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OCTOBER 6-8, 2023

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BECOME A STATE DISABILITY ADVOCATE !

Self-Advocates and Family Members

The Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities is looking for people with developmental disabilities and family members to join the DD Council and advocate for people with disabilities!

Council membership gives you a chance to share your talents, experiences, and opinions to make a positive impact on the lives of Nebraskans with developmental disabilities.

The DD Council meets every three months in Lincoln in February, May, August, and November or December. Travel and overnight expenses for DD Council members are paid (hotel expenses for those who live 60 or miles away from Lincoln). The DD Council will also provide support to an individual's staff or other support person to assist you in your work on the DD Council. This can be a family member or a service provider who will assist as needed with transportation, review of meeting materials, personal care, etc.

Do you have leadership skills and an interest in advocacy?

Interested applicants should visit the link below to the Governor's website. Under the tab "Constituent Services", bring down the tab "Boards and Commissions" and click it. This will redirect you to an on-line application form. Those interested should apply as soon as possible.

<https://governor.nebraska.gov/>

For additional information please e-mail Kristen Larsen, at Kristen.larsen@nebraska.gov

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Friday October 6

Room Number

4:30 – 10:00 pm	Registration & Check-in	Rear Lobby
6:30 – 8:00 pm	Board Meeting	Stateroom A
7:00 – 10:00 pm	Karaoke	Stateroom F

Saturday October 7

7:30–8:45 am	Breakfast	Ballroom 1
9:00–11:30 am	Membership Meeting	Ballroom 1
11:30–11:45 am	<i>Move to break-out sessions</i>	
11:45—12:05 pm	Break-out Session #1	Staterooms DE & F
12:05—1:15 pm	Lunch	Ballroom 1
1:15– 2:00 pm	Break-out Session #2	Staterooms DE & F
2:00–2:15 pm	<i>Move to next break-out session</i>	
2:15–2:35 pm	Break-out Session #3	Staterooms DE & F
2:35–2:55 pm	<i>Move to next break-out session</i>	
2:55–3:45 pm	Break-out Session #4	Staterooms DE & F
3:45–6:00 pm	Free Time	
6:00–8:00 pm	Awards Banquet	Ballroom 1
8:00–12:00 am	DJ and Dance	Ballroom 2
8:00–10:30 am	Bingo	Rear Lobby

Sunday October 8

7:30 – 8:30 am	Breakfast	Ballroom 1
9:00 – 10:00 am	Raffle	Ballroom 1
10:00 am	Convention Adjourned	

MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

October 7, 2023

- Presentation of Colors
 - Flags presented by presented by past Advocate of the Year award winner Christi Crosby (2022) and Pam Balderston (2021)
 - People First of Nebraska Banner presented by Representatives from the 2022 Chapter of the Year, People First of Dawson County, John Johnston and Steve Kirkpatrick
- National Anthem: singing led by Betty Jo Kauk, Grand Island
- Call the Meeting to Order – Renee Harp, President
- Introduction of Officers & Board
- Approval of this Agenda
- Approval of 2022 Membership Meeting Minutes
- Treasurer's Report – Marty Wheeler, Treasurer
- Convention Announcements
- PFN Video Premier ***“Inclusive Economy: Making Work WORK for People with Intellectual / Developmental Disabilities”***
- Keynote Presentation ***How well do you know your Rights?***
 - Dani Streeter, Director of Community Inclusion, Duet
- Meeting Adjourned

SATURDAY BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

11:45– 12:05	Break-out Sessions #1 (20 min.)	Room
	How I advocated for myself to get a new Service Provider	Stateroom DE
	<i>Renee Harp, Self-Advocate, PFN President and People First of Grand Island</i>	
	Renee wasn't happy with her service provider and wanted to make a change. AND SHE DID! Find out Renee was able to successfully advocate to get the agency and supports she wanted.	

	Your Voting Rights	Stateroom F
	<i>Amy Miller, Monitoring Attorney, Disability Rights Nebraska</i>	
	Did you know that YOU have the right to vote? Even if you have a guardian, people with disabilities still have the right to vote for the people you want to speak for you. Amy will talk about your voting rights and how to get registered and get educated about candidate and ballot issues!	

1:15 – 2:00	Break-out Sessions #2 (45 min.)	Room
	The NEW Nebraska Human & Legal Rights Advisory Committee	Ballroom 1
	<i>Jennifer Quigley, Executive Director, Liberty Health Care</i>	
	<i>Erin Davis, Human & Legal Rights Coordinator</i>	
	The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is developing a new statewide committee that will look at how rights of people with disabilities are being restricted, and if there are other options to those restrictions. The committee will also make recommendations to DHHS for changes in policies and procedures. Erin will share more information about the committee and the kinds of people (including people with disabilities) they are looking for to serve as advisory committee members.	

	The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks	Stateroom DE
	<i>Marty Wheeler, Self-Advocate, PFN Treasurer and People First of Grand Island</i>	
	<i>Bill Koller and Barry & Linda Hopkins, BPOE Lodge 604</i>	
	The mission of the Elks is to promote and practice the virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism, and cultivate good fellowship. Join Elks Lodge 604 members Marty and Bill to learn more about this group and how people with disabilities can participate!	

	Finding Your Independence Without Medicaid	Stateroom F
	<i>Dorothy Ackland, Nebraska Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee</i>	
	What happens when you don't qualify for Medicaid but still need assistance to be independent? Dorothy will help you identify supports in your community that can help you live the independent life you want!	

SATURDAY BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

(CONTINUED)

2:15 – 2:35	Break-out Sessions #3 (20 min.)	Room
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Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Final Settings Rule	Stateroom DE
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Ashley Knudtson, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a final rule for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services effective March 17, 2014. The final rule requires states to ensure people receiving Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) have the benefits of community living. This rule ensures basic human rights for our waiver participants.

Living an Independent Life on Your Own	Stateroom F
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Jennifer James, Self Advocate, PFN Vice-President and People First of Lincoln

Erin Phillips, PFN Sargent At Arms and People First of Lincoln

Have you been thinking about living more independently? Maybe an apartment of your own? Jennifer and Erin will share their stories about how they moved from their family home or extended family home to living in their own apartments!

2:55 – 3:45	Break-out Sessions #4 (45 min.)	Room
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What to do when you have a complaint	Stateroom DE
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Dani Streeter, Director of Community Inclusion, Duet

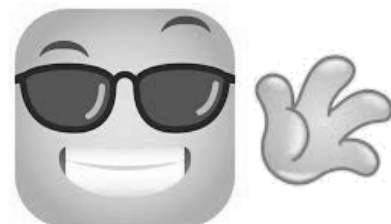
What happens when things are not going well with your service provider, job coach, or residential staff? Who can you go to and how do you advocate to fix problems? Dani will walk you through the process for filing complaints and how you can be a strong advocate to solve problems for yourselves and others.

The Nebraska Enable Savings Plan	Stateroom F
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Stacy Pfeifer, Assistant State Treasurer, Director, Enable Savings Plan

Individuals with disabilities can open tax-exempt savings accounts to save for disability-related and life expenses without impacting eligibility for resource-based benefits. The Act permits individuals with disabilities to save more than a total of \$2,000 in assets (cash, savings, etc.) in their name in a qualified ABLE account. Learn more here!

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Our Mission

To support persons, both children and adults, with mental health needs and/or developmental disabilities gain skills, knowledge and experience to increasingly use and benefit from the resources and settings available to all citizens in our community.



THE COMMUNITY
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BECOME A POLICY ADVOCATE!

People First of Nebraska is looking for self-advocates who want to educate elected officials about people with disabilities and the supports we need to be successful. We will train and support self-advocates to become Disability Policy Specialists and work at the state capitol.

<--(Disability Advocates at the Nebraska State Capitol)

Where? Lincoln, Nebraska. You do NOT need to live in Lincoln. You can participate on Zoom and People First will pay for at least one trip for you to the state capitol.

How Much? About 6 hours per week or less if that works for you

How Long? About 6 months from December 2023/January 2024 through May/June 2024

Pay? \$12.50 per hour. We will make sure this does not disqualify you for benefits

Disability Policy Specialist will learn many different kinds of advocacy skills. You will get lots of help and support from your mentors at People First, and other groups.

- Work with People First and other disability groups to develop positions on proposed legislation
- Meet with state senators and their staff to educate them on how legislation and policies affect people with
- Provide testimony on legislation prioritized by PFN
- Assist other people with disabilities to advocate too!

\$\$ Money available for transportation if you live outside of Lincoln \$\$

Requirements:

- Must be/become and remain an active member of your local People First chapter. A person with any type of disability is eligible (physical, cognitive, intellectual, mental/behavioral)
- Able to read, write, and speak OR use other assistive communication device
- Able to be responsible for your schedule (plan your schedule with help, show up on time)

To apply for this position, please **submit your resume and a cover letter** stating why you think you would be a successful Disability Policy Specialist.

Interviews beginning Now!

E-mail application NOW to Mary.Angus@unmc.edu or contact Mary Angus, Disability Policy Coordinator, by calling (402) 699-0578 for help or more information.

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For 55 years Duet has been committed to supporting people with developmental and intellectual disabilities to live their best life. With locations in Grand Island, Hastings, Omaha, Bellevue, Blair, and Fremont, we tailor our supports to each person's unique needs, promoting personal growth and empowerment.



Duet offers opportunities for people to engage in day service locations, as well as Shared Living Providers, residential homes, supported employment, independent living, supported family living and more.

Contact Mary Steiner, Director of Communication and Engagement, at 402-444-6500 ext. 1125 or mary.steiner@duetne.org, to learn more or schedule a tour.



www.duetne.org



Nebraska Duet



Welcome

to the

People First Nebraska 45th Annual Convention!

*The Arc of Central Nebraska joins you in the
support of
advocacy for people with disabilities.*



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www.arccentralne.org

For more information on
upcoming events email
arccentralne@gmail.com
Or check out our Facebook page
**[https://www.facebook.com/
arccentralne/](https://www.facebook.com/arccentralne/)**

Upcoming events in Grand Island:

***Soup Supper at Resurrection
Church 10/20/23 from 5p-7p***

***OH DEER! The Future is Near
10/21/23 from 9a-12p at Peace
Lutheran Church***

***Honey Sunday
November 4th and 5th, 2023***

***4th Annual Catalyst Awards
March 25, 2024 at 5:30 pm
Get tickets now on our
website.***