

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

February 3, 2023 at 9:30AM, CST

In-Person/Virtual Meeting

Country Inn & Suites – Nebraska Ballroom

[North Hotel & Conference Center]

5353 N. 27th Street

Lincoln, NE

The agenda was mailed to Council members prior to the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Rachel Siffring and called to order at 9:31AM, CST. Quorum was present.

Present (In-Person): Quinton Corwin, Caiti Donaldson, Jason Gieschen, Shauna Graham, Tony Green, George Griffith, Dustin Henderson, Seamus Kelly, Eddie Kraska, Beth Libra Plisek, Cheryl Montgomery, Stephen Morton, Paige Rose, Dr. Mark Shriver, Rachel Siffring, Dee Valenti, Nate Watson, and Kirsten Wilcox.

Present (Virtual): Shaistha Kiran Karipi, Matt Kaslon, Judy Trent.

Absent: Sara Morgan, Amy Rhone, and Tricia Strauch.

Guests (In-Person): Jamie Chambers, Anna Deidel, Tiffany Donaldson, Theresa Hayes, Dr. Tom Janousek, Candi Kraska, Stacy Pfeifer, Sherry Stansberry, and Pam Wilcox.

Guests (Virtual): Tania Diaz and Jennifer Severe-Oforah.

Staff (In-Person): Kristen Larsen, Rachel Ward, Edith Titamoh, and Nikki Krause.

Welcome and General Directions on Zoom

Rachel Siffring welcomed new Council members George Griffith and Dustin Henderson to the Council. George is representing a family member. Dustin is a self-advocate and was joined by Sherry Stansberry.

Kristen Larsen provided general directions on how to use Zoom and introduced Jamie Chambers from the Department of Education, the Office of Special Education. Jamie volunteered her services and equipment to assist with the virtual portion of today's meeting.

Kristen mentioned that she is working with the Governor's Office to get Dr. Tom Janousek and Jennifer Severe-Oforah appointed as new Council members. Dr. Janousek would be the Behavioral Health Representative and Jennifer would be the Division of Public Health – Maternal and Child Health Representative.

Nebraska Open Meetings Act

Rachel S. explained that Council meetings fall under the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. Starting January 1, 2022, the Act allows for public bodies and advisory committees to meet virtually for no more than half of the scheduled meetings per calendar year. Following the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, one location will be open to the public and media to attend. For this meeting, the location is the Country Inn & Suites in Lincoln. The Governor's Public Meeting Calendar referred members of the public and media to the Council's Meetings webpage for additional information [posted January 20, 2023]. The Council's Meetings webpage had links to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and to the materials being considered, (including the agenda, which included the link to the Zoom meeting) [posted January 23, 2023]. As required, a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted on the sign-in table and a copy of the meeting materials was available at the in-person meeting location.

Public Comment Period #1

Rachel S. mentioned that all public meetings must allow time on their agenda for people who are not on the Council to comment. Members of the public, who wanted to address the Council, were instructed to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented. No public comments were made.

Approval of Minutes

Council members were asked if there were any corrections to the *DRAFT* November 18, 2022 DD Council meeting minutes. As there were no corrections, Cheryl Montgomery made the motion to approve the minutes and Jason Gieschen seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 14, No – 0, Abstain – 4.*** Motion carried.) [Nate Watson stepped away from the meeting.]

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

As required by Council policy, every year, members of the Council shall verbally declare any potential conflicts of interest of which they are aware. Council members, who had not already done so or had updates, were asked to verbally declare any potential conflicts of interest. They are noted below.

Shauna Graham	Heartland United Way, Nebraska Therapeutic Riding Academy, Merrick County Health and Fitness Center
George Griffith	Humboldt Table Rock Steiner Public School District, Humboldt Chamber of Commerce, Humboldt Shares
Dustin Henderson	People First of Kearney
Sara Morgan	Absent
Dr. Mark Shriver	University of Nebraska Medical Center, Munroe-Meyer Institute, University Center of Excellence for Developmental Disabilities, People First of Nebraska

Financial Reports

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is the Designated State Agency (DSA) for the Council. DHHS is the flow thru for Council funds. However, it is the Council that decides on how Council funds are to be allocated and monitors the allocated funds.

Kristen presented the First Quarter FFY2023 Financial Report, a handout at the meeting (and shared via Zoom). At the August 5, 2022 Council meeting, the Council approved the budget of \$415,553 for FFY2023 (October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023). The Year-to-Date Expenditures for the first quarter of FFY2023 (October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022) were \$74,701 – 18% of the FFY2023 budget.

The report reflects the balance of funds from FFY2021, FFY2022, and a partial award for FFY2023 as of December 31, 2022. Available Current Funds totaled \$754,240. Expenditures totaled \$306,876 The Balance of Current Funds Available was \$447,364.

The Financial Forecast (what is being anticipated) shows a breakout of income and expenses by Federal Fiscal Year.

Due to COVID-19, ACL allowed Councils to seek a No-Cost Extension on FFY2021 funds. Kristen submitted this request on June 30, 2022 and it was approved by our ACL Program Officer. The Council

received a new NOA from ACL's Office of Financial Operations on August 2, 2022. The new revised period of performance for FFY2021 will be October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2023.

NOTE: These funds will be drawn down and put towards the FFY2023 Council Budget due to the No-Cost Extension.

FFY2022 will need to follow the regular period of performance schedule. The Project Period and Obligation of Funds is from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2023. Liquidation of Funds needs to be done by September 30, 2024.

NOTE: A partial Notice of Award (NoA) for FFY2023 was received on November 1, 2022 for \$110,987. It is anticipated that the Council will receive an additional \$416,583 for a total of \$527,570.

Council Member Conference Request

Caiti Donaldson requested funds, not to exceed \$4,480.84, to attend the 37th Prader-Willi Syndrome (PWS) Association | USA National convention in Orlando, Florida, June 23-24, 2023. [The requested funds will cover Caiti's expenses to attend the convention as well as the expenses of her Personal Care Attendant.] By attending this convention, she will learn more about PWS and will use this knowledge to be a better advocate for herself and others living with PWS. Caiti mentioned that the estimated lodging cost will need to be adjusted, as the suite option she had been looking into will not work. Additionally, June 22 and June 25 will be taken as personal days. A motion was made by Shauna Graham to approve Caiti's funding request of no more than \$4,480.84 and Dustin Henderson seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 19, No – 0, Abstain – 1.*** Motion carried. [Seamus Kelly arrived at 10:22AM, CST.]

Council members were reminded to turn in their *Council Member Conference Request Form* to Council staff as soon as you know about a conference, so copies of the requests can be made and sent out in the meeting packets. Council members may request to attend two in-state conferences and one national conference per FFY (October 1 – September 30) as funds allow, and the conference relates to one of the State Plan goals. Upon return from a conference, Council members need to submit the *Council Member Conference Report Summary* and report on the conference at the Council meeting following the conference. Expense Reimbursements and receipts must be submitted and approved no more than 60 days after the final day in which the expenses were incurred.

Kristen mentioned that the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) 2023 Annual Conference will be July 24-27, 2023 in Orlando, Florida. Kristen encouraged the Executive Committee to consider attending the conference. If others would like to attend, please let Kristen know.

Report of the Executive Committee and Legislative & Advocacy (L&A) Committee

Stephen Morton, L&A Committee Chair, reported that 820 Legislative Bills were introduced this session and Council staff (with the assistance of Stephen and Quinton Corwin) reviewed all the introduced bills to narrow down the number of bills that would be presented to the L&A Committee to recommend Council action.

Senator Arch, who is the Speaker of the Legislature, sped up the hearing process on introduced legislative bills. Hearings started on January 23, 2023. As a result, the Executive Committee met virtually to review and take positions on any relevant legislative bills that had a hearing between January 23, 2023 and February 6, 2023. Positions include:

- Support with Testimony;

- Oppose with Testimony;
- Neutral Testimony;
- Support with a Letter;
- Oppose with a Letter;
- Neutral Letter;
- Track/Monitor only; or
- Do Nothing.

This provided Council staff time to prepare written position statement letters. The Executive Committee took action on two bills* and gave Council staff the authority to act on any additional bills* that had a hearing scheduled between January 23, 2023 and February 6, 2023. Action was taken on a total of eight legislative bills that had hearings prior to the L&A Committee meeting.

***LB39** (Senator Blood) – Require disability impact statements for certain legislation. Support with letter.

***LB123** (Senator Fredrickson) – Adopt the Behavior Analyst Practice Act. Support with letter.

***LB265** (Senator Brewer) – Require protective vests and safety training for correctional officers and allow Department of Health and Human Services employees to use justified force in defense of self or others. Oppose with letter.

***LB278** (Senator Walz) – Provide duties for the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority and the Department of Economic Development relating to housing for persons with disabilities. Support with letter.

***LB324** (Senator Wishart) – Change provisions relating to reimbursements under the Special Education Act. Support with letter.

***LB385** (Senator Linehan) – Adopt the Nebraska Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act. Support with letter.

***LB519** (Senator Walz) – Eliminate certification fees for teaching certificates, create and terminate funds, state intent regarding an appropriation for school employees, change provisions of the Excellence in Teaching Act, and adopt the Student Teaching Assistance Act. Support with letter.

***LB535** (Senator Slama) – Require valid photographic identification and change provisions relating to voting under the Election Act and certain identification documents. Neutral letter with information on what NCDD would like considered in any voter ID bill this session.

[NOTE:](#) Minutes from the January 20, 2022 Executive Committee meeting were a handout at the meeting.

The hybrid L&A Committee meeting (in-person and virtual) was held on Thursday – February 2, 2023 to review relevant legislative bills. The L&A Committee was comprised of Council members and non-Council members. Stephen presented the Committee recommendations on the proposed legislative bills and a block vote was conducted except for LB704, which was pulled from the block for individual vote.

LB46 (Senator Dorn) – Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for a provider rate study. Support with letter.

LB70 (Senator M. Cavanaugh) – Eliminate the fee for certain state identification cards and certified copies of birth certificates for voting purposes. Neutral letter with information on what NCDD would like considered in any voter ID bill this session.

LB106 (Senator McDonnell) – Create the offense of digital grooming of a vulnerable adult and prohibit using an electronic communication device or social media to engage in certain conduct with vulnerable adults. Support with letter.

LB153 (Senator DeBoer) – Adopt the Extraordinary Increase in Special Education Expenditures Act. Letter of support emphasizing the least restrictive or home district.

LB156 (Senator DeBoer) – Change the caseload ratio for the Public Guardian. Track/monitor.

LB228 (Senator Erdman) – Create state holidays for statewide primary and general election days, require in-person voting, photographic identification to vote, counting of ballots on election day, and counting of ballots at the precinct level, and allow voting by mail for registered military personnel and residents of nursing homes and assisted-living facilities. Neutral letter with information on what NCDD would like considered in any voter ID bill this session.

LB230 (Senator Erdman) – Require qualifying identification for voter registration and voting, require in-person voting, provide penalties, eliminate certain fees for state identification cards and certified copies of birth certificates, and change provisions relating to operators' licenses and state identification cards. Neutral letter with information on what NCDD would like considered in any voter ID bill this session.

LB357 (Senator Walz) – Change the maximum support allowable under the Disabled Persons and Family Support Act. Support with letter.

LB358 (Senator Walz) – State intent to increase dental services reimbursement under the Medical Assistance Act. Support with testimony.

LB424 (Senator DeBoer) – Create the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Support with testimony and educate on the Nebraska Olmstead Plan.

LB487 (Senator Hunt) – Prohibit any school in Nebraska receiving public funds from discriminating as prescribed. Track/monitor.

LB490 (Senator von Gillern) – Appropriate federal funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for health aid. Track/monitor.

LB526 (Senator Fredrickson) – State intent to appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services for Developmental Disability Aid. Support with testimony, include independent providers.

LB583 (Senator Sanders – At the request of the Governor) – Provide for foundation aid and special education supplemental aid under the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act. Support with testimony the portion of the bill regarding the “special education supplemental aid” and not the “foundation aid” portion of the bill.

LB585 (Senator Hughes) – Change a duty of the state school security director and require behavioral and mental health training for certain school personnel. Track/monitor.

LB590 (Senator Holdcroft) – Change the personal needs allowance for eligible aged, blind, and disabled persons. Support with letter.

LB601 (Senator Dungan) – State intent regarding increases to reimbursement rates paid to providers of developmental disability services. Support with testimony if Council staff have time, otherwise support with letter.

LB675 (Senator Day) – Change provisions relating to elections and identification documents. Neutral letter with information on what NCDD would like considered in any voter ID bill this session.

LB678 (Senator Day) - – Change provisions and definitions of the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act relating to disability. Do nothing.

LB748 (Senator M. Cavanaugh) – Adopt the Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Assistance Act. Track/monitor.

LB770 (Senator M. Cavanaugh) – Require the Secretary of State to audit the offices of the Department of Motor Vehicles, the election commissioners, and the county clerks and all polling places for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Neutral letter with information on what NCDD would like considered in any voter ID bill this session.

LB810 (Senator Murman) – Adopt the Medical Ethics and Diversity Act. Track/monitor.

LB811 (Senator Murman) – Change provisions relating to the Student Discipline Act and provide for use of physical contact or physical restraint or removal from a class in response to student behavior, provide for behavioral awareness and intervention training, and change provisions relating to lottery funds used for education. Oppose with testimony.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 18, No – 0, Abstain – 2.*** Motion carried.

LB704 (Senator Murman) – Provide for distribution of certain account balances upon death under the achieving a better life experience program. No recommendation was made by the Committee. It was decided to ask Stacy Pfeifer, Enable Saving Plan Director, her opinion regarding the bill and what the bills intentions are. After hearing from Stacy, Seamus Kelly moved to support this bill with a letter and Quinton seconded.

A roll call vote was taken: **Yes – 18, No – 0, Abstain – 2.*** Motion carried.

One of the suggestions that came out of the L&A Committee meeting was to possibly allow Council staff more flexibility to be reactive to introduced legislation. The consensus was that since legislative hearings started earlier this year than in the past, chances are they will start as early, or earlier, in the future. Stephen mentioned that this will be discussed at a future Council meeting.

REMINDER: Council members may not take a position on proposed legislative bills as a representative of the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities without gaining permission from the Council Chair. However, Council members may take a position on proposed legislative bills as an individual either by a letter or testimony.

Enable Saving Program Changes Presentation

Stacy Pfeifer, Assistant State Treasurer and Director of Enable Savings Plan, presented on the new regulations that were implemented into the Enable Program at the end of November 2022.

NOTE: A copy of Stacy's presentation and forms are attached to the end of the minutes for your review.

Annual Performance Evaluation Policy and Process for the DD Council Executive Director

Rachel S. explained that the Executive Committee meets in October to work on the DD Council's Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation. Then during a closed session at the November Council meeting, the Council votes to accept the Executive Committee's evaluation. At the November Council meeting, the Council members also fill out a simpler and briefer Executive Director Evaluation which the Chair incorporates the anonymous comments into the final evaluation that is submitted to the Designated State Agency (DSA) representative.

The Executive Committee discussed this process and felt that it would be more beneficial for the Council members to be provided the simpler and briefer Executive Director Evaluation in the August Council meeting packet. This way the anonymous comments would be available to the Executive Committee when they meet to work on the DD Council's Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation which will be presented at the November Council meeting.

Additionally, it was determined that the Council Chair will facilitate an in-person or conference call meeting with the current and immediate past Executive Committee members to complete the DD Council's Executive Director Performance Review template before the November Council meeting.

A copy of the current Annual Performance Evaluation Policy and Process for the Executive Director of the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities as well as the proposed edits were included in the meeting packet for review. The Council will vote on approving the proposed edits at the April 14, 2023 Council meeting.

DD Awareness Month Proclamation

March is DD Awareness month. Kristen mentioned that at this time a date/time has not been established. She has been getting feedback from various advocacy groups that want to have a photo opportunity with the Governor. Tony Green mentioned that he will be having a conversation with the Governor's office shortly and information will follow. They are working on a proclamation and will highlight some of the significant things they are doing for people with DD.

Comprehensive Employment and Supported Employment Outcomes Study

Dr. Lisa Mills has submitted a DRAFT report in response to the Comprehensive Employment and Supported Employment Outcomes Study. Kristen has asked that the Nebraska Association of Service Providers, (NASP), Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), and the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) to review the DRAFT report and provide any feedback. We want to have the most comprehensive report as possible. Therefore, there have been some adjustments made to the timeline. Originally, the final report was due on February 1, 2023. It is now due on March 31, 2023.

Kristen is in the process of coordinating a time (possibly the last week in March) to bring Dr. Mills to Nebraska to present her findings.

2023 Hybrid Tri-Board Meeting Update

The Tri-Board consists of the DD Network Partners: the DD Council, Disability Rights Nebraska, and Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI)/University of Nebraska Medical Center (UCEDD). The 2023 Hybrid (in-person and virtual) Tri-Board meeting will be on Friday – June 9, 2023. The topic will be *Competitive Integrated Employment* featuring a presentation by Dr. Lisa Mills. In-person participants will meet at the Munroe-Meyer Institute facility located near the University of Nebraska – Omaha Scott Campus at 6902 Pine Street. You will need to register with Council staff by May 25, 2023 for the meeting. To register, contact Nikki Krause at 402-471-2330 or nikki.krause@nebraska.gov.

NOTE: MMI has secured some hotel rooms and are few rooms are being held for the Council. Please let Nikki know as soon as possible if you will be attending in-person and need hotel accommodations.

DD Council By-Laws

Rachel S. mentioned that an ad hoc committee may be formed in FFY2024 for the purpose of reviewing the Council By-Laws. This idea came from the Association of Community Professionals (ACP) Conference that was held in September 2022. ACP has a specific committee that reviews the By-Laws, and then brings the amendments to the full association at their business meeting. The ad hoc committee would operate similarly. The ad hoc committee members would meet and review the By-Laws then make a recommendation to the full Council to vote on the amended language per Council By-Laws, Article VII – Amendments.

- A. Proposed amendments to these By-Laws shall be presented in writing to the Council members at least twenty (20) days prior to a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present at a regular meeting of the Council is necessary to pass an amendment to these By-Laws.
- B. By-Laws shall be reviewed and revised at such times as necessitated by changes in state or federal enabling laws and regulations. Procedures for amendments shall apply to revisions.

Rachel S. also reviewed Council By-Laws, Article IV – Council Meetings, Section 6 – Attendance Requirements.

- A. Members shall notify the Council office when they find they are unable to attend any regular or special meetings. Such notification will be considered an excused absence.
- B. A Council member absent for two (2) unexcused consecutive regular meetings shall receive a formal communication from the Council Chairperson concerning the member's desire/ability to remain on the Council.
- C. Council members absent from three (3) consecutive regular Council meetings, unless previously excused by the Council Chairperson, shall be deemed to have resigned from the Council. The Governor shall be notified by the Council Chairperson as to the member's absence and the Chairperson shall request the Governor to appoint a replacement within 30 days.

Update on the Professional Development Clearinghouse for Teachers to Build Capacity Project

Kristen explained that due to staff capacity, the 2022 Annual Program Performance Report, and the commencement of the First Session of the 108th Legislature, Council staff have not had an opportunity to work on this project. There are a few leads Council staff will be following-up on, but there is nothing to report at this time.

Updates from State Agency Representatives

NOTE: Agency representatives were asked to briefly touch on any pressing issues or important updates the Council needed to be informed of. The written reports in their entirety are attached at the end of the minutes for review. [Vacant, Division of Behavioral Health; Tony Green, Division of Developmental Disabilities; Sara Morgan, Maternal and Child Health – Division of Public Health; Amy Rhone, Department of Education – Office of Special Education; Paige Rose, Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation; Nate Watson, Medicaid and Long-Term Care and Aging]

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

The Family Support Waiver continues to move along. This will provide services to children on the waiting list. At the earliest, this will be implemented in December 2023. The state is currently working with the Public Consulting Group (PCG) to develop a Request for Proposal that will solicit a bid to provide fiscal intermediary services within the state.

The state is currently meeting with stakeholders and advocates to explore options for providing payments to Legally Responsible Individuals (LRIs) and Guardians. When you move from ordinary care to extraordinary care, you must define to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) what is ordinary care and what is extraordinary care. Policies must be created, and monitoring services must be implemented. The parent/child (guardian/child) relationship changes when a parent/guardian becomes a paid caregiver. DDD has been looking into what other states have deemed ordinary care and what has been deemed as extraordinary care. DDD is willing to sit down and talk to advocacy groups to discuss guardians being paid caregivers in a methodical way rather than mandating this through state statute. The state can always submit waiver amendments.

DHHS signed with CBIZ Optumas with Myers and Stauffer to complete the evaluation of all Nebraska Home and Community-Based waivers. DHHS will receive best practice recommendations and comparisons to other states. This process will also include stakeholder engagement. The final report is due November 1, 2023.

DDD is working with Medicaid and Long-Term Care (MLTC) to develop a process to return to normal eligibility operations efficiently and effectively when the public health emergency ends. DDD has continued to process level of care (LOC) assessments but has not been acting on those not meeting LOC since the public health emergency was declared. Beginning April 1, 2023 and continuing through March 2024, DDD will complete LOC assessments and Medicaid eligibility determinations on participants which may result in those individuals being found ineligible and transitioned off waiver.

Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation (NE VR)

There are no individuals on a waitlist for Nebraska VR services for Priority Group 1 and Priority Group 2. Priority Group 3 is technically closed. Any individuals added to the wait list are removed within one week. Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) finalized state measurable skill gains data for performance year 2021.

- The Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit for Nebraska was 61.6% (4th in the nation)
- The Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit for Nebraska was 58.6% (2nd in the nation)

These figures help illustrate that NE VR is providing the supports needed.

NE VR will be providing funding for 10 Pre-Employment Transition Services Summer Proposals and the recipients will be announced by February 8, 2023. Paige Rose mentioned that on February 22, 2023 she

will be presenting with Angie Gonzales-Dorn, DDD Program Specialist, at the Transition Conference in Kearney. The topic is *What teachers need to know for students with I/DD*.

Maternal and Child Health – Division of Public Health (MCH-DPH)

Jennifer Severe-Oforah presented the Maternal and Child Health report. Workforce capacity and staff issues continue to affect MCH-DPH. The Title V Core team has had a complete turnover in the last year. The Nebraska Partnership for Mental Healthcare Access in Pediatrics previously funded the Munroe-Meyer Institute to create the Family Care Coordination training, a self-paced web module. The training has been developed and should be available mid-spring.

Lifespan Health Services is leading a DPH team participating in the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs' Emergency Preparedness and Response Action Learning Collaborative. This is a capacity-building initiative. The expectation is that the people and programs participating on the team will be better prepared upon completion to engage in emergency preparedness and response efforts in ways that ultimately benefit women of reproductive age, especially pregnant and post partum women, and infants. While this is targeted at women and infants, DPH is aware of the preparedness and response needs of Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSCHN) and their families. [CYSCHN is a very broad term, it is not just disabilities.]

Nebraska Department of Education – Office of Special Education (NDE-OSE)

Theresa Hayes presented the Nebraska Department of Education – Office of Special Education report. NDE-OSE finished District monitoring and is currently working on Corrective Action Planning with districts who were found to be in non-compliance. Specifically, districts found in high risk in Secondary Transition were monitored and the data collected for these districts led to the overall performance data that was submitted in the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report on February 1, 2023. NDE-OSE requires school districts to participate in an annual risk analysis where all Local Education Agency (LEA) data is reviewed, and LEAs are provided differentiated monitoring based on their risk. To complete the file review, the NDE monitoring team reviewers use a checklist to collect data on district compliance with secondary transition requirements.

Indicator 13: Individual Education Plans

- FFY2021 – Number of youth aged 16 and above with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) that contain each of the required components for secondary transition – 52.94% - Did Not Meet Target and showed “Slippage”.

Part of this is due to Nebraska passing a new state statute that changed the age of transition planning to begin at age 14 instead of age 16. NDE chose to include youth younger than age 16 in the data collection. Reviewing data shows NDE staff that more statewide technical assistance on secondary transition needs to be provided to increase compliance.

The NDE-OSE is conducting an Indicator 13 Pilot District Monitoring, which began on January 17, 2023. NDE-OSE is hoping to gain information from Districts on the ease of the self-assessment process as well as an understanding of the compliance needed within this area of focus. It is the intent of NDE-OSE to continue to provide support to districts in providing the very best transition services for students.

Indicator 12: Post-School Outcomes

- FFY2021 – Enrolled in higher education – 31.70% - Met Target
- FFY2021 – Enrolled in higher education or competitively employed within one year of leaving high school – 72.94% - Met Target
- FFY2021 – Enrolled in higher education, or in some other postsecondary education or training program, or competitively employed or in some other employment – 91.38% - Met Target

NDE will continue to look for ways to get more respondents. NDE may have districts try to get the surveys completed. The premise is that surveys are more likely to be completed if there is a personal connection between the person requesting the survey and the survey respondent.

Division of Behavioral Health (DBH)

Dr. Tom Janousek presented the Division of Behavioral Health report. DBH has been partnering with several agencies, including the Department of Labor and Chamber of Commerce, to develop the Recovery Friendly Workforce Initiative to help make more behavioral health and recovery friendly workplaces. This would allow for more mental health support in workplaces. DBH is also involved in a Service Definition Revisions project in partnership with Medicaid to reduce variance between service definitions.

The DBH Annual Report is now available on their website. Some of the highlights include:

- In FY2022, over 25,200 individuals were served.
- Over 169,000 people were reached through substance use prevention efforts.
 - Tobacco vendors were in 94% compliance on identification checks.
 - Alcohol vendors were in 89% compliance on identification checks.
- In the last three months, DBH has certified 70 new peers into the workforce and added three new curriculum providers for peer support training.
 - To date over 250 peers have been certified as Nebraska Peer Support Specialists through new guidelines.
- There has been an 800% increase in medication assisted treatment providers since 2017.
- There has been a 20% increase in people employed through supported employment.

January was Mental Wellness Month. May will be Children's Mental Health Awareness Month.

Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care and Aging (M<C)

Starting March 1, 2023, Nebraska Medicaid is preparing to resume regular reviews of Medicaid eligibility. Since March 2020, the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Congress passed a law that if you were on Medicaid, members were able to keep their Medicaid coverage even if they were no longer eligible for Medicaid. Also starting March 1, 2023, each Medicaid member's current eligibility will be reviewed. It will take approximately twelve months to review all cases. Medicaid members must ensure their contact information is up to date with Nebraska Medicaid. The Medicaid team has been trying to keep this information up to date for the last three years, but there are several people who have not gotten back to Medicaid to update their information. If Nebraska Medicaid is unable to reach a member, the member could unnecessarily lose the Medicaid coverage.

The Medicaid team will be sending out about 83,500 letters to members letting them know that either they have all the information they need, or this is the information we need. Medicaid imagines that a lot of the letters will be returned due to address changes in the last three years. If that is the case, they will try

the phone number that they have listed for the person. If that doesn't work, then they will keep trying various ways to reach the person. For example, reaching out to managed care organizations (MCOs) or pharmacies.

Medicaid's new *Preparing to Renew Medicaid Coverage* website has information resources for providers and community partners, information for members, frequently asked questions, and a listing of upcoming webinars to answer questions about the upcoming changes. Medicaid encourages everyone to visit this new webpage to learn more.

If a person is found to be no longer eligible for Medicaid, Medicaid teammates will go above and beyond to try and let the person know of possible options available to him/her. Such as Marketplace, that has little to no cost, so the person can keep seeing his/her providers.

NOTE: Everyone is renewed for Medicaid every 12 months under regular circumstances.

Nebraska Medicaid continues to work on implementing the next managed care contracts. These new contracts begin January 1, 2024. The new contracts are with Nebraska Total Care (current vendor), United Healthcare (current vendor), and Molina (new vendor). The vendors are not scored based on cost, but which vendors are best suited for Nebraska. Some of the highlights from the upcoming contracts include removing the annual dental benefit maximum, consolidating provider enrollment, and integrating dental benefits into existing plans' covered services.

New Coverage – Starting January 1, 2023, Medicaid has been covering continuous glucose monitors. Nebraska Medicaid covers both long-term and short-term continuous glucose monitors for eligible beneficiaries.

Updates from the DD Network Representatives

NOTE: DD Network representatives were asked to briefly touch on any pressing issues or important updates the Council needed to be informed of. The written reports in their entirety are attached at the end of the minutes for review. [Seamus Kelly, Disability Rights Nebraska; Mark Shriver, Munroe-Meyer Institute]

Disability Rights Nebraska

Disability Rights Nebraska has been busy reviewing and tracking introduced legislative bills. The Disability Rights Nebraska Board of Directors meeting will be on February 11, 2023 and one area of discussion will be the introduced bills.

A celebration of the Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy Program was held on December 10, 2022 to introduce new advocates to those from previous cohorts. The Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy Coordinator presented at the TASH Conference December 1-4, 2022 on the impacts of placement for students with significant support needs received. Recruitment materials were developed for the spring training cohort scheduled for March 21-April 27, 2023.

Beatrice State Development Center monitoring continues as does Olmstead Plan Advocacy. Disability Rights Nebraska staff are working with the three externs they have through their collaboration with the Community Learning and Leadership Program at the Munroe-Meyer Institute. Two externs are focusing on public policy and disability, building public policy skills to apply to their field in the future, and starting to build their network of advocates. The third extern has chosen to work on developing infographics on disability issues that can be used in the future. She is also interested in understanding how policies

define “restraint” and how those definitions could be compared to or applied in her field, Physical Therapy.

Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI)

MMI is in the midst of transition in leadership with several of their departments. They have national searches in place for the Director of Psychology, Director of Speech/Language, Director of Physical Therapy, and the Director of Genetics. Within the UCEDD Program, Georgia Ryba was hired as a Respite Care Associate and will be directing the Respite Employer Engagement Initiative. Kim Falk to a position as a Program Manager with the Family Care Enhancement Project.

The Family Care Enhancement Project places Parent Resource Coordinators (PRCs) in medical clinics to provide information and support to families that have children with disabilities and special health care needs. PRCs are parents or family members who have the lived-experience of navigating the resources their family-member with a disability needs to achieve optimal health outcomes. PRCs fit within the within the role of Community Health Workers (CHWs). Work is being done to identify ways to reimburse and possibly certify CHWs in Nebraska. MMI is establishing itself as A CHW Training Site I. Funding has been secured from the Administration for Community Living’s Public Workforce Funding From UCEDD and the DD Council to formalize the PRC/CHW training Program.

NOTE: Council member Shaistha Kiran Karipi is a PRC at CHI Health and at the MMI Clinic.]

Council Chair and Staff Updates

Rachel S. mentioned that she and Sue Medinger, the Designated State Agency Representative, presented the Executive Director Evaluation to Kristen. It went well. Rachel S. will be discussing with Kristen how the hybrid meeting went, and the possibility of future hybrid meetings in the future. Rachel S. has also been working with Rachel Ward on letters of response to introduced legislative bills.

Kristen had a few updates for the Council.

- A virtual New Member Orientation will be coming.
- The Arc of Nebraska’s Senatorial Dinner will be on March 8, 2023.
- She has been participating in meetings regarding the Family Support Waiver.
- There are Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) Foundation Webinar handouts at the sign-in table. CtLC furthers the work of Person-Centered Planning. There are five different workshops. These workshops will be used as a springboard to recruit 15 people who will receive training this spring and summer to become certified CtLC Ambassadors. The CtLC Ambassadors will champion the adoption and integration of the CtLC framework into policy, practice, and procedure across Nebraska.
- The PPR was due on December 31, 2022. Afterwards, an engagement call was held with the top ACL federal people and DD Directors across the United States. Director David Jones, the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, commended Nebraska for our work on the PPR and the success story on how Nebraska used our COVID-19 Vaccine Access funds. This was a collaboration project with our DD Network Partners, Munroe-Meyer Institute and Disability Rights Nebraska.
- The Council accepted funds for the Public Workforce which will go directly towards building the Community Health Workers that Dr. Shriver mentioned in his report. Work continues to get the Public Health Workforce subaward through the Procurement approval process.

Mark your calendars! Disability Pride Day will be on July 22, 2023 at the Auld Pavilion in Lincoln.

Rachel W. mentioned that the Public Health Workforce subaward and Nebraska ATP interagency agreement are both in Phase 1. For the Public Health Workforce, the materials are being developed, details and responsibilities are being finalized, and the outline is being developed for the job shadowing responsibilities between the Training Coordinator and the training staff. ATP is creating content and getting modules on-line. The *Along the Way Train-the-Trainer* Final Report from Fritz & O'Hare Associates was included in the meeting packet for your review.

Also included in the meeting packet was an updated *FFY2023 Per Diem Rates for Nebraska* document.

Please let Nikki know if there is any contact information changes that need to be made to the Council Member Roster.

Council Member Updates

Rachel S. and Braxton's speech teacher presented on *Small Town Communities - Big Time Opportunities for Everyone* at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day they have for teachers in York. They presented on opportunities and the things going on at Shelby-Rising City Public Schools. They will be giving the same presentation at the Autism Conference in April. Braxton spoke recently at the United Way. They programmed in Braxton's device for him to talk about all his experience with The Arc of Platte County. It went great. Braxton finished out the unified bowling season and in February, he was chosen as the student of the month. She mentioned that they are on the waiver now. They are in the process of figuring out what to do. Since they are in a rural area, they will probably go with an independent provider.

Tony mentioned that Nebraska participates in the National Core Indicators (NCI) project, which is where we partner with MMI to do surveys of people receiving services across the state. Many states participate in the NCI project. NCI reached out and asked Tony to host the annual meeting of all the state participating in the project in Omaha this year. They are working with Dr. Shriver and his team to put this together. NCI was very impressed by Nebraska's scores and how we address "cultural humility", meeting people where they are at, and getting the voices of all Nebraska customers.

Kirsten Wilcox said that she has been very busy at work. She is bowling and playing basketball. She turned 30 and her life is full and happy. She is learning multiple skills and is doing her best to be a positive example. She will keep learning and smiling. She is thankful.

Dustin mentioned that his niece, who is in elementary school, is in a community theater play and she is on the autism spectrum.

Caiti said she got a raise at the shoe store where she works.

Dee Valenti declared she was done with winter!

Cheryl mentioned that every fall, they have a Transition Conference Holy Cow! What Now? in northeast Nebraska. They held their first funding meeting. They are planning to hold the conference in October probably at the library in Norfolk. They have a lot of neat ideas for presentations. She said the Association of Community Professionals (ACP) is working on the spring ACP. They do not have a date yet, but it will be virtual, and the Direct Support Professionals will be doing a presentation. The fall ACP Conference will take place in October and will be in-person.

Shauna Graham said that on March 4, 2022 they opened their store, *You Are Worth It*, in Central City. At the end of last year, Shauna and her daughter Bailey spoke at the Knights of Columbus State Convention and for an Arc event in Kearney. In fact, Edison McDonald, The Arc of Nebraska, asked Shauna and Bailey to speak for 5-10 minutes at The Arc of Nebraska Senatorial Dinner. Bailey is super excited, but Shauna is a bit nervous speaking in front of that many people.

Eddie Kraska received the Ollie Webb Artist of the Year Award. He got 1st Place in Special Olympics bowling. He also participated in an original opera performing with WhyArts.

Beth Libra Plisek partnered with Northeast Community College Library and submitted a grant proposal to the National Endowment of the Arts for the "Big Read". Only 62 libraries across the nation were awarded the grant and they were one of the 62 selected. The grant was written around disabilities and inclusion in northeast Nebraska and the book chosen was *Sitting Pretty* by Rebekah Taussing. February 23, 2023 will be the kickoff for the NEA Big Read at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk and it will be a services fair. There will be over 64 events held between February and May around disability rights and inclusion in northeast Nebraska. Beth just started on the Lifespan Respite Advisory Board. She presented at the Education Service Unit Winter Workshop about schools partnering with additional agencies for the best outcomes for students. She started a support group, with a doctor at Children's Hospital, so the parents at the doctor's clinic can reach resources and now she is starting an additional one for anyone outside of the doctor's clinic due to the HIPPA rules. She also partnered with the Community Foundation in Norfolk to start Community Cafes for parents to reach out and feel like they have a network and are not alone. Norfolk Daily News named her as the person of the year in Northeast Nebraska. Beth was quoted saying, "It is about the people we serve and watching the outcomes get better and better every day because we are willing to do the work."

Theresa mentioned that the Transition Conference is February 21-22, 2023 and it will be a hybrid conference (in-person and virtual). The conference will be held at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. There will be great breakout sessions and they are very excited about the keynote speakers.

Public Comment Period #2

Sherry Stansberry, People First of Nebraska (PFN), wanted to let everyone know that the Seeking Opportunities for and Advocacy Revolution (SOAR) Conference will be in Kansas City at the end of October. SOAR strengthens advocates from four states: Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri (the Heartland Coalition). Information will be coming out on the PFN website or on PFN's Facebook page.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:13PM, CDT.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2023. The Planning Committee meeting will be April 13, 2023.

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.



Enable Savings Plan

Presented by: Stacy Pfeifer
Enable Savings Plan Director

ENable[®]
SAVINGS PLAN

2023

Agenda

- Impact to Benefits
- Qualified Disability Expenses
- Eligible Individuals
- Account Ownership
- Enable Savings Plan Features
- Investment Options
- How to Enroll
- Disclosures

Impact to SSI Benefits

An ABLE account is designed to supplement not supplant SSI or Medicaid benefits and Eligible Individuals are permitted to save more than \$2,000 in their name without impacting benefits.

- When the account balance equals or exceeds \$100,000, benefits can be affected.
- HUD will disregard amounts in the Enable account.
- Qualified withdrawals for housing expenses must be spent in the same month or the amount will be considered income to the account owner for SSI resources.
- Neither earnings nor qualified withdrawals from an account are considered income to the account owner for SSI resources.

Impact to Medicaid Benefits

- Assets in an Enable account are an excluded resource for Medicaid.
- Accounts owners will report assets in Enable accounts to Medicaid, at minimum annually, and will most likely require a copy of an ABLE quarterly statement.
- Wages are subject to existing Medicaid income guidelines.

Qualified Disability Expenses

- Education
- Transportation
- Housing
- Employment training and supports
- Assistive technology and related services
- Personal support services
- Financial management and administrative services
- Legal fees and expenses for oversight and monitoring
- End of life expenses
- Health, prevention and wellness
- Other expenses to enhance the account owner's quality of life



Eligible Individuals

An Eligible Individual is someone of any age – child, transition-aged youth, or adult:

- In which the onset of the disability was prior to age 26;
- **AND** is entitled to receive SSI or SSDI;
- **OR** who has a certification from a physician indicating he/she has a marked or severe functional limitation, which is expected to result in death or has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.

Eligible Individuals or their authorized individual will self-certify the disability and basis of eligibility when opening an account.

Account Ownership



- The Eligible Individual is the account owner.
- An account owner can only have one ABLE account nation-wide.
- Other individuals may be permitted to open and maintain an account for the benefit of the Eligible Individual, but they will not have beneficial interest in the account

Authorized Individual Hierarchy

These people may act as an authorized individual for the account owner, in this order of priority:

- Power of Attorney
- Conservator or Legal Guardian
- Spouse
- Parent
- Sibling
- Grandparent
- Representative Payee

By filling out the forms, you acknowledge and agree that if you are an Authorized Individual acting on behalf of an Account Owner, you will be required to certify under penalties of perjury that you have the authority to establish the ABLÉ account, and that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no other person with a higher priority in the list of potential Authorized Individuals who is willing and able to establish an account.

Passing of Account Owner



Upon the passing of the account owner/beneficiary, and after paying all qualified expenses, remaining assets in the account:

- Are available to the estate;
- Can be transferred to another account within Enable; or
- Can be rolled over to another qualified ABLE program.

State of Nebraska residents

Beginning November 13, 2020, the State of Nebraska will not seek to claw back any money left in an account after the beneficiary passes to pay back Medicaid expenses paid for the beneficiary after the beneficiary's account was opened.



Flexibility

- Can be used for an Eligible Individual living in any state.
- Anyone can contribute to an account.
- Gifting is an easy way for others to contribute to the account.
- Wide range of Qualified Disability Expenses.
- Money can be moved from one beneficiary account to another while the beneficiary is alive or has passed.
- Can be withdrawn any time - may be subject to tax and penalties if not for qualified expenses.



Low Fees

- Account service charge of \$11.25 per quarter.
- Low total asset-based fees range from 0.00%-0.45%
- No enrollment, investment change, transfer or distribution fee.



Easy to Contribute

- Initial contribution minimum: \$50
\$25 if sign up for AIP or payroll deduction
- Subsequent contribution minimum: \$25
waived if have AIP or payroll deduction
- Anyone can contribute
- Pre-schedule contributions, or contribute online, by check, wire transfer, electronic fund transfer, or through payroll deduction
- Annual contribution limit is currently \$17,000 from all sources
- Contributions by an employed account owner who has earned income during the calendar year may be able to exceed the annual contribution limit.



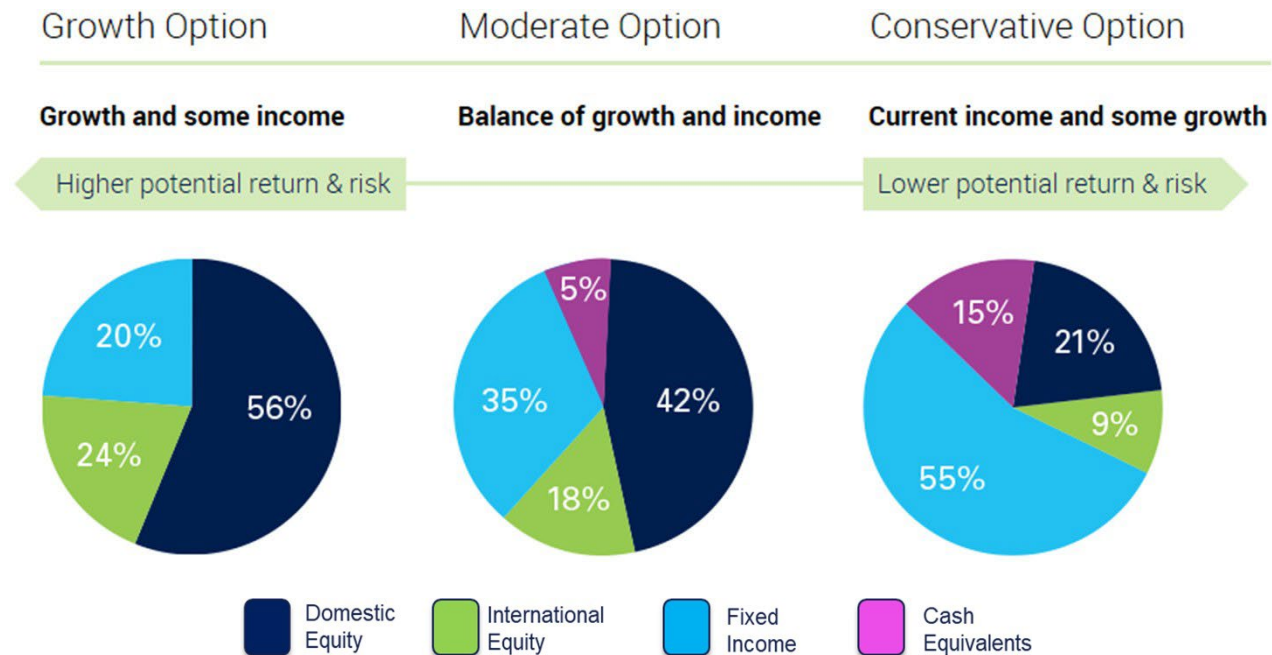
Tax Benefits

- Earnings are tax-deferred while in your account and tax-free if used for Qualified Disability Expenses.
 - The earnings portion of withdrawals used on Non-Qualified Disability Expenses are subject to federal and state income tax and an additional 10% federal tax.
- Those who contribute into an Enable account by anyone who files a Nebraska state income tax return, are eligible to receive a Nebraska state income tax deduction for their own contributions of up to \$10,000 (\$5,000 if married, filing separately).
 - Nebraska state income tax deductions are subject to recapture to the extent previously deducted if funds are not used for Qualified Disability Expenses.

Investment Options

Three Target-Risk Options

- The plan utilizes Vanguard mutual funds
- Investments are not FDIC-insured, nor do they offer bank, state or federal guarantees



Investment Options

Two FDIC-Insured Options

- Bank Savings Option
 - FDIC-insured
 - Stability of knowing the principal investment may not lose its value

- Checking Option
 - FDIC-insured
 - Offers check writing and debit card withdrawals
 - Good for short-term

Selecting Investments

- When an account is opened investment options are selected for initial and subsequent contributions.
- More than one option can be selected to total 100%.

Growth Option	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	%
Moderate Option	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	%
Conservative Option	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	%
Bank Savings Option	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	%
Checking Option	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	%
Total	1	0	0	%

- Contributions are divided among the account's investment options for future contributions.
- Investment options can be changed at any time but moving assets from one investment option to another for the same beneficiary is permitted only twice per calendar year.

How to Enroll

- Read Program Disclosure Statement
- Determine method to open an account:
 - **online** if account owner does not require an authorized individual
 - **via paper form** if account owner has an authorized individual
- Complete enrollment in 6 steps:
 1. Enter account owner information
 - SSN or TIN
 - DOB
 - Address
 2. Enter information about the authorized individual
 3. Select investment options
 4. Select funding method
 5. Select delivery options
 6. Review and submit

Connect with Enable Savings



Visit our Website: EnableSavings.com

- Visit the Resources page
- Keep up with news and events
- Receive our newsletter
- Watch our videos

Visit: [Facebook.com/ Enable Savings Plan](https://www.facebook.com/EnableSavingsPlan)

- Send the Enable Team a message
- Be inspired and share ideas

Call Us: Customer Service Center

- 1.844.ENABLE4 (1.844.362.2534)

Oversight

**The Nebraska Achieving a Better Life Experience Program,
Trust Issuer**

**Nebraska State Treasurer, Trustee and Program
Manager**

Nebraska Investment Council, Investment Oversight

Disclosures

The Enable Savings Plan (the "Plan") is sponsored by the State of Nebraska and administered by the Nebraska State Treasurer. The Plan offers a series of investment portfolios within The Nebraska Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Trust. The Plan is intended to operate as a qualified savings program to be used only to save for qualified expenses, pursuant to the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 and Section 529A of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

An investor should consider the Plan's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. The Program Disclosure Statement, which contains more information, should be read carefully before investing.

Investors should consider before investing whether their home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investments in such state's qualified savings program and should consult their tax advisor, attorney and/or other advisor regarding their specific legal, investment or tax situation.

Disclosures

Participation in the Plan does not guarantee that contributions and the investment return on contributions, if any, will be adequate to cover future expenses, or that an Account Owner is eligible to participate in the Plan.

Except for the Bank Savings and Checking Investment Options, investments in the Enable Savings Plan are not guaranteed or insured by the FDIC or any other government agency and are not deposits or other obligations of any depository institution. Investments are not guaranteed or insured by the State of Nebraska, the Nebraska State Treasurer, the Nebraska Investment Council and are subject to investment risks, including loss of the principal amount invested. FDIC insurance is provided for the Bank Savings and Checking Investment Options up to the maximum amount set by federal law, currently \$250,000.

This material is provided for general and educational purposes only, and is not intended to provide legal, tax or investment advice, or for use to avoid penalties that may be imposed under U.S. federal tax laws. This material is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy any securities. Any offer to sell units within the Plan may only be made by the Program Disclosure Statement relating to the Plan.

Investments are not FDIC insured* No Bank, State or Federal Guarantee May Lose Value

*Except the Bank Savings and Checking Investment Options



When an account owner logs into their account, they'll have a column of actions on the left-hand side of their profile page. Underneath "recurring contributions", they should see "view and invite savings with Ugift"

The screenshot shows a user's account profile page. On the left side, there is a vertical list of navigation links: "Overview", "Make a contribution", "Manage recurring contributions", "View and invite savings with Ugift", "Rollover from another ABLE plan", "Make a withdrawal", "Manage systematic withdrawals", "Change investment options", and "View profile and documents". The main content area on the right is divided into two sections. The top section displays "Your annual contribution limit is: 16000" with a dropdown arrow and an "Update Annual Limit" button. Below this, it states "If you work and earn income, you may be eligible for an increased annual contribution limit. [Learn more about self-certifying.](#)". The bottom section is titled "Investments" and contains "Make a Contribution" and "Make a Withdrawal" buttons. At the bottom of the main content area, it shows "Current balance as of 10/24/2022".

If they click this option, it will bring them to Ugift page where they can see their Ugift code:

The screenshot shows the Ugift page. At the top, it says "Family and friends can contribute with Ugift®". Below this, there is a paragraph explaining that Ugift is an easy, free-to-use service from Enable Savings Plan that lets family and friends make the meaningful gift of a contribution toward your better life experience savings. There are three bullet points: "Easy for gift-givers: They don't have to join, register, or pay a service fee. They can make gift contributions online through electronic bank transfer or by check.", "Easy for you: Gift contributions are specifically coded to your Enable Savings Plan account, so there's no extra paperwork for you.", and "Popular: Thousands of families around the country have already received millions of dollars in Ugift contributions." Below the text, there is a section titled "Share your Ugift code" which displays "Sean's account's Ugift code is : E8Z-T3X".

They can then give the following info to friends and family to contribute:

Send your family and friends the information they'll need:

You can share your code any way you want — over the phone, in person, on social networks, [party invitation inclusions](#), etc. The potential gift-giver will need a few instructions to make their gift contribution:

1. Go to [UgiftABLE.com](#).
2. Enter the Ugift code: E8Z-T3X
3. Enter the gift-giver's name and gift amount
4. Make the gift via electronic funds transfer or check



Authorized Individual Hierarchy



These people may act as an Authorized Individual for the Account Owner, in this order of priority:

1. Power of Attorney
2. Conservator or Legal Guardian
3. Spouse
4. Parent
5. Sibling
6. Grandparent
7. Representative Payee

Enrollment forms can be filled out online or via paper form.

By filling out the forms, you acknowledge and agree that if you are an Authorized Individual acting on behalf of an Account Owner, you will be required to certify under penalties of perjury that you have the authority to establish the ABLÉ account, and that, to the best of your knowledge, there is no other person with a higher priority in the list of potential Authorized Individuals who is willing and able to establish an account. Forms can be filled out online or via paper form. Questions? Contact customer service at 1-844-362-2534 • clientservices@enableavings.com • EnableSavings.com • Enable Savings Plan PO Box 219187 Kansas City, MO 64121-9187

The Enable Savings Plan (the "Plan") is sponsored by the State of Nebraska and administered by the Nebraska State Treasurer. The Plan offers a series of investment portfolios within The Nebraska Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Trust. The Plan is intended to operate as a qualified ABLÉ program to be used only to save for Qualified Disability Expenses, pursuant to the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 and Section 529A of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

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Investors should consider before investing whether their home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investments in such state's qualified ABLÉ program and should consult their tax advisor, attorney and/or other advisor regarding their specific legal, investment or tax situation.

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Participation in the Plan does not guarantee that contributions and the investment return on contributions, if any, will be adequate to cover future expenses, or that an account owner is eligible to participate in the Plan.

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Investments Are Not FDIC Insured* | No Bank, State or Federal Guarantee | May Lose Value | *Except the Bank Savings and Checking Investment Options

The Nebraska Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Trust
Issuer Nebraska State Treasurer Trustee and Program Manager.
Nebraska Investment Council Investment Oversight



Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities
State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

February 3, 2023

Representative: Tony Green, Director

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services – Division of Developmental Disabilities and Home & Community Based Services

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

TBI Waiver

- The Division is currently working on a TBI renewal for implementation 10/1/2023
 - Confirmed Services and other waiver details
 - Hope to go to Public Comment in April

Family Support Waiver

- Confirmed services with tentative definitions
- Will incorporate provisions into 403 NAC and will consider whether to revise the entire Title or only add a chapter
- Updates/Information are posted on website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Initiatives-for-LB376.aspx>

Fiscal Intermediary

- State is currently working with PCG to develop an RFP that would solicit a bid to provide fiscal intermediary services within the state

Expanding Payments to Legally Responsible Individuals (LRIs) and Guardians

- The state is currently meeting with stakeholder and advocates to explore options for providing payments to LRIs and Guardians
- Changes, depending on the type, would require changes to state regulation and/or waivers

Maintenance of Effort Unwind

- We are working hand in hand with MLTC to develop a process to return to normal eligibility operations efficiently and effectively
- DD has continued to process level of care (LOC) assessments but has not been acted on those not meeting LOC since the public health emergency
- DD will, beginning April 1 and continuing through March 2024, complete LOC assessments and Medicaid eligibility determinations on participants which may result in those individuals being found ineligible and transitioned off waiver

System Evaluation

- DHHS signed with CBIZ Optumas with Myers and Stauffer to complete the evaluation of all Nebraska HCBS waivers. DHHS will receive best practice recommendations and comparisons to other states.
- This will include stakeholder engagement.
- Updates/Information are posted on website: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Initiatives-for-LB376.aspx>

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

- Monthly HCBS Stakeholder Meeting – February 6, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM CT Zoom Meetings. Link on the DD Event Calendar <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Developmental-Disabilities.aspx>
- DD Advisory Committee Meeting – February 9, 2023, 10:00-2:00 PM, HYBRID Conference Room P, 5220 South 16th St, Lincoln, NE & Via Zoom. Public Comment at Noon.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Paige Rose

Agency: Nebraska VR

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

VR applicants are being served right away:

Priority Group 1: No wait list

Priority Group 2: No wait list

Priority Group 3: Closed - Any individuals added to the wait list are removed within one week.

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) finalized state measurable skill gains data for performance year 2021.

Measurable Skill Gains- national avg 43%, NE 54.6% (17th in nation)

Employment Rate 2nd Quarter after Exit- national avg 52.5%, NE 61.6% (4th in nation)

Median Earnings in the 2nd Quarter after Exit (wage growth)- national median \$4,776 (39th in nation)

Employment Rate 4th Quarter after Exit- national rate 48%, NE 58.6% (2nd in nation)

Credential Attainment- national rate 30.8%, NE 43.1% (12th in nation)

Percent of Students With Disabilities receiving Pre-Employment Transition Services- NE 76%

Current Agency activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD:

New Internal Hires:

VR Assistant Director- Holly Enriquez, VR Scottsbluff Office holly.enriquez@nebraska.gov

Client Assistance Program Director- Jodi Bodnar, VR Pre-ETS Team Omaha jodi.bodnar@nebraska.gov

Program Director for Supported Employment- in progress

5 Job Expos for Pre-Employment Services are planned during the 2022-2023 school year. The ESU's holding the Job Expo's are ESU #2, ESU #7, ESU #8, ESU#3, ESU #13.

Supported Employment Milestone rate rebase and policy change work continues for rollout on July 1, 2023.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

Providing funding for 10 Pre-Employment Transition Services Summer Proposals and recipients will be announced by February 8th.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Jennifer Severe-Oforah

Agency: DHHS, Division of Public Health (DPH)

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

Workforce capacity and staffing issues continue to affect DPH. The Unit Administrator for Lifespan Health Services/Title V MCH Block Grant Director position was filled 4 weeks ago, after being in flux for nearly a year. In addition, the Title V Core team has had a complete turnover in the last year.

Current Agency activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD:

Nebraska Partnership for Mental Healthcare Access in Pediatrics (NET MAP) previously funded the Munroe-Meyer Institute to create the Family Care Coordination training, a self-paced web module, which should be available early this year.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

Lifespan Health Services is leading a Division of Public Health team participating in the AMCHP's (Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs) Emergency Preparedness and Response Action Learning Collaborative. This is a capacity-building initiative. The expectation is that the people and programs participating on the team will be better prepared upon completion to engage in emergency preparedness and response efforts in ways that ultimately benefit women of reproductive age, especially pregnant and postpartum women, and infants. While, this is targeted at women and infants, DPH is keenly aware of the preparedness and response needs of CYSCHN and their families.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Theresa Hayes on behalf of Amy Rhone

Agency: Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

NDE, OSE just finished District monitoring and is currently working on Corrective Action Planning with districts who were found to be in non-compliance. Specifically, Districts found in high risk in the area of Secondary Transition were monitored and the data collected for these districts led to the overall performance data that was submitted in the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) on February 1, 2023.

The Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education requires school districts to participate in an annual risk analysis where all LEA data is reviewed and LEAs are provided differentiated monitoring based on their risk. One component of this differentiated monitoring is a district file review, where NDE staff monitor school district implementation of the secondary transition requirements in IDEA and Nebraska’s special education regulations, 92 Neb. Admin. Code § 51.

To complete the file review, NDE monitoring team reviewers use a checklist to collect data on district compliance with secondary transition requirements. The Indicator 13 requirements are all included in the checklist. NDE monitoring team members used the NTACTION, National Technical Assistance Center on Transition-Collaborative, “Indicator 13 Checklist Form A” questions to collect the Indicator 13 data. NDE monitoring team reviewers are trained on the file review checklist in order to ensure reporting consistency and inter-rater reliability. The file review checklist is available electronically to allow for opportunity for NDE monitoring team members to review each other’s ratings. NDE monitoring team members meet to discuss findings and review the summary report for each district. The summary report provides individual findings for each Indicator 13 component. The monitoring team uses the summary report as Indicator 13 technical assistance for each district.

According to our monitoring data,

Number of youth aged 16 and above with IEPs that contain each of the required components for secondary transition	Number of youth with IEPs aged 16 and above	FFY 2020 Data	FFY 2021 Target	FFY 2021 Data	Status	Slippage
36	68	55.66%	100%	52.94%	DID NOT MEET TARGET	SLIPPAGE

Nebraska has experienced slippage for FFY 2021 because of the Nebraska Department of Education’s (NDE) continued differentiated monitoring process. In addition to this, NDE, through the implementation of an annual risk analysis, shifted monitoring from a five-year set cycle to annual monitoring of all LEAs and targeted monitoring of those LEAs at the highest risk. Due to these shifts in monitoring, NDE found more LEAs out of compliance and in need of corrective action. In addition, Nebraska passed a new state statute that changed the age of transition planning to begin at 14 instead of 16. This change resulted in some districts beginning transition planning at age 14 before the statute went into effect and NDE chose to include youth younger than 16 in the Indicator 13 data collection and identified additional noncompliance with LEAs not correctly implementing transition requirements with youth ages 14 and 15. NDE identified areas of need through LEA file reviews and has established targeted monitoring on those areas to better structure corrective action.

The Nebraska Department of Education, OSE have been utilizing district data to improve focused monitoring efforts. Reviewing Indicator 13 data shows NDE staff that we need to provide more statewide technical assistance on secondary transition in order to increase compliance with this indicator. NDE’s 2022 Focused Monitoring results led to the decision to conduct a statewide Indicator 13 monitoring as a pilot to determine best Indicator 13 monitoring practices going forward. NDE will report the statewide Indicator 13 Pilot results in the FFY 2022 SPP/APR. This pilot will begin an annual Indicator 13 monitoring of all districts.

Also included in the SPP/APR is Indicator 12: Post-School Outcomes.

This indicator measures the Percent of youth who are no longer in secondary school, had IEPs in effect at the time they left school, and were:

- A. Enrolled in higher education within one year of leaving high school.
- B. Enrolled in higher education or competitively employed within one year of leaving high school.
- C. Enrolled in higher education or in some other postsecondary education or training program; or competitively employed or in some other employment within one year of leaving high school.

Measure	Number of respondent youth	Number of respondent youth who are no longer in secondary school and had IEPs in effect at the time they left school	FFY 2020 Data	FFY 2021 Target	FFY 2021 Data	Status	Slippage
A. Enrolled in higher education (1)	239	754	20.84%	30.73%	31.70%	Met target	
B. Enrolled in higher education or competitively employed within one year of leaving high school (1 +2)	550	754	34.76%	34.78%	72.94%	Met target	
C. Enrolled in higher education, or in some other postsecondary education or training program; or competitively employed or in some	689	754	46.81%	44.51%	91.38%	Met target	

other employment (1+2+3+4)							
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The post-school outcome survey given in the spring of 2022, to survey students who graduated in the spring of 2021, moved from surveying a sample of graduating students to a census of all graduating students. NDE will continue to contract with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Bureau of Sociological Research (BOSR) to compile and analyze the collected data. BOSR also distributed survey materials to all districts with instructions for staff to survey the graduated students. The census method of collection has been shown, in other states, to more successfully gather the desired information from students. This change will provide more accurate data about graduating students and improve the response rate. Additionally, BOSR utilized a mixed-mode mail, web, and phone methodology. To increase the response rate, BOSR made multiple calls to numbers for which there was no answer. BOSR made additional calls at different times of the day and different days of the week, including the weekend, to increase the potential that a call would reach the respondent during an available time.

Current Agency activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD:

Indicator 13 Pilot

All states must implement the requirements of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), the US Department of Education established 17 indicators on which each state is required to report to evaluate the state’s efforts to comply with the law.

Indicator 13 measures “the percent of youth with IEPs aged 14 and above with an IEP that includes appropriate measurable postsecondary goals that are annually updated and based upon an age-appropriate transition assessment, transition services, including courses of study, that will reasonably enable the student to meet those postsecondary goals, and annual IEP goals related to the student’s transition service's needs. There also must be evidence that the student was invited to the IEP Team meeting where transition services are to be discussed and evidence that, if appropriate, a representative of any participating agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services, including, if appropriate, pre-employment transition services, was invited to the IEP Team meeting with the prior consent of the parent or student who has reached the age of majority.”

As we have been preparing districts during our monthly statewide special education webinars, the Office of Special Education is conducting an **Indicator 13 Pilot District Monitoring (Indicator 13 Pilot), which began on January 17, 2023**. This Indicator 13 Pilot will be a differentiated monitoring, focused on secondary transition requirements conducted through a self-assessment completed by all districts. The Indicator 13 Self-Assessment Pilot in ILCD is intended to review a District’s system and not the individual student files for SY2021-22. All files need to be reviewed regardless of a student graduating, moving to another district, or returning to regular education.

The Indicator 13 Pilot will follow the timeline below:

January 17, 2023: Self-Assessment open to districts in ILCD 3.0 in the NDE portal. The Indicator 13 tab will include a list of student identifiers with an individual self-assessment that

the district will complete for each student listed. For each student listed the district must answer questions and upload the child's current IEP, past IEP, IEP Team meeting invitation where transition services are to be discussed, consent to invite any participating agency (if applicable), and any other relevant information so that the Office of Special Education can verify that the secondary transition requirements were met for each student.

April 15, 2023: Self-Assessment on ILCD closes

April 15–July 1, 2023: NDE Reviews Self-Assessment Review

***August 1, 2023:** Communication regarding Opportunities for Improvement (if applicable)

***September 1, 2023:** SY 2022-23 Self Assessment Opens on ILCD

The Indicator 13 Self-Assessment will be a pilot as we hope to gain information from Districts on the ease of the self-assessment process as well as an understanding of the compliance needed within this area of focus. It is our intent to continue to provide support to districts in providing the very best transition services for students.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Thomas Janousek

Agency: Division of Behavioral Health

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

- Recovery Friendly Workforce initiative: We have been partnering with a number of agencies including the department of labor and chamber of commerce to develop an initiative to make more behavioral health and recovery friendly workplaces. This would allow for more mental health support in workplaces
- We are involved in a Service Definition Revisions project in partnership with Medicaid to reduce variance between service definitions. Proposed changes to SUD services are available at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/SUD-MSD-Feedback.aspx>.
- Annual Report is now available at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Behavioral%20Health%20Documents/Division%20of%20Behavioral%20Health%20FY2022%20Annual%20Report.pdf> Highlights include:
 - Served over 25,200 individuals in FY 22
 - Over 169,000 persons reached through substance use prevention efforts
 - 94% compliance for tobacco vendors and 89% compliance for alcohol vendors on ID checks
 - In the last three months we have certified 70 new peers into the workforce and added 3 new curriculum providers for peer support training. **To date over 250** peers have been certified as Nebraska Peer Support Specialists through new guidelines. <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Peer-Support-Training-Certification.aspx> is the link to the core curriculum and certification guidelines.
 - 800% increase in Medication assisted treatment providers since 2017
 - 20% increase in persons employed through supported employment
- We are presently in the midst of the legislative cycle and are working to support bills that promote behavioral health services in Nebraska.
- Reminder Nebraska's fight against the national opioid epidemic and other co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders is being assisted through the **Opioid Settlement Remediation Advisory Committee** created as a requirement of national opioid-related settlement agreements. The committee consists of local and state representatives.

- Nebraska stands to receive approximately \$100 million over an eighteen (18) year period from settlements with prescription opioid distributors and manufacturers.
 - Subcommittees include Data/Needs Assessment, Disbursement Criteria and Outcomes Measurements.
 - The link to the committee's work can be found at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Opioid-Settlement-Workgroup.aspx>
- Social Media campaign starting in February promoting mental health subjects, like winter blues, student mental health and rural mental health. More details will be available on the DBH website and social media sites.
 - **January was Mental Wellness Month.** DHHS's facilities, DBH and Regional entities promoted the month in a variety of ways from speakers and social media events. In May we will be promoting an event for Children's Mental Health Awareness Month and have opportunities for participation. For more information contact jennifer.ihle@nebraska.gov

Current Agency activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD:

- We launched the choose you campaign for substance use prevention and are hosting a relapse prevention training on February 7th through the Addictions Academy. You can register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MK7QKSV>
- The Division administers grants focusing on the **opioid crisis and prevention efforts** include:
 - Drug take-back events
 - Medication lock boxes
 - Medica campaigns
 - Access to Naloxone
 - Naloxone is a life-saving medication that can be administered to temporarily reverse an opioid overdose.
 - Anyone who is a resident can obtain Narcan for free at a participating pharmacy without a prescription. To find a participating pharmacy near you, visit <https://stopodne.com>
 - Substance use in I/DD population is often hidden and compounded by a lack of recognition.
- **Suicide Awareness:** Awareness and risk assessment of characteristics of suicidality in the I/DD population is encouraged.

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative Report to Council Members

Representative: Nate Watson

Agency: Medicaid and Long-Term Care

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

Return to Normal Medicaid Eligibility Determinations

Starting March 1, 2023, Nebraska Medicaid is preparing to resume regular reviews of Medicaid eligibility. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Medicaid members have kept Medicaid coverage even if no longer eligible.

Starting March 1, each Medicaid member's current eligibility will be reviewed. It will take approximately twelve months to review all cases.

Medicaid members must ensure their contact information is up to date with Nebraska Medicaid. Members can make sure their contact information is up to date by logging into their [ACCESSNebraska account](#) or calling toll-free (855) 632-7633.

If information is needed from a member to confirm current Medicaid eligibility, Nebraska Medicaid needs to be able to reach the member. If Nebraska Medicaid is not able to reach the member, the member could unnecessarily lose Medicaid coverage.

New unwind website

Our new website has informational resources for providers and community partners. We have FAQs and fact sheets to put in public spaces and waiting rooms. We also have a pre-built social media toolkit to share this information online. We encourage everyone to visit this new page to learn more.

Learn more here - <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Medicaid-MOE.aspx>

On our website, you will see upcoming public meetings on the unwind and other information for members, providers, and community partners. We encourage you to read through this content and attend a meeting if you have questions or would like to learn more about these upcoming changes.

Managed Care Re-procurement

Nebraska Medicaid continues to work on implementing the next managed care contracts. These new contracts begin January 1, 2024. Medicaid selected the following health plans:

- Nebraska Total Care
- UnitedHealthcare
- Molina

Some highlights from the upcoming contracts include removing the annual dental benefit maximum, consolidating provider enrollment, and integrating dental benefits into existing plans' covered services. We have been working internally to implement these contract changes and coordinate with the incoming health plans to ensure continuity for all members.

New Coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitors

I'm excited to share that since January 1, 2023, Medicaid has been covering continuous glucose monitors. Nebraska Medicaid covers both long-term and short-term CGM for eligible beneficiaries.

Learn more here - <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Medicaid%20Provider%20Bulletins/Provider%20Bulletin%202022-22.pdf>

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative
Report to Council Members

Representative: Seamus Kelly/ Tania Diaz

Agency: Disability Rights Nebraska

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

Educating State Policymakers:

Public Policy Director Brad Meurrens met with Senator Ben Hansen and his staff to discuss issues in special education. Senator Hansen had introduced LR 420, an interim study to "examine the education process and procedures for serving students with special needs". Public Policy Director contacted Senator Hansen's office to inquire if the study were to have a hearing and they said that it would not and we discussed having a meeting instead. Public Policy Director collected information from Disability Rights Nebraska staff, Amy Bonn, and Jennifer Miller at PTI Nebraska for their input about issues to bring to the meeting.

Public Policy Director was invited to represent Disability Rights Nebraska in a series of meetings, hosted by Tony Green the Director of Division of Dev Disabilities, along with the Arc, Munroe-Meyer, and DD Council to discuss existing waiver services. The first of those meetings was scheduled for January 2023.

Olmstead Plan Advocacy:

October 17, 2022, Mark Smith, Kathy Hoell and Legal Services Director Dianne DeLair met with HHS CEO Danette Smith to discuss Olmstead progress and accessible meeting platforms for virtual open meetings.

October 27, 2022: Olmstead Advisory Committee Meeting held.

November 22, 2022: CEO and Legal Services Director met with Carla Lasley, representatives from Vocational Rehabilitation and Behavioral Health to discuss supported employment for people with mental illness in Nebraska.

December 1, 2022: Olmstead Advisory Committee meeting (Nov/Dec.).

Current Agency activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD:

Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy:

- A celebration of the Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy Program was held on December 10th to introduce new advocates to those from previous cohorts. The Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy Coordinator presented information on findings from research the impacts of placement for students with significant support needs received at the TASH Conference in Phoenix, AZ on December 1-4th.
- Eight (8) families were referred to the Inclusive Education Lay Advocacy Program during this period. Six (6) of these families asked to be referred and a Lay Advocate was recruited, and the match was made.
- Recruitment materials were developed for the spring training cohort scheduled for March 21-April 27, 2023.

Beatrice State Developmental Center Monitoring:

Our Case Advocate continues to review event and investigation reports from the facility. Monitoring of Beatrice State Developmental Center occurred in October, November and December of the first quarter of our fiscal year. The case advocate was joined by one of our staff attorneys who is being trained to start monitoring the facility and to review event and investigation reports from the facility.

Collaboration with the Community Learning and Leadership program at Munroe Meyer Institute:

Disability Rights Nebraska staff are working with the 3 externs we have through our collaboration with the Community Learning and Leadership program at Munroe Meyer Institute. Two externs will focus on public policy and disability, building public policy skills to apply to their field in the future, and starting to build their network of advocates. One extern has chosen to work with us on developing infographics on disability issues that we can use in the future; she is also interested in understanding how policies define "restraint" and how those definitions could be compared to or applied in her field, Physical Therapy.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

- Disability Rights Nebraska Board of Directors Meeting- February 11, 2023
- Supported Decision Making Presentation at the Transition Conference in Kearney- February 21, 2023

Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities

State Agency Representative Report to Council Members

Representative: Mark Shriver_____

Agency: University Center for Excellence in Development Disabilities-Munroe-Meyer Institute

Update on activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD since the last Agency update:

MMI is in midst of transition in leadership with several of our departments. We have national searches in place for Director of Psychology (Keith Allen stepping down as Director of Psychology, but will continue as Director of Academic Affairs), Director of Speech/Language (Amy Nordness is now our Director of Clinical Services), Director of Physical Therapy (Sandy Willett taking a position in Colorado), and Director of Genetics (Omar Abdhul-Rahman taking a position closer to family).

Within our UCEDD program, Georgia Ryba was hired as a Respite Care Associate and will be directing the Respite Employer Engagement Initiative. Georgia has experience with grants/contracts, previously worked with the education program at the Henry Doorly Zoo, as a registered behavior technician in Early Intervention at MMI, and as a Parent Resource Coordinator at MMI. She will also be continuing some work as a PRC and will be assisting Ellen Bennett with coordinating Respite services for Eastern NE. The Respite Employer Engagement Initiative is a contracted program with Nebraska Lifespan Respite Network to engage employers across the state about respite resources available for their employees.

Kim Falk who was directing our Respite Employer Engagement program took a position as program manager with our Family Care Enhancement Program directed by Sarah Swanson (UCEDD faculty).

Current Agency activities/trends/improvements/issues impacting individuals with I/DD:

The Family Care Enhancement Project (FCEP) places Parent Resource Coordinators (PRCs) in medical clinics to provide information and support to families that have children with disabilities and special healthcare needs. PRCs are parents or family members who have the lived-experience of navigating the resources their family-member with a disability needs in order to achieve optimal health outcomes. PRCs fit within the role of Community Health Workers (CHWs). Work is being done to identify ways to reimburse and possibly certify CHWs in Nebraska.

Current Collaborating Clinics include:

- All of MMI's statewide Medically Handicapped Childrens Program genetic and developmental pediatrics clinics
- One World Community Health Center- Omaha
- Boys Town National Research Hospital – Omaha

- Charles Drew- Omaha
 - CHI-Omaha
 - Complete Children’s Health clinic - Lincoln
 - Children’s Physicians Clinic- Kearney
 - Bluestem Health Clinics (Bluestem Federally Qualified Health Center) – Lincoln
 - Mid-Town Clinic- Norfolk
 - MMI’s clinics- Omaha (Autism Diagnostic Clinic, Autism Care for Toddlers Clinic, Severe Behavior, Feeding, by email, phone and electronic health records)
 - Independence Rising- Scottsbluff/Gering
 - Arc of Norfolk
 - Western Behavioral Health in NW Nebraska
- Our newest site includes Lincoln Lancaster Health Department.

We are establishing ourselves as a Community Health Worker (CHW) Training Site

- I. We have secured funding from the Administration for Community Living’s Public Health Workforce Funding from UCEDD & DD Council to formalize the PRC/CHW training program.
- II. The UNMC College of Public Health (COPH) received funding for the development of a CHW training program. Sarah Swanson was asked to develop a module on Care Coordination and Advocacy. MMI was written in to become a registered apprentice site with the Nebraska Department of Labor and will provide support to CHW interns.
- III. We have developed an online training module called Person and Family-Centered Care hosted through NU Connect targeting Community Health Workers who have interest in disability/inter-disciplinary care.
- IV. We have funding to have 2 trainees to pilot our training.

The MMI UCEDD was awarded a grant through the Administration on Community Living over a year ago to support efforts in the state to ensure persons with disabilities as well as their caregivers and families have access to vaccinations if they choose. These funds were intended to primarily focus on addressing access to vaccinations as well as vaccination hesitancy. Among the grant deliverables were significant updates to the COVID-19 information page on the MMI website including a survey, a mail-out to individuals with disabilities and families in collaboration with the National Core Indicators (NCI) project, and outreach through social media to caregivers, both professional and family, for person with disabilities on the benefits of vaccination. To this end, we collaborated with the Nebraska Association of Service Providers and OBI Creative, a social media marketing firm. This project was a collaboration with and received support from the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights-NE. Mark Smith (UCEDD faculty) was the director of this project. This grant was successfully completed on September 30th but the media outreach by OBI Creative continued through the end of 2022. A report on this project is available upon request.

Future/upcoming Agency activities:

Funds were also made available to the MMI UCEDD by the State Unit on Aging to address vaccination rates for individuals with disabilities. These funds are intended to focus on outreach to members of communities who are English language learners. This project has remained on the cusp of commencing, but final contract is being processed and work will begin this month with end date of September 30, 2023. Translated information (in 14 languages) will be made available through social media and other venues. Mark Smith is director of this project.