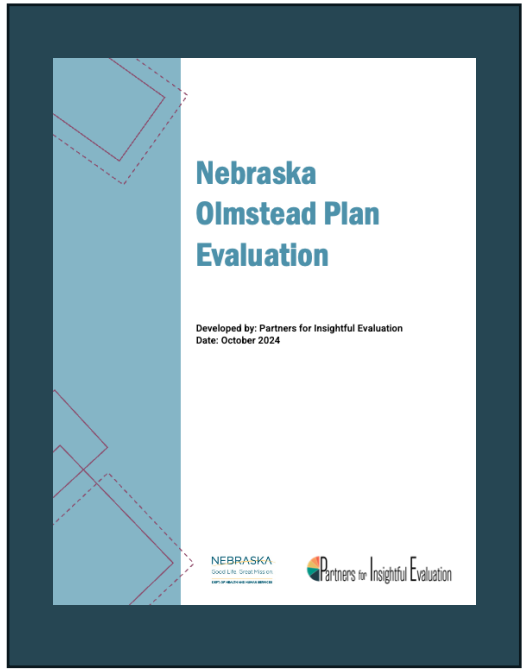


Nebraska Olmstead Plan Evaluation:

Implementing Changes to Develop Next Plan

Partners for Insightful Evaluation (PIE)

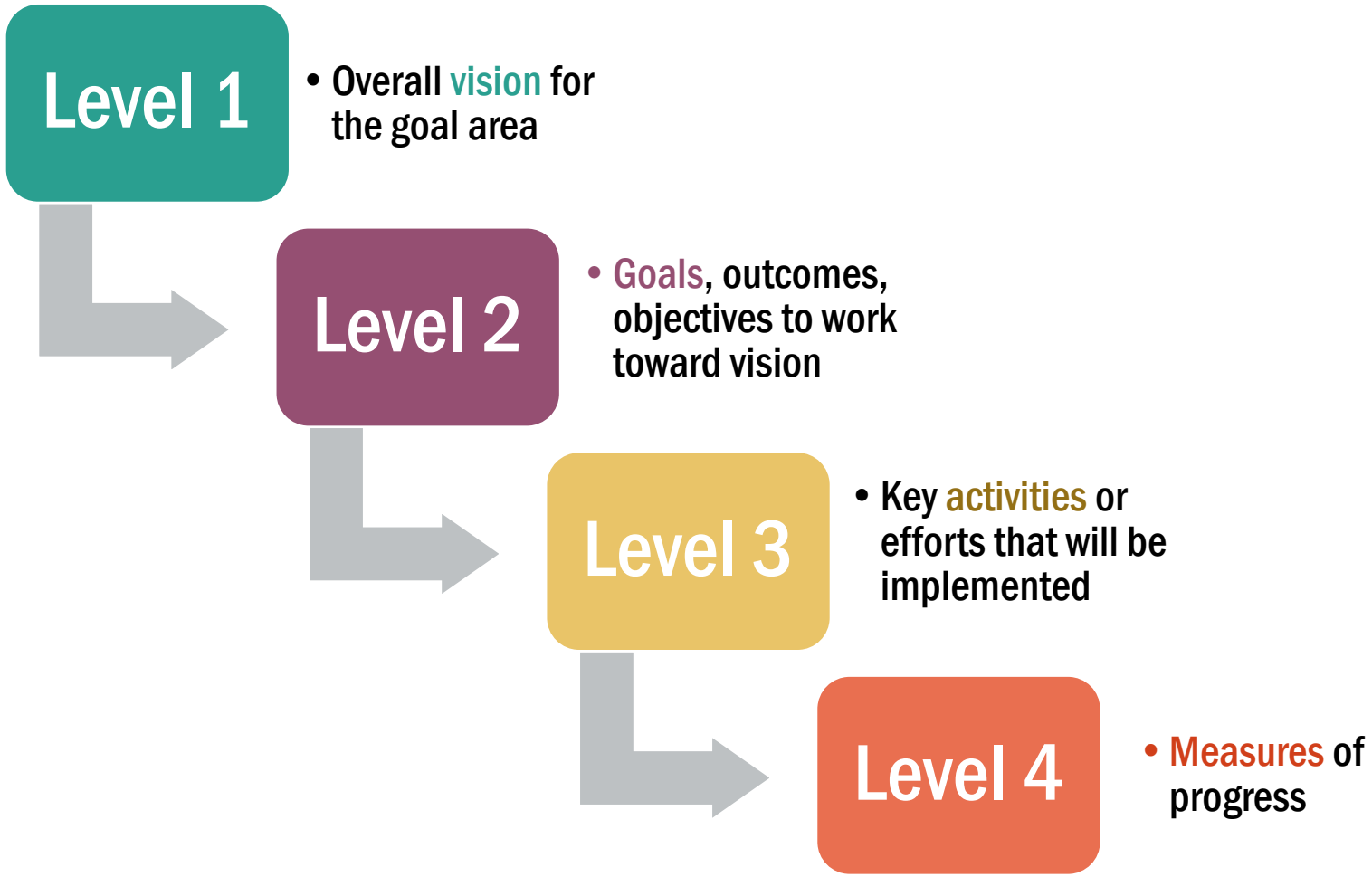
April 30, 2025

Partners for Insightful Evaluation

Key Changes

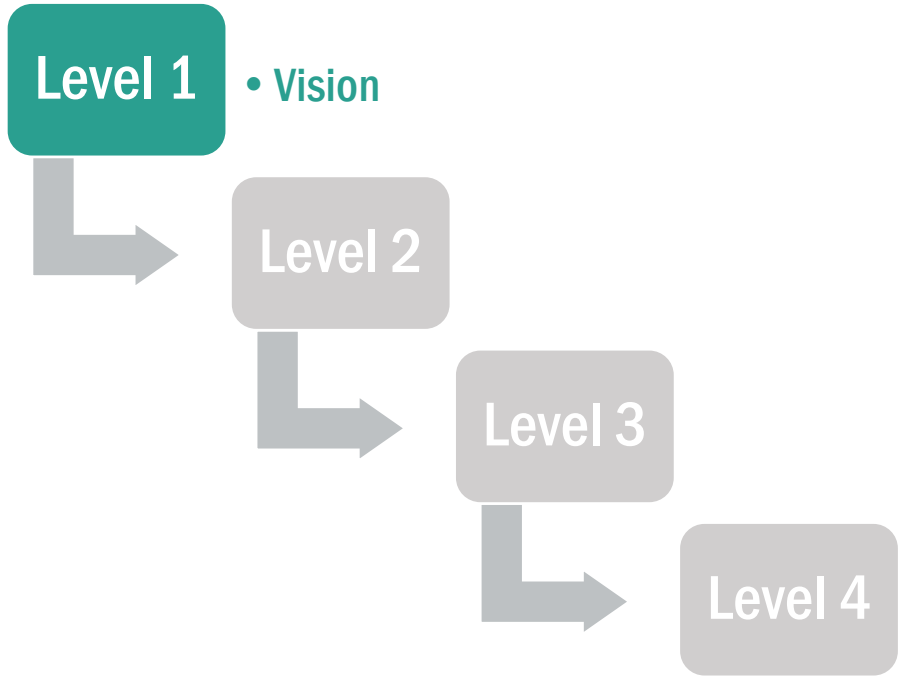
- Transitioned to six-year plan
- Five priority areas
  - Community-Based Services
  - Education
  - Employment
  - Housing
  - Transportation

Revision Process for Next Olmstead Plan

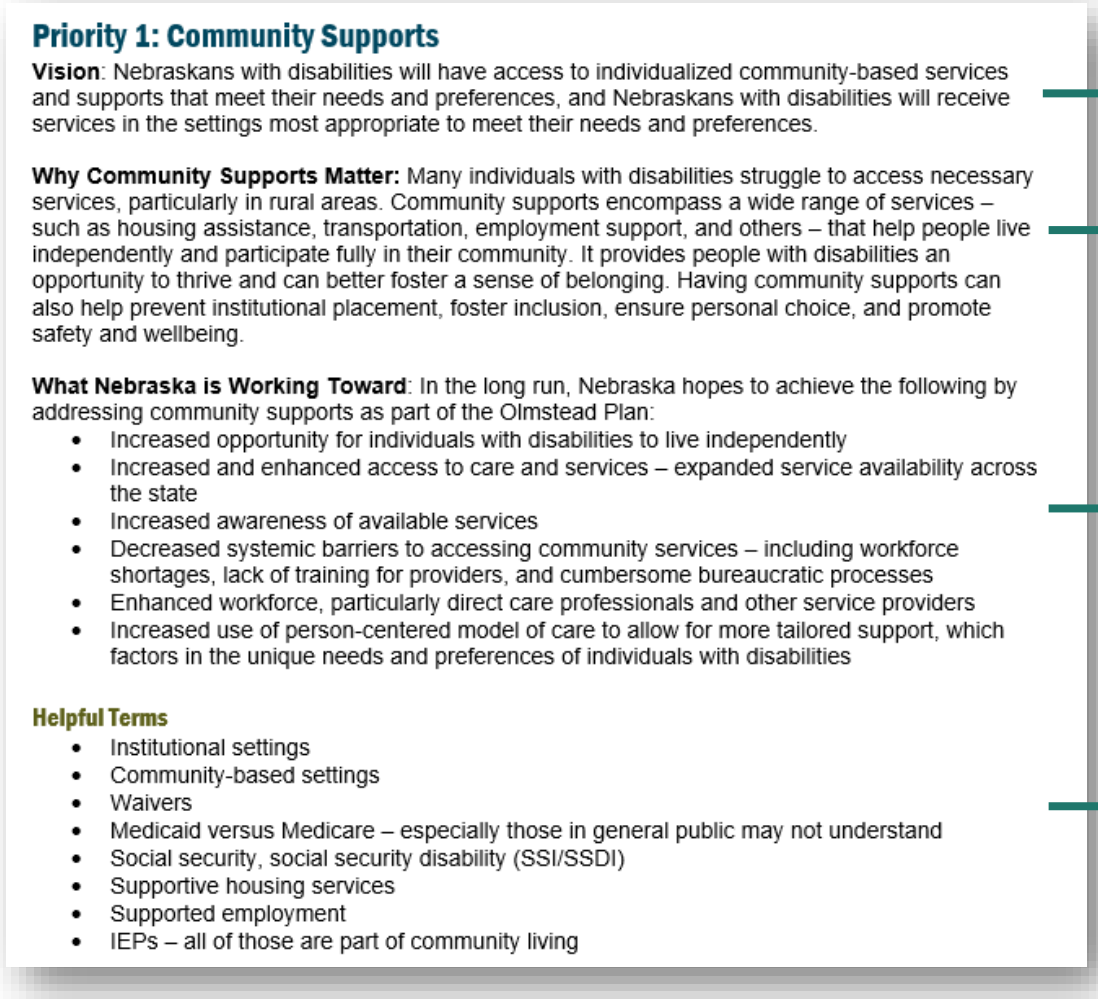


Discussion of Vision – February

- Each workgroup had discussion in February about what they would like to see accomplished 10+ years from now
  - Opportunity for workgroup members to see holistic picture
  - Feedback informed new sections for the plan



Informing Discussion of Goals/Objectives



Priority 1: Community Supports

Vision: Nebraskans with disabilities will have access to individualized community-based services and supports that meet their needs and preferences, and Nebraskans with disabilities will receive services in the settings most appropriate to meet their needs and preferences.

Why Community Supports Matter: Many individuals with disabilities struggle to access necessary services, particularly in rural areas. Community supports encompass a wide range of services – such as housing assistance, transportation, employment support, and others – that help people live independently and participate fully in their community. It provides people with disabilities an opportunity to thrive and can better foster a sense of belonging. Having community supports can also help prevent institutional placement, foster inclusion, ensure personal choice, and promote safety and wellbeing.

What Nebraska is Working Toward: In the long run, Nebraska hopes to achieve the following by addressing community supports as part of the Olmstead Plan:

- Increased opportunity for individuals with disabilities to live independently
- Increased and enhanced access to care and services – expanded service availability across the state
- Increased awareness of available services
- Decreased systemic barriers to accessing community services – including workforce shortages, lack of training for providers, and cumbersome bureaucratic processes
- Enhanced workforce, particularly direct care professionals and other service providers
- Increased use of person-centered model of care to allow for more tailored support, which factors in the unique needs and preferences of individuals with disabilities

Helpful Terms

- Institutional settings
- Community-based settings
- Waivers
- Medicaid versus Medicare – especially those in general public may not understand
- Social security, social security disability (SSI/SSDI)
- Supportive housing services
- Supported employment
- IEPs – all of those are part of community living

→ Vision statement remained the same

→ Meant to be a “plain language” summary of why the priority is included in the plan

→ Initial suggestions for potential long-term outcomes, list of what Nebraska is striving to accomplish through priority

→ Summary of terms that may be helpful to define for better understanding of the priority area

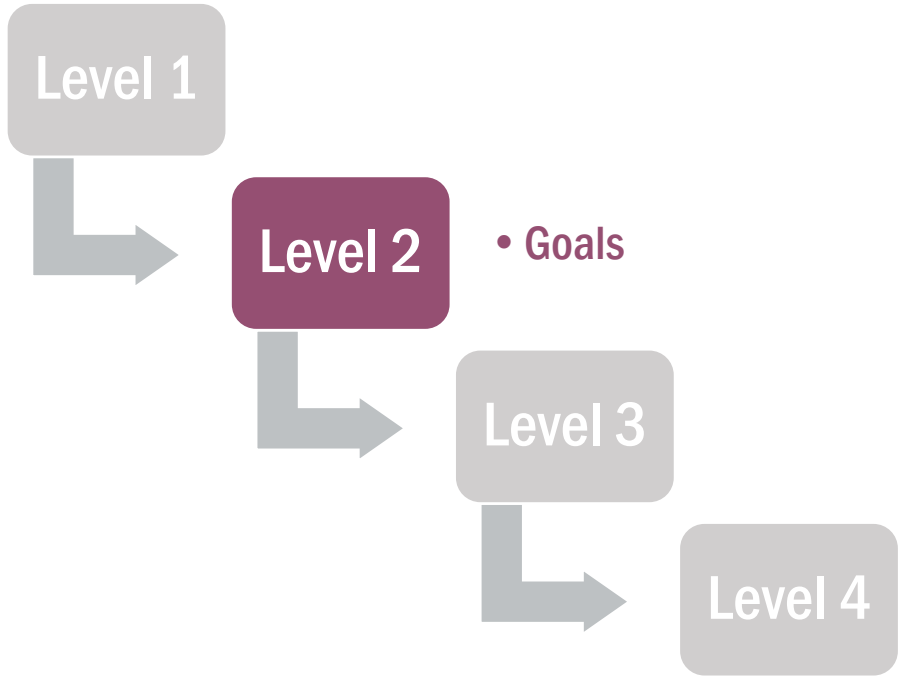
Framing Discussion of Goals/Objectives

- Olmstead Plan meant to be a strategic and visionary plan rather than a tactical one

https://ideascale.com/blog/tactical-planning-definition/

Discussion of Goals - March

- Identify up to five high-level ideas for how to start working toward the vision of the priority
- Integrate workforce development and data as needed
  - Were previously stand-alone priorities in the Olmstead Plan



Outcome of March Discussions

Community Supports

5 goals: partnerships, increasing access to services, exploring unutilized hours of care, training inventory and identifying gaps in waiver system

Education

5 goals: resources to address staffing ratios, special education training as part of certification, supports for rural schools, parent education, and data/info on additional services

Employment

5 goals: supported employment, enhancing partnerships, access to individualized services and supports, engagement with businesses, promoting transition services

Housing

4 goals: policy change, increasing funding and resources, public awareness, data identification and collection

Transportation

5 goals: statewide survey, funding opportunities, public awareness and education, identifying best practices, partnerships

Next Steps

- Next Olmstead Plan draft started based on that feedback
  - PIE also reviewing
- Workgroups can determine to what degree they want to create more tactical plans to address the goals

Next Evaluation Report

- Next report due to legislature in December 2027
  - Data collection likely happen in late 2026, early 2027
    - Revisit PIE evaluation report on ways to enhance and improve data collection
    - Workgroups can keep in mind to align with any proposed data collection efforts
  - Explore progress on five priority areas
  - Capture feedback on revision process
- Report can start to inform revision process for the 2032 – 2037 Plan
  - Final evaluation report for upcoming plan will be due to legislature in December 2030

While this process is still fresh, send any feedback, suggestions, insights to PIE at hello@pievauation.com

Additional Considerations

- Do a deeper dive into content of other state plans
  - PIE did preliminary coding about number and type of priorities; could integrate more comprehensive analysis into next evaluation project
    - Other states may have interest in this as well
- Determine whether health/medical care should be added
  - Collaboration/service coordination already integrated into priorities
- Consider developing accessible materials
  - Plain language version of the new Olmstead Plan; other plain language documents as needed, particularly to highlight success
  - Online dashboard or more real-time way to share progress for Olmstead efforts

Final Takeaway

- There's passion and purpose for the Olmstead Plan in Nebraska
  - Leverage and continue to expand on the partnerships
- Building the foundation
  - Nebraska's first Olmstead Plan submitted December 2019
  - Quality improvement opportunity

Questions? Feedback?

hello@pievaluation.com