Nebraska Results Driven Accountability (RDA)
Part C/EDN Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 21, 2026
SCC Jack Huck Continuing Education Center – 301 S. 68th St Place
Lincoln, Nebraska

Welcome & Introductions

NDE Office of Special Education Administrator, Amy Rhone, introduced herself and welcomed the group, including those participating via zoom. Next, Amy Bunnell, Nebraska Department of Education Early Development Network (EDN) Co-Lead, Jessica Anthony, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) EDN Co-Lead, Cole Johnson, Nebraska Department of Education Part C PRT and Data Manager, Rebecca Hoffman, DHHS EDN Program Specialist, introduced themselves.

RDA and State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Overview

Updates were shared about the implementation and sustainability of the Routines Based Interview (RBI) and the Getting Ready (GR) Approach as well as coaching, partnerships and implementation guidance in place for the field. Updates were provided by the RBEI State Coordinators, Ann Kavanaugh and Sheila Broderson, Sue Bainter, and Dr. Lisa Knoche with the University of Nebraska. Dr. Knoche, whose role is to evaluate coaching work using evidence-based practices shared that analysis work is currently underway. The following three primary outcomes were shared with supporting data: building confidence, supporting competence & growth, and providing value & sustainability. A number of videos were shared with individuals reflecting various stages of coaching and their positive experiences. General themes included how regular check-ins and conversations focusing on goals are important; *the value and sustainability of follow ups with internal coaches and how doing that builds up confidences of the coachees; *how participating in RBI Coach trainings has a huge impact on what people are doing in a variety of settings and helps staff feel they are more able to connect to the process; that having a professional goal identified and then touching back on it is helpful; that both internal and follow-up coaches have rated Planning Region Teams with high gains.

A visual “RBEI Enhanced Coaching” was provided illustrating what has occurred in Nebraska between State Coaches, Internal Coaches, Providers and Service Coordinators, and families in Early Intervention.

Additional videos were shared with examples of the positive impact enhanced coaching has had both with coaches and families. Comments shared included the value of back-and-forth conversations, focusing more on what went well than what did not, finding a flow and niche to be the best provider one can be and meeting each family where they are using a variety of tools.

Some parent insights were shared via video and included how empowered a mom felt having gained skills to share with her family and caregivers for her child. She has confidence to know what she’s doing is right and feels like she is an important team member for her child since she knows her child best, can be playful and fun, and that little things matter. Working with their provider feels like she is working with a friend and truly being heard.

Pause for reflection: The group was asked how what was seen in the video clips compares to individual experiences? What would they like to see as a next step in their region?
Sharing: Comment was made that this work is a really good fit to model with colleagues about what they strive for.

It was noted that the due date for the next Coaching training sign-up is November 15, 2026.

Annual IFSP Outcome Analysis data was shared. A graph showed a snapshot of PRT's baseline and current total outcomes. Plans are showing increased numbers of outcomes, which is very positive. Another slide showed average numbers of Family Outcomes with more positive increases. Average number of Child Outcomes showed yet more positive outcomes in 2026 vs the baseline.

Pause for reflection: Even though data collected is based on the pilot regions, how could you learn about how your region's data compares to *this* data? What next steps might you consider for improvement in your area?

A parent shared that her son was on an IFSP then transferred to IEP over the summer. Family outcomes and goals matched up when compared – even after transferring to an IEP, she still has them to reflect on. She appreciated how lofty some of the goals were, even though they were short term. Realized they were attainable and/or maybe needed more time to be reached. This still gives them things to work on even after transferring over to IEP. She sees how it really is all connected and appreciates that family goals are "a thing."

Co-Lead Updates

- Annual Performance Report & Determinations – Jessica shared definitions and the determination factors for each area.
  Early Childhood Outcomes – not meeting targets but are making gains.
  Overall earned 75/100 – 87.50% for a Meets Requirements rating.
  A link to Nebraska's APR was shared.

2026 Family Survey Results

The 2026 Family Survey return rate was 87%, and kudos were given to Services Coordinators for their work. A postcard with Nebraska's APR targets and performance related to the Family Outcomes is sent out to all families receiving the survey.

Child Outcome Data

Cole Johnson presented Nebraska's child outcome data, which measures the following: Outcome A - positive social-emotional skills, Outcome B - acquisition and use of knowledge and skills, and Outcome C - use of appropriate behaviors to meet needs. Data was shared covering July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Discussed factors that potentially impact the data. Considered frequency and intensity of EI services, ChildFind data, including statewide referral and eligibility data trends, average length of time in

EI services, and whether referral sources may have a “wait and see” tendency before making a referral to EDN.

Discussion time:
How can we increase Child find activities for the B-1 population?

For families: when concerns about your child’s development were first identified, was a “wait and see” approach discussed? (If so by **whom**? Doctor? Daycare provider?) What role, if any, did that approach play in your family’s journey to EDN?

Are EDN Teams effectively promoting the benefits of EDN services to families?

Input: Parents are saying pediatricians are telling families to “wait and see”. One parent said that didn’t feel right and contacted EDN who immediately worked with her family.

Another member shared that CDC has changed some milestones from 12-15 months and added some 30-month milestones. Wonder if doctors might be using those new milestones due to the CDC adjusting some upwards. Dr. Miller of the University of Nebraska Medical Center noted they are seeing great success receiving referrals from those milestones.

A comment was made wondering if: 1) CAPTA families, and 2) families of kids/babies with high medical needs are overwhelmed.

Differentiated Monitoring & Support
Amy Bunnell shared updates related to the US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Differentiated Monitoring and Support of Nebraska’s IDEA Part C program. Nebraska was monitored October 21-24, 2024, and OSEP provided DMS findings/results to Nebraska on April 16, 2026. Amy provided information related to each finding and related corrective action required.

Nebraska had requested reconsideration from OSEP, however OSEP reviewed the reconsideration request and denied it in June 2026.

In the June 2026 response letter, OSEP required Nebraska to develop a corrective action plan to include additional actions NE will take to discontinue the use of IDEA Part B funds to provide EI services, a plan for how the state will fund early intervention services, a listing of all regulations, policies and procedures that will need revised, and a plan to provide subsequent technical assistance, training, and /or support to LEAs on the appropriate use of the IDEA Part B subgrants. The corrective action plan was required to be submitted by September 30, 2026, and Nebraska is waiting for OSEP’s response to the CAP submission.

Amy thanked the group and shared contact info for Jessica Anthony, Cole Johnson and herself.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10pm CT.