NOTICE

In-Person Meeting of the Nebraska Olmstead Advisory Committee

Monday, July 25, 2025

9:00 a.m. Central Time

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Monday, July 25, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Central/8:00 a.m. Mountain, the Nebraska Olmstead Advisory Committee will hold an in-person meeting at the Department of Education Building located at 500 S. 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68510—Board of Education Room. You may attend in person or join the meeting virtually through Zoom via Computer, Smart Device or Telephone at https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82992625114?pwd=7J5ZIjrCQmyZhPbcQgDa7J46vGQNYF.1.

An agenda of subjects known at this time is included with this notice, but the agenda shall be kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at 301 Centennial Mall South in Lincoln, Nebraska during normal business hours. A notice of this meeting with the agenda and other materials is available on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Olmstead.aspx.

On July 8, 2025, a notice of this meeting with the agenda was sent to all Committee members and published in the Omaha World-Herald, a newspaper of statewide distribution. Notice of this meeting with the agenda and other materials are available for public inspection at 301 Centennial Mall South in Lincoln, Nebraska, and posted with the following links kept continually current: an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, with a link to the current version of the Open Meetings Act are on the website of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services – https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Olmstead.aspx.

Auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations needed to participate in a hearing can be requested by calling (402) 853-1452. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call DHHS via the Nebraska Relay System at 711 or (800) 833-7352 TDD at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

Agenda

In-Person Meeting of the Nebraska Olmstead Advisory Committee

Friday, July 25, 2025

9:00 a.m. Central Time

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 84, Article 14 of the Reissue Revised Statutes of the State of Nebraska 1943, as amended, one copy of all reproducible written materials to be discussed is available to the public at the meeting and at the link below for examination and copying.

Join the virtual meeting by Zoom via Computer, Smart Device or Telephone at https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82992625114?pwd=7J5ZIjrCQmyZhPbcQgDa7J46vGQNYF.1.

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, since this is a hybrid meeting, members of the Nebraska Olmstead Advisory Committee (Committee) who attend in-person or online are allowed to vote and be counted for the purpose of determining a quorum.

1. **Call meeting to order**
   Kathy Hoell & Mark Smith
   - 9:00 a.m. CT– Mark Smith and Kathy Hoell, will call the meeting to order.
   - Roll call.
   - Indicate that on July 8, 2025, a notice of this meeting with the agenda and other materials was provided to the public and all members of the Committee. Notice of this meeting with the agenda and other materials were available for public inspection at 301 Centennial Mall South in Lincoln, Nebraska, and also posted with the following link kept continually current: an electronic copy of the agenda and all documents being considered at the meeting, with a link to the current version of the Open Meetings Act are on the website of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services – https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Olmstead.aspx.
   - Inform the public about the location of the Open Meetings Act which is accessible to members of the public https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Olmstead.aspx. along with a copy of all reproducible written materials to be discussed at this meeting.
   - Public comment on any agenda item(s): Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, the Chair of the Committee reserves the right to limit comments on agenda items. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, there is no time limit on comments made by members of the Committee. Members of the Committee and members of the public may comment on agenda items or listen to the Committee Meeting; however, if the Committee votes to hold a closed session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, members of the public may not comment or listen during that time. The committee requires any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify their name, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1412.

2. **Consider a motion to approve the agenda**
   Kathy Hoell & Mark Smith

3. **Consider a motion to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2025.**
    - Minutes on pages 4-8

    Kathy Hoell & Mark Smith

4. **Call for Public Comment**
    Kathy Hoell & Mark Smith

5. **Discussion of status of the Olmstead Plan updates, including who has reviewed updates and how feedback from state leadership can be gathered and incorporated**
    Kathy Hoell & Mark Smith

6. **Discussion of Workgroups, including how workgroups are being informed on changes to their charge resulting from the updates or are they to continue with their current set of goals?**
    Kathy Hoell & Mark Smith

7. **Workgroup Reports, including activities and plans to date**
    - Community Supports- Joni Thomas
    - Education- Stacy Bliss
    - Employment- Lindy Foley
    - Housing- Tobias Orr
    - Transportation- Dianne DeLair

8. **Discussion of Future Evaluation Process**
    Kathy Hoell & Mark Smith

9. ***Consider a Motion to Adjourn***

Minutes

In-Person Meeting of the Nebraska Olmstead Advisory Committee

Monday June 9, 2025

9:00 a.m. Central Time

10. **Call meeting to order:**
    Kathy Hoell called to order the regular meeting of the Olmstead Advisory Committee at 9:00 am on Monday, June 9, 2025

11. **Roll Call**
    The following persons were present:
    Advisory Members Present:
    In Person- Dianne DeLair, Lindy Foley, Kristen Larson,
    Virtual- Stacy Bliss, Kim Davis, Kathy Hoell, Tobias Orr, Melissa Lemmer, Kierstin Reed, Lorie Regier, Joni Thomas, Joe Valenti, Mark Shriver
    Advisory Members Not Present: Trish Bergman, Timothy Heller, Patricia Jurjevich, Carlos Servan, Mark Smith, Susan Tatum

12. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**
    Joe Valenti made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, motion 2nd by Kristen Larson.
    The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

13. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
    Joni Thomas made a motion to approve minutes, a motion 2nd by Tobais Orr.
    The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

14. **Call for public comment**
    No one from the public in the room or online, no comments.

15. **Review of the Olmstead Plan Revisions**
    - Take feedback form the work groups and incorporate that into the revisions.
    - Discussion and/or feedback of sections from the Introduction up to the focus areas:
        - Discussion of recommendations to cover systems or health supports, which was recommended by PIE. This will be a subject that is reviewed in the future.
        - Focus areas:
            A. Community Supports: Discussed in the workgroup with Joni Thomas.
                - Discussions of general updates within the community supports focus area. There were identified gaps in of the goal areas.
                - Broadened the community partners to include interpreters, and other communication modalities.

- Added items about EVV, EVV was identified as a big concern, it will impact a whole lot of people, and it already has. Added items in about tracking EVV and moving forward with that.
- Lindy from VR: I just wanted to clarify, I noticed under goal 1 Recommended that when Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) is identified as the entity responsible that they clarify which portion of NDE is responsible (i.e. Vocational Rehabilitation, School districts, Assistive technology partnership), this will be listed in Key Partners.
- Discussion about the difficulties of youth participants moving from pediatric services to adult services, especially within the dental field.

B. Education: Discussed in the workgroup with Stacy Bliss'. Sent out the goals to the committee for feedback vis email, however did not get any feedback. Stacy provided feedback in terms of clarifying some of the things, they are essentially looking at identifying targeted strategies to increase staffing in rural schools. That is looking at how do we address those staffing ratios within our rural schools and identify those areas and what we can do. Also increasing Goal 2, the preparation for special education in our teacher education training programs, because special education is not something that should be separate from general education, making sure that we are educating all teachers, that identify some different pathways to encourage education in our training programs, perhaps consider or pursue special education. The third one is increasing parental engagement and knowledge of resources.
   - Recommendation to review the extension of Rural Health Opportunity Program (RHOP) and Rural Law Operations Program (RLOP), programs to special education.
   - RHOP and RLOP are funded programs from the state where a student will receive free tuition or tuition waivers to attend state colleges for their undergraduate programs. Through these programs it guarantees professionals to work in rural communities.
   - Recommended incorporate feedback on Goal 1 and 2 into Goal 1, to speak to those incentive programs, and then Goal 3 that seemed more of a process point.
   - Discussed the extension of LOP and HOP into education programs. Legislative support will be needed.
   - Clarifying who within the NDE is responsible for or is the key partners.
   - The DD council recently funded a really good resource that could be part of the data measure to recruit in that first one, and it's called the Educational Professional Clearinghouse. It has an online platform for folks to figure out how to get certified in special education, or there's trainings for inclusive educators, and it's through answers for families. They developed it, but it'll be posted, I believe Amy Brown stated the Department of Ed will be taking that over.

- Looking at Goal 2, recommend gathering feedback and input from the high education partners. It has been stated in pervious conversations that it is a challenge and there are barriers due to changes needed within the curriculum, as well as difficulty with the way they are required to offer courses.
- It was identified that enrollment in the teacher education programs has declined, and they are starting to recruit.
- It was identified that higher education institutions are ill-equipped to provide accommodations to those with disabilities.
- Recommendation that Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education could represent Institutes of Higher Education.
- Recommended a tool to address this identified technology issues is the ADA title II, which require universities by April 24, 2026, to make all public-facing materials, resources, and including our courses to be fully accessible.
- Recommendation that is Goal 1 to add the month of the goal accomplished date (i.e. June 2028).
- Question asked if there are any new legislative requirements for special education teacher licensure programs.
- Recommendation to Ensure inclusion of individuals with Brain Injuries, or those who are not specifically on IEP, but also on 504 or those who are in general education and not within the special education program.

C. Employment: Discussed in the workgroup with Lindy.
- A recommendation of alignment between Dr. Lisa Mills study and what we were seeing in Olmstead was discussed at the January Olmstead meeting.
- The workgroup looked at the action plan and how that translated into the Olmstead goal.
- Dates were changed in the activities section.
- Recommended to add to Goal 2 Data Measures bullet 4, "Metrics will be disaggregated by disability category is SE. Unsupported employment outcomes will also be analyzed.
- Recommending having data gathered for Developmental disabilities, behavioral health, Autism and brain injury, to look at outcomes.
- Found that a fair number of the unsupported employment numbers are being served under behavioral health, we recommend including that in our analysis.
- Recommended to include the Department of Behaviral Health and PTI Nebraska in the list of Key Partners.
- Recommendation for Goal 3 under Resources for Readiness: Develop and Distribute tailored resources for students, families and teachers.

D. Housing: Discussed in the workgroup with Tobias.

- Recommended placing a moth for the year goal, for Goal 1 and 2 (i.e. June 2031)
- Recommended placing a month for the year goal under the "Evaluate for Expansion." (i.e. June 2029)
- Question asked: Will this capture those coming out of corrections, because a lot of times when you have those behavioral health needs, or will this look at those who don't have it just involved history? Discussed that they are unsure if it will capture corrections. Goal 1 could capture some data from corrections.
- Discussed how those coming out of corrections with behavioral health needs are one of the biggest populations that struggle with getting housing.
- Goal 3: Recommend updating as a data collection. Nebraska supported housing plan and technical collaborative. Measured stock and recommendations of how to increase.
- Recommend looking at the waitlist for affordable and accessible housing
- Does section 8 have accessible housing for those with disabilities?
- Data collection goal: Identify a baseline for both need and stock over the next six years.

E. Transportation: Discussed in the workgroup Diane.
- Discussed about ride share, and discussed the transportation barriers in our state, suggestions of ride share were mentioned. Such as Lyft and Uber, how can we get those companies into providing transportation for those who use Medicaid.
- Discussion of LB311 and how this will impact transportation needs in Nebraska.
- Discussion about the fiscal intermediary.
- The group felt that the vision was good, and why transportation matters.
- Discussed the Department of Transportation ADA self-evaluation document. DOT created a transition plan in 2024. It does align with Goal 1.
- Edited Goal 3 to include LR 251 (2025)-Interim study to examine the adequacy and accessibility of transportation options for people with disabilities in Nebraska.

16. Motion to move Olmstead Plan forward

Peggy Reisher made a motion to accept the concepts and framework of the Olmstead Plan, including the goals as amended through Committee discussion. The Committee endorses moving the Plan forward to the agency leads for the purpose of refining and finalizing action steps and performance measures, guided by the feedback provided throughout this process.

Following this refinement stage, the Plan will proceed to final publication. The Committee acknowledges this is a dynamic Plan that will continue to evolve through implementation and ongoing stakeholder engagement. The motion was 2nd by Kristen Larsen.

The motion was approved as presented.

Ayes-	Stacy Bliss
	Kim Davis
	Dianne DeLair
	Lindy Foley
	Kathy Hoell
	Kristen Larsen
	Melissa Lemmer
	Tobias Orr
	Kierstin Reed
	Lorie Regier
	Peggy Reisher
	Joni Thomas
	Joe Valenti
Opposed-	None
Not Present-	Mark Shriver

17. Public comment

- No public comment

18. Next meeting scheduled

- July 30, 2025, from 9 am to 1 pm (Adjusted Due to Scheduling)
- October 29, 2025 from 9 am to 1 pm
- January 28, 2026 from 9 am to 1 pm, Hybrid

Tobias Orr made a motion to set meeting dates, a motion 2nd by Joni Thomas.
The agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

19. Call meeting to adjourn

- Dianne DeLair called to adjourn the regular meeting of the Olmstead Advisory Committee at 1:00 pm on Monday, June 9, 2025