Bylaws of the
OLMSTEAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Approved July 15, 2026

Article I – Name of Organization

The name of the organization shall be the Olmstead Advisory Committee.

Article II – Purpose

Section 1
Statutory Purpose: As provided by Nebraska Revised Statutes §§ 81-6,122, the purpose of the Advisory Committee is to serve as the stakeholder voice and group that advises on and reviews the status of Olmstead Plan outcomes, strategies, and goals. The Advisory Committee collaboratively assists in the review and development of the Olmstead Plan and provides ongoing advice on implementation, refinement, and future updates and revisions to the plan. The Advisory Committee also provides advice on the many topics addressed by the Olmstead plan and topics important to Nebraskans with disabilities.

Section 2
Fundamental Beliefs and Guiding Principles: Nebraska's Olmstead Plan reflects the following fundamental beliefs in supporting individuals with disabilities.

Nebraska is committed to:
- Person- and family-centered approaches;
- Ensuring the safety of, and improved quality of life for, people with disabilities;
- Services that are readily available, at locations accessible to individuals in need and their families; and
- Supporting individuals to live a meaningful life in the community they choose.

In addition to these Core Values, the following Guiding Principles serve as a foundation for Nebraska's Olmstead Plan:

- **Self Determination and Choice:** Individuals with disabilities and their families will be supported in controlling decisions about their lives, selecting from an array of services, supports, and providers.
- **Independence and Least Restrictive:** Individuals will receive services that maximize their full potential, in the least coercive manner and in the most natural settings possible to meet their needs.
- **Use of Respectful Language:** Including "People First" Language: Individuals with disabilities and their families will be treated with dignity and as individuals who have their own unique strengths, wishes, and desires.
- **Evidence-Based Strategies**: Individuals with disabilities and their families will have access to services and supports that adhere to evidence-based practices, in order to achieve the best outcomes.
- Services Across the Life Span: Nebraskans with disabilities will have access to age-appropriate services and supports from birth to end of life.
- **Safety**: Nebraskans with disabilities will be served in environments that are free from abuse and neglect, and that meet ADA compliance standards for health and well-being.
- **Diversity**: Services will honor the geographical differences, race, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic, and identities of all individuals with disabilities.
- **Inclusion**: All individuals with any type of disability will have the opportunity to live, learn, work, and socialize with members of their community who do not have disabilities.
- **Integration**: Services and supports will afford individuals with disabilities the opportunity to live as

neighbors in, and to participate as active members of, their communities.

- **Accountability**: The systems and services that support individuals with disabilities will be accountable to Nebraska's state administration, legislature, taxpaying citizens, and most importantly, to those they serve.

These guiding principles serve as the floor rather than the ceiling for the Olmstead Advisory Committee's work.

Article III – Membership

Section 1
Appointments: Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 81-6,122, the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health and Human Services shall appoint and convene a stakeholder advisory committee to assist in the review of the Olmstead Plan.

Section 2
Length of Term: Committee members shall serve three-year terms. The term is renewable, and no term limits shall exist.

Any Committee members who cannot complete their term shall submit a formal resignation in writing to the Director of Developmental Disabilities at least 30 days before the effective resignation date and no less than 45 days before the next scheduled meeting.

Section 3
Attendance: A member who has two consecutive absences or has missed 50% or more of the meetings in the past year shall be contacted by the Division regarding their intentions for future participation in the Committee. If the person indicates they are unable to participate, the Division shall request that they formally resign from the Committee.

Formal resignation shall be in writing and submitted to the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities. The Division staff will maintain an attendance sheet and submit it to the Chairperson periodically or by request.

Article IV – Voting

Section 1
Quorum: A quorum shall consist of one member more than half of the current members of the Committee. The continued presence of a quorum shall be established before taking any vote or stating the question on any motion. All Committee business shall be conducted by a roll call vote of members present at a meeting in which a quorum is established.

Section 2
Conflicts of Interest: A conflict of interest is created through the existence of circumstances where the actions of a member may have an effect of direct financial benefit or detriment to the member, a member of his/her family, employer, business associate, or a business in which the member owns a substantial interest. As soon as the member is aware of a potential conflict of interest (or should

reasonably be so aware), the member shall complete the Potential Conflict of Interest Statement Form C-2. The Form shall be submitted to the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. The member shall follow all directions as prescribed and advised by the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. A member shall disclose any potential conflict to the Committee annually at the first collective meeting of the calendar year and abstain from voting on issues on which there is a conflict. Meeting minutes shall record the name of a member(s) who abstains from voting.

Article V – Officers

Section 1
Selection: Officers of the Committee shall be Co-Chairpersons.

Section 2
Duties: The duties of the Co-Chairs shall be to:
(1) Coordinate with DHHS on scheduling meetings and provide for the development of meeting agendas;
(2) Facilitate committee meetings, manage the agenda, conduct votes on committee business, and assign and track action items;
(3) Provide oversight, guidance, and accountability for subcommittees and other ad hoc committees;
(4) Write and review correspondence and reports with State Leaders as deemed necessary and appropriate by the committee; and
(5) Review attendance reports and contact members as needed.

Section 3
At the first meeting, the committee will select two co-chairs. The first co-chair shall serve an initial two-year term and then be elected in odd-numbered years at the last meeting before June 30. The second co-chair shall serve an initial one-year term and then be elected in even-numbered years at the last meeting before June 30. Co-chairs are not subject to term limits.

In the event of a vacancy, the Committee will elect a member to serve the unexpired term of office.

Article VI – Meetings Section

1
Frequency: The Committee shall meet at least 4 times per calendar year.

Section 2
Conduct: Meetings shall be held in accordance with the requirements of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-1407 through 84-1414. Business should be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3
Notice: The time, date, and location of the next meeting should be determined before adjournment of the preceding meeting and documented in the minutes. Within 30 days, but not less than 7 days before the next meeting, the Division shall send a reminder and the meeting agenda to each Committee member at his/her email address. Public Notice of Committee meetings and agendas shall be made by posting to the State of Nebraska Public Meetings Calendar on the state website.

Section 4
Role of the Division: The Division shall provide orientation to each new Committee member, produce meeting minutes, maintain records, including the Committee's attendance records, and provide support to the Committee.

Article VII - Committees

Section 1
To monitor the implementation of the Olmstead Plan and ensure its success, the Advisory Committee shall establish workgroups and task groups as appropriate to monitor progress, provide recommendations and feedback, and address topics or actions that further the goals of Olmstead within the State.

Section 2
Workgroups shall be organized to address each of the goals of the Olmstead Plan, including, but not limited to:

- Community Supports;
- Education;
- Employment;
- Housing; and
- Transportation.

Each workgroup shall be led by a chair voted on by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall elect chairs for one-year terms, with no term limits.

Article VIII – Amendments

The Bylaws shall be reviewed at least every three years. A two-thirds majority vote of all Committee members will be required to amend the Bylaws. No Bylaws shall be considered for amendment unless notice of the same shall have been established as part of the meeting agenda, and a copy of the proposed changes has been delivered to members within thirty days, but not less than seven days, before the meeting at which the vote will take place.

All alterations, amendments, or new Bylaws adopted by the Committee are subject to the approval of the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Article IX – Accommodations

General Accommodations: All virtual meetings will take place on ZOOM and include closed captioning. Other requests for accommodation at virtual or in-person meetings should be made by emailing DHHS.NEOlmstead@nebraska.gov at least 5 business days before the meeting.

Requests for standing accommodations may be made by committee members who believe they will likely require accommodations for more than 2 consecutive meetings. Members should inform the Division at least 30 days before the next meeting if no accommodation is needed.

Virtual Attendance: Committee members with a qualifying disability may submit, in writing, a request to DHHS.NEOlmstead@nebraska.gov for video conferencing in place of attending in-person meetings at least five business days before the meeting. The member must submit a request for each meeting.

Members requesting this accommodation will be considered part of the quorum and will be permitted to vote.