



Guardian's Newsletter

As you know, Appendix K is approved for Nebraska through June 30, 2021. The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) issued guidance for returning to services outside the home. Their guidance for state agencies, providers, families, participants, and other stakeholders offers tools and strategies in four areas.

1. **Supporting Individuals in a Different World: The Balance of Risk and Choice.** The pandemic highlighted the importance of supporting people with disabilities and their families to make informed decisions to balance personal safety and risk with autonomy.
2. **A New Day, A New Way: Telehealth and Technology Solutions Expansion.** Telehealth has become an essential model of service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic. Incorporating remote and virtual methodologies into employment and day service delivery is here to stay.
3. **An Eye to Tomorrow: Appendix K Provisions and Considerations for Long-Term Change.** Flexibilities afforded by the HCBS Appendix K authority have afforded states different means to deliver home and community-based services (HCBS). States have the opportunity to analyze which flexibilities may be pursued for long-term implementation and service system sustainability.
4. **We're All in this Together: Supporting the People Who Support the People.** The pandemic shines a spotlight on not only people receiving supports and services but also the direct support professional (DSP) workforce. States have stepped up through creative means to bolster these essential HCBS workers and the resource packet offers tips for their ongoing support.

To read the entire Day Program and Employment Service Guidelines go to: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Developmental-Disabilities.aspx>

We appreciate all of you and hope that everyone will continue to practice giving kindness, tuning in, being flexible, focusing on well-being, being transparent, celebrating big and small wins and staying focused on the mission. God bless!



"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22

Thank You for joining us in our mission.

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FEEDBACK

We want to make ABLED the best agency. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve, please let us know. Your survey comments are anonymous, unless you choose to submit your name. The link is available at the top of this email.

ABLED's MISSION

"Serving Jesus Christ by enabling developmentally disabled individuals to creatively explore and live full meaningful lives in their communities.



Person-Centered Planning

Services must be directed by the individual to the fullest extent possible and as desired by the individual. Person-centered planning involves support for the individual to make choices and decisions. The individual service plan (ISP) must reflect what is important to the individual to ensure that services and supports are delivered in a manner reflecting individual preferences and ensuring the individual's health, safety, and well-being.

Current, Relevant, Effective

Keeping the Person-Centered Plan effective and current, including any risk mitigation strategies, is important. The person-centered planning process is an opportunity to assess risks or modify risk mitigation strategies if the person learns new skills, accomplishes goals, significant changes occur, or the person makes a request.

Risk Assessment

Discussion of risks should focus on the person's strengths, abilities, skills, talents, and desires. While safety is a consideration of utmost importance in the decision-making process, it must be balanced with a person's choices, desires, preferences, and lead to things important to satisfaction and happiness with life.

Informed Choice

All people have the right to make choices and decisions about their lives. It is a founding principle in society that is critical for the independence and happiness of all people. In its purest sense, informed choice means having the authority to make a voluntary, well-considered decision that is based on options, information, and understanding.

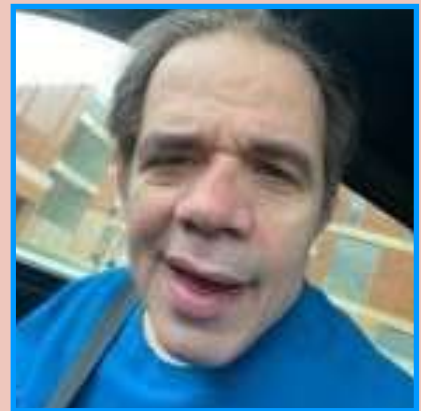
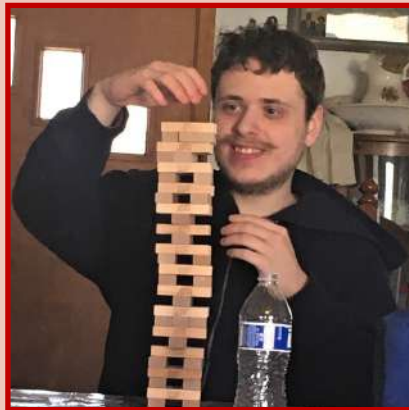


Risk Mitigation

A discussion should include positive and negative outcomes of taking the risk and how this would influence the pursuit of the person's choices. After a person understands how the identified risks could be mitigated, they truly can make an informed choice about whether a particular risk is tolerable and worth taking.

Collaboration

Collaboration with individuals, families, providers and DHHS is essential. People with disabilities and their families are faced with making decisions that could bring not only tension within the family, but also with the providers and DSPs supporting them.



ABLED NOTIFICATIONS

COVID Testing: Please notify ABLED if a participant is tested for COVID and of the results.

COVID Vaccination: Please notify ABLED if a participant receives a COVID vaccination.

Out of Services: Please notify ABLED when a participant will be out of services or on a family visit.

Travel: Please notify ABLED when a participant will be traveling out of a 50 mile radius.

Moving: Please notify ABLED of address changes. SLP settings need to be assessed 15 days prior to moving.

DSP Coverage: Staff should notify Pierre two weeks in advance for shift changes, 48 hours for emergencies.

SLP Back Up Staff: SLPs should notify Pierre of back up staff and schedules. They must be approved and trained.

Dept of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Dashboard

Total Vaccine Allocations	Total Vaccine Administered	% of Allocated Doses Administered	# Fully Vaccinated	% of Population ≥16 Fully Vaccinated
1,250,535	1,061,221	84.9%	428,201	28.9%

