

March 2021



Guardian's Newsletter

On October 7, 2012 Andrew C. Tagart departed from this world to the heavenly realm. Andrew touched many lives. Several of those people organized ABLED, Inc. with the desire to serve and focus on the happiness and health of people with developmental disabilities in Nebraska.



March 13th is a special day for ABLED. It's Andrew Tagart's birthday! Andrew is the A in ABLED. Because of him an agency was started. By the Grace of God, with Andrew's inspiration, and a tremendous amount of work from Dave and Linda Tagart, ABLED was established in February 2014.

By the beginning of 2016, ABLED had quickly grown to serve 26 participants. ABLED now serves 54 participants between the Developmental Disability Waiver and Aging & Disability Waiver.

We believe every human being is created with an innate desire to live their life to the fullest. People with developmental disabilities are no different. ABLED strives to see that the people we serve will not only be valued as members of the community but that they will live meaningful and fulfilling lives.

We appreciate all of our staff who are in this for the same reasons. Our success or failure depends on the quality of care we provide to those we serve. We are grateful for their good hearts, kindness and compassion!

We are very blessed!

BE BRAVE
BE STRONG
BE YOU

"I can do all things through
Christ who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

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

Person-Centered Planning is a group process to help persons with disabilities, older adults, and their families achieve their goals and dreams.

Register for evening sessions with Dr Mark Friedman at:

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DD-Person-Centered-Planning.aspx>

Round 2: Thursday's, 7-8:30 PM

- Week 1 3/11: PCP and You!
- Week 2 3/18: Build a lasting support circle
- Week 3 3/25: Employment and volunteering
- Week 4 4/1: Reaching your dreams and vision



DD Awareness Month

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the month of March as "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month ." The purpose of the proclamation was, and continues to be to urge Americans to provide individuals with developmental disabilities the encouragement and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential.

This proclamation allows us to celebrate the achievements made towards inclusion. It is also an opportunity to remind communities of the need to ensure people who experience developmental disabilities have the same opportunities to live, work, and enjoy life as everyone else.

Approximately 4,900 Nebraska residents are supported through the Department of Health and Human Service's Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD).

One way DD is working to fulfill this goal is through the implementation of Nebraska's "Person-Centered Planning Initiative." This initiative recognizes the fact that most individuals thrive when they are a part of the community.

- The next workshop will be on March 11 at 7pm •

Olmstead Act

In 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on one of the most important civil rights cases for people with disabilities in the nation's history. Known as the Olmstead Act, the court decided that people with disabilities have a right to receive state-funded support in the community rather than in institutions.

This judgement is important because it affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities to live in their community.

In December of 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) submitted a three-year Olmstead Plan to the legislature. DHHS continues to make progress to ensure that people with disabilities have opportunities to live, work, and enjoy life in their community.

In 2020 over 200 offers were made for community-based services from the developmental disability statewide registry.

Disability advocates, stakeholders, and state agencies continued meeting virtually throughout 2020 and into 2021 to ensure the Olmstead Plan is staying on course and on time.



ABLED COVID Update

ABLED participants and staff received their 2nd COVID vaccine dose on Feb 16th. Currently 41% of our participants and 28% of our staff have chosen to be vaccinated. No adverse side effects have occurred.

Director Tony Green reports that most agency providers are wrapping up their vaccination programs as well. He also announced that DHHS submitted their request to CMS on Feb 26th to extend Appendix K from Mar 6, 2021—Jun 30, 2021. There is no final response from CMS yet, however, he fully expects the request to be approved to continue flexibility in alternate settings.

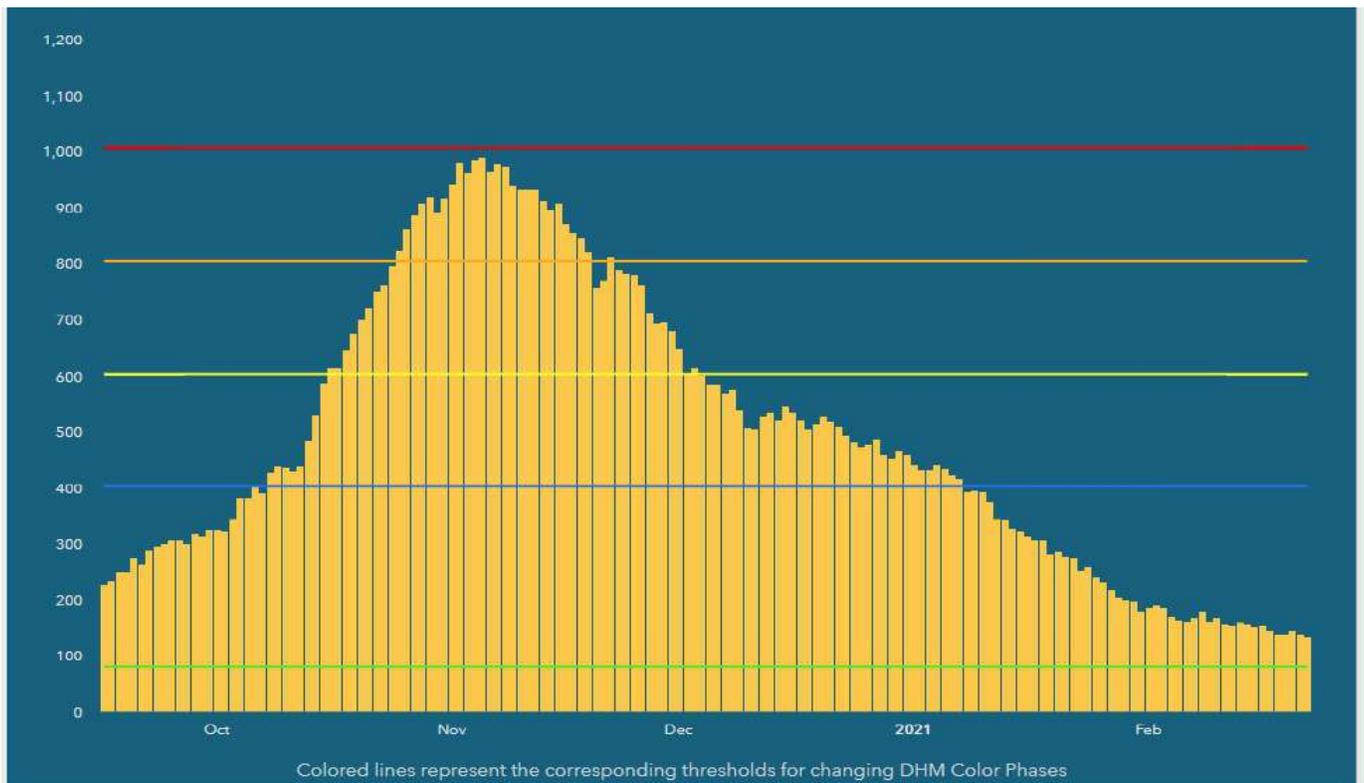
The state's COVID-19 dashboard reflects the positivity rate and hospitalizations continue to go down overall. Hospitalizations were around 500 at the beginning of the year and are currently at 131.

It's been one year since the pandemic began. DHHS reports as of March 1, 2021 there have been 532 positive cases with 11 deaths on the DD waiver and 503 positive cases with 43 deaths on the A&D waiver.

We're thankful to report that ABLED has only had 3 participants and 3 staff test positive for COVID-19 since March 2020. Most reported mild symptoms and none required hospitalization. It's important to continue to be diligent, considerate of others and do our part. Thank you for all your efforts!



Daily Active Hospitalizations | Nebraska COVID-19





Live your
life to the
fullest.

