

# Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

April 19, 2024

9:30AM, CDT

**IN-PERSON MEETING**

**Country Inn & Suites – Nebraska Ballroom**

**[North Hotel and Conference Center]**

**5353 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Lincoln, NE**

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## AGENDA

- 9:30
- 1. Call the Meeting to Order, Welcome, *Pledge of Allegiance*, and Introductions – Rachel Siffring and Kristen Larsen**  
Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and Council members will be asked to introduce themselves.
  - 2. Nebraska Open Meetings Act Announcement – Rachel Siffring**  
Council meetings fall under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is posted on the door by the sign-in table as required.
  - 3. Public Comment Period #1 – Rachel Siffring**  
All public meetings must allow time on their agenda for people who are not on the Council to comment.
  - 4. Approval of Minutes – Rachel Siffring**  
Draft minutes of the February 2, 2024 meeting were included in the meeting packet. The Council will review them and, following any needed corrections, vote to approve them through a roll call vote as required by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.  
Council members who were not at the February meeting need to abstain when voting.  
[Vote to approve minutes.](#)
  - 5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest – Rachel Siffring**  
Members are asked to declare any conflicts of interest as required by Council's policies. To fulfil this requirement, the following Council members are asked to verbally declare any conflicts of interest at the meeting today: Amy Rhone, Dee Valenti, and Kirsten Wilcox.
  - 6. Financial Report and Adjustment to FFY2024 Budget– Kristen Larsen**  
Kristen Larsen will review the second quarter financial report for FFY2024 (October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024).  
A handout of the financial report will be emailed to Council members prior to the meeting (and a hard copy will be provided at the meeting).

Kristen will also review the FFY2024 Budget.  
[Discuss and vote on the adjustment to the FFY2024 Budget.](#)

**7. Election of Council Officers & Applying for Reappointment to the Council with the Governor – Rachel Siffring and Kristen Larsen**

Officer elections for FFY2025 will be conducted at the August 16, 2024 Council meeting. This includes the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. If you are interested in any of these offices or would like more information, please contact Kristen Larsen at 402-471-0143 or [kristen.larsen@nebraska.gov](mailto:kristen.larsen@nebraska.gov).

Eligible Council members whose term expire on October 1, 2024, and are interested in continuing to serve on the Council, are encouraged to reapply with the Governor. Applications can be submitted either online at the *Boards & Commissions – Application for Executive Appointment* webpage at <https://governor.nebraska.gov/board-comm-reg> or by mailing a *completed Executive Appointment Application* to Pat Selk at the Office of the Governor. Council members eligible to apply for reappointment are:

**Caiti Donaldson** (Individual)

**Shauna Graham** (Family)

The following Council members have terms that will expire October 1, 2024 and are ineligible for reappointment due to term limits:

**Jason Gieschen** (Individual)

**Stephen Morton** (Non-Profit Representative)

**8. Funding Request for the 2024 National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Conference – Kristen Larsen**

At the February 2, 2025 Council meeting, the Council voted and approved funding to send up to eight Council members to the 2024 NACDD Annual Conference. Attendee preference would be given to the Executive Committee members and funding would not exceed \$3,000 per Council member and up to \$3,000 for personal care attendants.

The following Council members submitted a Conference Funding Request by March 27, 2024:

- Rachel Siffring
- Matt Kaslon, Jason Gieschen, and Sue Gieschen
- Caitlin Donaldson and Tiffany Donaldson
- Quinton Corwin
- Beth Libra
- Judy Trent

**9. Break**

**10. Report of the Planning Committee: Caiti Donaldson and Kristen Larsen**

The Planning Committee met on Thursday – April 18, 2024 to make recommendations for FFY2025 formal competitive/noncompetitive subaward/direct contract projects, and funding for up to four opportunity subawards. The Council will discuss and vote to approve the Committee’s recommendations and approve Requests for Applications (RFAs) to be released this June.

Discuss and **individually vote** on funding for up to two Formal Competitive Subawards/Direct Contract Projects.

Discuss and vote on funding for up to four Opportunity Subawards.

Discuss and vote on slight word changes.

- In Goals One and Four – removing word “stakeholders” and replacing with “new and existing partners”. (Removing word “stakeholders” due to concerns about offending indigenous people.)
- Possible change in wording to the Goal One, Objectives A and B.
- Possible change in Goal Three, Objective B from “three emerging issues” to “two emerging issues”.

11. **Nebraska 2023 Supported Employment Summit Next Steps – Kristen Larsen**  
Kristen Larsen will provide an update on the Nebraska 2023 Supported Employment Next Steps.

12. **2024 Hybrid Tri-Board Meeting Update – Kristen Larsen**  
The Tri-Board consists of the DD Network Partners (the DD Council, Disability Rights Nebraska, and Munroe-Meyer Institute/University of Nebraska Medical Center UCEDD). The 2024 Hybrid (in-person and virtual) Tri-Board meeting will be on Friday – June 28, 2024. The topic will be Supported Employment. **We strongly encourage you to attend in-person if possible.** In-person participants will meet at the Munroe-Meyer Institute facility located near the UNO Scott Campus at 6902 Pine Street. A link to the Zoom meeting will be forthcoming.

**NOTE:** You will need to register with Council staff by May 31, 2024 for the meeting. To register, contact Nikki Krause at 402-471-2330 or [nikki.krause@nebraska.gov](mailto:nikki.krause@nebraska.gov).

**NOTE:** MMI is working on a hotel room block. A few of the hotel rooms are being held for the Council. Please let Nikki Krause know as soon as possible if you will be attending in-person and will need accommodations.

13. **Updates on Current Subawards and Contracts – Rachel Ward and Edith Titamoh**

Updates will be provided on current subawards and contracts.

14. **Lunch**

Working lunch with time for networking among members.

15. **LB376 DD System Evaluation Recommendations – Kristen Smith, Deputy Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities**

Kristen Smith will share key recommendations included in the independent evaluation completed by CBIZ Optumas that was shared with the Legislature on December 15, 2023. The intent of the system evaluation was to “examine how the state can better service all Nebraskans with a variety of disabilities”.

16. **Updates from Agency Representatives –Tony Green, Developmental Disabilities Division; Dr. Tom Janousek, Behavioral Health; Amy Rhone, Department of Education – Office of Special Education; DJ Plautz, Nebraska**

**Vocational Rehabilitation; Jennifer Severe-Oforah, Maternal and Child Health, Division of Public Health; VACANT, Medicaid and Long-Term Care and Aging**

Council members representing state agencies will provide brief oral and written updates on activities that have occurred since the last meeting.

**17. Updates from our DD Network Representatives – Seamus Kelly, Disability Rights Nebraska; Dr. Mark Shriver, Munroe-Meyer Institute/University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)**

Council members representing our DD Network will provide brief updates on activities that have occurred since the last meeting.

**18. Council Chair and Staff Updates**

The Council Chair and Council staff will share information on activities and other matters of interest that have occurred since the November meeting.

**19. Member Updates – Council Members**

Time is provided for Council members to share any advocacy and/or disability activities they have been involved with since the November meeting.

**20. Public Comment Period #2 – Rachel Siffring**

All public meetings must allow time on their agenda for people who are not on the Council to comment.

**21. Adjourn – Rachel Siffring**

The next In-Person Council meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2024. The Virtual Grant Review Committee meeting will be held the afternoon of August 15, 2024.

**NOTE:** In accordance with the provisions of Section 84-1401-1414 Nebraska Statutes (Nebraska Open Meetings Act) passed by the Unicameral, minutes of this meeting will be on file ten working days from the date of this meeting in the office of the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, 301 Centennial Mall South, PO Box 95026, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5026. All items known at time of distribution are listed and a current agenda is available. These meeting sites are accessible. If special accommodations are needed, please contact our office at (402) 471-2330 / TDD (800) 833-7352 by April 11, 2024.

## Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

### Mission

The Council engages in **Advocacy**, **Capacity Building**, and **Systemic Change** activities that assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design and have access to needed community services, individualized support, and other forms of assistance that promote *self-determination*, *independence*, *productivity*, and *integration* and *inclusion* in all facets of community life.