

Developmental Disability Services July Newsletter

Celebrate with Us!

07/03 - Services CLOSED for Independence Day

07/04 - Independence Day

Events at a Glance

HASTINGS:

- 07/14 - Sodbuster Agency Fair

GRAND ISLAND:

- 07/07 - Journey of Hope visits!
- 07/18 - Arc Disability Pride Event

KEARNEY:

- 07/10 - Arc Disability Pride Event



Want to help out?

— Impact Initiatives —

Interested in making a positive impact?
Support Quality Services & Champion the Rights of Those We Serve!



Join Our
Advisory Committee

Join Our
**Human Legal Rights
Review Committee**

Connect with your local manager to learn more!

Make a Difference | Be a Voice | Stand for Justice

— Seeking — Community Connections

Building partnerships with other agencies, school systems, and community organizations.
Let's work together to provide wrap around support
for those in need of resources and services!



We are actively seeking community spaces in **Grand Island, Hastings, or Kearney** to host curriculum-based activities such as:

Craft Groups | Cooking Classes | Financial Guidance

If you know of an ideal location for these groups, clubs, or classes, please contact
the Associate Director—We would love to build partnerships in our community!





What is Disability Pride?

Join Us to Celebrate!

Disability Pride is a movement that celebrates the unique identities, strengths, and contributions of individuals with disabilities. It is a time to recognize that disability is a natural and valuable part of human diversity—something to be respected, embraced, and celebrated.

We are excited to host our second annual Celebrating Differences event as part of Disability Pride! This event is an opportunity to come together as a community to honor inclusion, promote understanding, and recognize the incredible individuals we serve and support every day.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate differences, build community, and honor the value each person brings.



To learn more about Disability Pride month, visit:

- [The Arc Website](https://www.thearc.org)

Celebrating Differences

Disability Pride 2026

The World Works Better With Us



HASTINGS ELKS CLUB
3050 E SOUTH ST

10AM to 2PM
July 21, 2026

10:00 am Welcome and Awards Ceremony
11:00 am - 1:00 pm Lunch
11:00 am - 2:00 pm Games & Activity Stations

Goodwill 
Industries of Greater Nebraska, Inc.

Please RSVP to Marketing@goodwillne.org or 308-267-4447 by Friday July 17

— ♡ — JULY IS — ♡ —

DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH 2026



The World Works Better With Us

Celebrate inclusion, belonging, and the contributions of people with disabilities in our communities!

UPCOMING DISABILITY PRIDE EVENTS



KEARNEY DISABILITY PRIDE DAY

July 10, 2026
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Holiday Inn Kearney



RESOURCE
FAIR



LISTENING
SESSION



SHOW YOUR
GLOW DANCE



GRAND ISLAND ARC DISABILITY PRIDE EVENT

July 18, 2026
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Peace Lutheran Church



GAMES



FACE
PAINTING



PRIZES



FREE
LUNCH



COMMUNITY
RESOURCES



HASTINGS CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES

July 21, 2026
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Hastings Elks Club



AWARDS
CEREMONY



LUNCH
PROVIDED



GAMES &
ACTIVITY STATIONS



NEBRASKA STATEWIDE CELEBRATION

July 25, 2026
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Antelope Park, Lincoln



VENDOR
FAIR



PARTY IN
THE AULD



ADA
CELEBRATION



CELEBRATE. INCLUDE. EMPOWER. BELONG.

Disability Pride Month honors disability as a natural and valuable part of human diversity while recognizing the ongoing importance of accessibility, inclusion, and equal opportunity for all.



Advocacy Efforts

Important Changes Effective July 1, 2026

CMS approved significant updates to Nebraska's Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities (CDD) and Developmental Disabilities Adult Day (DDAD) Waivers on June 26, 2026. These changes became effective July 1, 2026 and continue Nebraska's transformation toward person-centered, outcome-focused services.

- Consultative Assessment Sunset: The Consultative Assessment service has ended. Assessment needs will transition to other pathways, including Medicaid State Plan assessment services.
- InterRAI & Level of Care Updates: Refinements to interRAI assessment processes, annual reassessments, and Level of Care determinations.
- Expanded Behavioral Support Expectations: Greater emphasis on Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBAs), data-driven Behavior Support Plans (BSPs), replacement skills, and positive supports.
- Person-Centered Planning: Continued transition to stronger person-centered planning and documentation focused on individual goals, strengths, and outcomes.
- Residential Service Transformation: Nebraska's new residential structure is now fully implemented with alignment to Shared Living, Host Home, Continuous Home, and related services.
- Compliance & Quality Updates: Clarifications
 - to waiver language, annual review
 - requirements, participant safeguards, and
 - provider expectations.

STAY ENGAGED

DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities continues to host provider webinars, stakeholder meetings, town halls, and public comment opportunities. Providers, individuals receiving services, families, guardians, and advocates are encouraged to attend and remain engaged as implementation continues.

Updated Policy Manual: [Please see DHHS Website](#)

HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

**NEBRASKA**
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**MONTHLY
STAKEHOLDER
MEETINGS**

DIVISION UPDATES AND DISCUSSION



Learn what's new in the Division of Developmental Disabilities and get updates from all DHHS divisions.



We will provide new information and give you the opportunity to ask questions.



The first Monday of every month.
When the first Monday is a holiday, we meet on the second Monday.



4:00 p.m. Central Time

[JOIN ON ZOOM](#)

us06web.zoom.us/j/8812022562?pwd=ZkFpJHc0YkYhUURhWlRvbnRmdjZlcUJ9

Stakeholder Meeting page - includes agendas and other information
dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/HCBS-Stakeholder-Meetings.aspx

Meetings dates and login information is also on the DDD calendar.
*The DDD calendar can be found near the bottom of the DDD main page within the DHHS website.

Resource Roundup



Join Our Team of Contracted Nurses!

Empower Your Nursing Career as a

DDS Nurse Consultant

Seeking Registered Nurses!

Make a Difference with Goodwill!



Role Overview

Guide Medical Care & Provide Training



On-Call Rotation

Be Part of Our On-Call Support Team



Support & Safety

Work with Trained Medication Aides



Flexible & Rewarding

Competitive Pay & Monthly Invoicing

✓ Collaborative Environment

✓ Professional Development

✓ Impactful & Rewarding Work



Interested in Becoming a Nurse Consultant?

Contact **Laura Schenk** for More Information!

✉ Laura Schenk

✉ Email: lschenk@goodwillne.org



UPCOMING TRAININGS

07/09 - Med Aide Refresher

07/09 - Mandt (Initial and Refresher)

07/13 - CPR Refresher

07/15 - CPR Initial

07/16 - Med Aide Initial

07/20 - New Hire Orientation

Employee Updates

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Elizabeth Cox - Hastings DSP

Tracy Karr - Hansen - Grand Island Program Manager

DEPARTURES

Michelle Rodriguez - Hastings DSP

JOIN OUR MISSION

Careers

Empowering You & Helping Others

DDS Leadership

Associate Director

- Chelsie Blunt
- 402-831-7149

Director

- Laura Schenk
- 402-984-2566

Program Manager - Grand Island

- Tracy Karr - Hansen (Contact Chelsie)

Program Manager - Hastings

- Dacia Wright
- 402-705-8269

Program Manager - Kearney

- Kim Anderson
- 308-830-2015

Shared Living Manager

- **Vacant (Laura)**
- 308-380-1071