

Developmental Disability Services May Newsletter

Celebrate with Us!

05/01: May Day

05/06 - 05/12: Nurse Appreciation Week

05/16: Armed Forces Day

05/21: Global Accessibility Awareness Day

05/25: Memorial Day

Events at a Glance

HASTINGS:

- Handing out May Day baskets!
- Hosting Mother's Day activity!

GRAND ISLAND:

- Handing out May Day baskets!
- Creating craft for Mother's Day!

KEARNEY:

- Handing out May Day baskets!
- Visiting Pete's Safari!



In recognition of Nurse Appreciation Week, we want to thank our own Nurse Consultants, Shelli and Eric, for their continued dedication to ensure quality medical services for those we support. Also, thank you to all nurses we partner with in that care!

REMINDER



May is

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH 2026

Mental Health Is Health — For Everyone

Why Mental Health Matters

- Mental health is vital for overall well-being
- Caregivers & professionals risk stress & burnout
- Small self-care practices make a big difference



— Self-Care Is Not Selfish —



— Ask for Help When You Need It ❤️ —

Take care of yourself to better care for others..

— A Special Message for Caregivers —

Caring for others—professionally or personally—can be deeply meaningful, but it's also emotionally demanding.



Higher Risk of Stress & Burnout



Your Well-Being Matters

SAMHSA: "Caregiver well-being impacts the quality of care you provide."

"Make time for yourself—it helps you and those who rely on you."

— Helpful Tools & Resources —

X SAMHSA

[samhsa.gov](https://www.samhsa.gov)

Mental Health America

[mhanational.org](https://www.mhanational.org)

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

24/7 Support



This Month—and Every Month...

Taking care of yourself is one of the most powerful ways to care for others.

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!



Team Talk

A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear DD Team and Valued Stakeholders,

Over the past year, our department has experienced many changes, and we recognize that this may have caused some concerns or frustrations. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience and want to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to high standards and quality service.

Your understanding and dedication during this time have been invaluable. Thanks to improved staffing, we are pleased to announce the end of call-backs in Grand Island, and Hastings will soon follow as staffing continues to grow.

We are truly proud of our team's resilience and the way everyone has supported one another throughout these changes. As we move forward, we are excited to place an even greater emphasis on helping each individual achieve their goals through personalized habilitation. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

We appreciate your ongoing support and look forward to continued growth together.



With gratitude and optimism,
Laura Schenk



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



Resource Roundup

Nebraska Legislative Updates: Impact on Disability Services

LB 958: Transparency & interRAI Reform

Signed into Law April 16, 2026

- Transparency Requirements**
Clear Assessment Explanations & Funding Algorithms
- Assessment Oversight**
Supervisory Review Before Tier Reductions
- Mandated Training**
Specialized Training for DHHS Assessors
- Legislative Approval**
Legislative Approval for Waiver Cuts

Other Key Legislative Updates

- Medicaid Protections (LB 777)**
90-Day Retroactive Coverage Preserved
- Provider Rates (LB 268)**
Proposed Rate Increases for DD Services
- Accessible Housing (LB 839)**
Affordable Housing Accessibility Requirements

Advocating for a Better Future in Disability Services



UPCOMING TRAININGS

- 05/11 - CPR Refresher
- 05/14 - Mandt Training
 - (requires virtual first)
- 05/14 - MS New Hire with
 - TIC/MI, Real Colors
- 05/14 - Med Aide Refresher
 - (requires virtual first)
- 05/18 - DDS New Hire Orientation
- 05/20 - CPR Initial
- 05/21 - Med Aide Initial
 - (requires virtual first)

Employee Updates

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

DEPARTURES

- Lucas Skrdlant - GI Program Manager
- Tia Hayman - Shared Living Manager

DDS Leadership

<p>Associate Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chelsie Blunt 402-831-7149 		<p>Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Schenk 402-984-2566 	
<p>Program Manager - Grand Island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacant (Contact Chelsie) 	<p>Program Manager - Hastings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dacia Wright 402-705-8269 	<p>Program Manager - Kearney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kim Anderson 308-830-2015 	<p>Shared Living Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacant (Laura) 308-380-1071