Planning Region Team 21
October 30, 2026

The Nebraska Open Meetings Act guarantees that every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies. Click here for more information.

Sign-in and Welcome
Welcome and Introductions

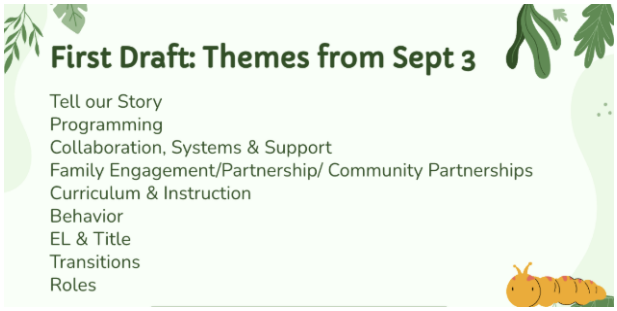
- Purpose of the Early Childhood Planning Region Team
  The purpose of Planning Region 21 is to assist in collaborative planning and development of a family-centered, interagency, community-based system for all children, with emphasis on those with disabilities, birth to age 5

- Current Work:
  - Division of Early Childhood Conference Updates
    -29 staff attended from B-3 and home visiting
    -National Conference in Omaha; great sessions and new learning opportunities
    -Participants will hold a Debrief in the next couple of weeks and plan to share information with PRT at an upcoming meeting.

  - File Monitoring: Close out in November, File Review from TA
    received preliminary feedback will report back more to group in December on next steps

  - Bounce U Invitation to Home Visiting Event, November 19th
    -funded through home visiting program
    -invites extended to early intervention families last week

  - Early Childhood Program Plan Update
    -Many participants from Birth to 1st grade
    -Met to talk about the findings of the research yesterday
    -Next meeting will be to work on action steps/recommendations for the next 5 years



- Referral vs. Eligibility
  -Our referral/eligibility rate has stayed consistent over the past few years around 42% of referrals are found eligible.

- Family Survey
  -parents can now write comments - Can we see what the comments are? Amanda will follow up with co-leads to see if this information is available.

2026 Part C Family Survey Results - PRT 21			
Indicator	PRT Results	Targets	2026 Statewide Results
4A (Knows Rights)	99.1%	90.92%	96.19%
4B (Effectively Communicate Needs)	99.1%	89.62%	96.19%
4C (Help Children Develop)	99.1%	93.74%	96.38%
Return Rate	85.0%		87.1%

- Services Coordination Report

	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	Aug 2026	Sept 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026	Jan 2027	Feb 2027	Mar 2027	Apr 2027
Total Serving	210	208	193	208	190	184	173						
Total Referrals	21	22	18	27	28	21	28						
Qualified	11	7	11	15	13	8	2						
Did Not Qualify	5	5	4	8	12	4	1						
In Process		2			1	7	23						
Not Evaluated	5	8	3	4	2	2	2						
Age at referral													
0-12 mon	5	6	4	4	1	10	11						

13-24 mon	10	9	8	12	8	5	7						
25-36 mon	6	7	6	11	19	6	10						

-Compared to 2025 our numbers are up for this time last year.
-We are working on getting kids in at earlier age 0-12 month referral numbers show an increase the last couple of months
-We are trying to dispel the "wait and see" idea with physicians
-Referrals that are coming in earlier - siblings of other children who have participated in our program seem to be one factor, higher number of NICU babies. Hospitals are advising parents to contact the providers at 3 months.
-Will bring more data around our Child Find work with Jeanne Meyer to an upcoming meeting.

- Community Partners Update

Early Learning Connection (ELC) - Professional Development
Jennifer Haggart Kazandra Reza-Rivera
Early Learning Connection (ELC) Omaha Region is the early care and education professional development partnership for Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington counties responsible for planning, coordinating, and delivering training and other learning opportunities for educators and providers in DHHS licensed center, home, preschool, & out of school time programs. For more information, visit www.elcomaharegion.org

Upcoming professional development opportunities:

- Autism and the Young Child: Signs & Strategies | El autismo y los niños pequeños: signos y estrategias
    - Online | En Línea November 12 & 19; 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Guidelines In Action
    - Online 3rd Wednesdays November through May; 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
    - This series of monthly sessions will deconstruct the Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines (ELG) document and bridge those standards directly with Environment Rating Scale (ERS) requirements. You'll learn how to audit your interest areas to ensure quality is represented in your program, and we'll bring it all to life by sharing high-quality children's books that align with every domain.
- Hayley's Hints for Early Childhood Success | Los consejos de Hayley para el éxito en la primera infancia presented by Hayley Jackson-Perez
    - In person | En persona at ESU 3 Saturday, December 5; 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Beating the Blahs with Lisa Murphy, owner of Ooey Gooey®, Inc.
    - Online Saturday, December 12; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

2026 2027 ELC Omaha Region Calendar of Events

-These are good resources for staff to provide to families - Suggested to print and share

Early Learning Connection - Coach Consultant: Becky Dunlap-Morton
ELC-CC cultivates the development and growth of coaches who work with early childhood educators and families so that each child has equitable access to quality care and education. Coaches include those working in state and community initiatives serving families, early childhood centers, family child care homes, and Head Start programs. For more information, please visit the Early Childhood Coaching Website or the Coach Development Network websites.

Some upcoming events include:

- Intro to Mondo Method for Coaches on November 13

Additional events for coaches (e.g. Coach Cadres and Communities of Practice) can be found on the 26/27 Early Childhood Coach Calendar.

- Nebraska Respite Network -

- Project Updates:

Professional Learning/Training Opportunities: *Melissa Hennings, Jennifer Haggart, Kazandra Reza-Rivera, Amanda Hunt

- Coordinate and schedule in person or virtual parent trainings on various high interest topics.
- Explore ways to support local childcare providers with strategies, supports, and/or opportunities to participate in high quality professional learning opportunities.
- Schedule individuals to join our PRT meetings to share new research, strategies, and supports for PRT members and early intervention providers.

-Went to training for strategies to increase early literacy and are exploring how to take this model to develop a parent training to increase oral language through literature.

-Looking for an opportunity to get a in person strategies, also looking for virtual options for families/providers

-We are finding that emails are not as effective as they used to be and are adjusting our methods of communication

-Possible survey to learn more on how best to increase parent engagement.

District/Millard Community Coordination: *Lindsey Hyland, Christine McKinney, Allison Domsch, Chelsea Heuer, Kim Jipp

- Distributing Yard`Signs and or other EDN Developmental Information to ChildCare Centers and other community organizations (Yard sign designed and vendor secured)
- Present information on EDN services at staff meetings in our elementary schools for teachers
- Information table set up at a variety of district/community events and community businesses (e.g., Library night, KidsStrong, restaurants, gyms, School Resource Fairs)

    - Wee Screens within the community (partner with Millard Library, possibly build partnership with YMCA)

-We are finding that parents are working at daycares and so we are able to get into more daycares to share information

-YMCA on Q St would like to do a Wee Screen and KidsStrong is also interested.

- Gaps and Barriers?
  -Video Modeling for parents (how to read to your child. etc.)
  -Future exploration of micro-trainings to reach a larger audience

- Next Meeting Dates:
    - December 11, 2026
    - February 19, 2026
    - May 14, 2027