COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Thursday, August 27, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING
Primary Site: Office of the CIO—Room 4B
501 S. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Bryan Seck, Lincoln Literacy
Deb Robertson, Nebraska Libraries
Eric Carrillo, Nebraska Department of Labor
Jamdan Clang, Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Jonathan Jank, Nebraska Public Power District
Oliver Borchart-Williams, Nebraska Association of County Officials
TinaMaria Fernandez, Hope Esperanza
Jillian Linster, Center for Rural Affairs

MEMBERS ABSENT:
Dekow Sagar, International Council for Refugees and Immigrants
Zainab Rida, Nebraska Department of Education

OCIO STAFF PRESENT:
Vanessa Castro, Community IT Manager
Lori Lopez Urdiales, Office Services Manager II

INTRODUCTIONS:

Vanessa Castro called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Members introduced themselves by providing their professional background and recent achievements.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CO-CHAIRS AND OFFICIAL VOTE TO INDUCT THEM

Ms. Castro welcomed the new co-chairs and thanked them for their willingness to serve. Ms. Fernandez expressed her appreciation to the Council for selecting her as Co-Chair.

Mr. Jank moved to approve TinaMaria Fernandez and Bryan Seck as Co-chairs of the NITC Community Council. Mr. Borchers-Williams seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Borchers-Williams-Yes, Carrillo-Yes, Clang-Yes, Fernandez-Yes, Jank-Yes, and Linster-Yes. Results: Yes-6, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COUNCIL CHARTER

Mr. Seck and Ms. Robertson joined the meeting.

The Council proceeded with its review of the Community Council Charter. Members discussed and recommended the following changes and considerations:

Introduction Section:
Members recommended adding the “health care sector” to the list of sectors represented by the Council.

Responsibilities Section:
The Council noted that its responsibilities are established in statute, and no changes were recommended. Members discussed how the Council may collect data to support its work. Ms. Castro indicated that data collection methods will require further discussion as the Council continues to develop its priorities and activities. Mr. Carrillo noted that the Nebraska Department of Labor has data that may be useful to the Council.

Membership Section:
Ms. Castro provided background regarding recent legislative changes affecting state boards and commissions. While the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) remains active, its six former advisory councils are no longer formally established in the same manner. The Community Council and Education Council are currently operating as work groups that provide input to the NITC and assist with efforts such as development of the Statewide Technology Plan.

The Council reviewed the Charter provision addressing vacancies and member attendance:

“Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments, with new members serving the remainder of the unexpired term. A Council member’s seat may be considered vacant if they miss more than half of the scheduled Council meetings within a calendar year.”

Members discussed whether “may” should be replaced with “shall” and requested clarification regarding who has authority to make membership and vacancy decisions. Prior to the legislative changes, advisory council memberships were approved by the NITC. Previous legal guidance indicated that advisory groups could approve their own memberships and make decisions regarding the removal of members.

Ms. Castro reminded the Council of a previously discussed attendance provision for inclusion in the Charter. The proposed provision would allow for the removal of a member following two consecutive or cumulative unexcused absences when the member has not communicated with Council staff, participated virtually, or provided an approved delegate. Members discussed incorporating this provision into the Charter as a means of establishing clear expectations for active participation and maintaining consistent Council engagement.

Ms. Castro informed members that new legal counsel recently joined the OCIO and that she would seek clarification regarding the NITC’s role in Council membership decisions, the Council’s authority regarding vacancies and attendance, and whether the Council is subject to Nebraska’s Open Meetings Act.

Meeting Procedures Section:
Ms. Castro asked members for feedback on potentially adding provisions addressing a Meeting Code of Conduct, confidentiality, and conflicts of interest as the Council continues to develop. Members supported further consideration of these provisions and agreed that guidance from legal counsel should be obtained before finalizing them.

Mr. Jank moved to approve the Community Council charter with the caveat that the council will continue to further develop the sections upon consulting with Legal counsel: Code of Conduct, Attendance, Conflict of Interest, and Confidentiality. Ms. Robertson seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Borchers-Williams-Yes, Carrillo-Yes, Clang-Yes, Fernandez-Yes, Jank-Yes, Linster-Yes, Seck-Yes, and Robertson-Yes. Results: Yes-8, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

Members request a current membership list be provided at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 26, 2026 AND THE MAY 28, 2026 MINUTES*

Due to questions regarding membership and public meeting laws that will be addressed with legal counsel, it was by group consensus to table the minutes.

ACTION PLAN AND ROADMAP

Every two years, the NITC submits the Statewide Technology Plan to the Legislature. The advisory councils provide input and recommend action items to complete the statewide technology plan initiatives. This will be something the council will need to discuss at the next meeting.

There will be federal grants available in the next year and a half. It is critical the council prepares for this incoming funding by gathering accurate data across the state.

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Castro will reach out regarding the next meeting details after she has met with legal counsel. This next meeting will be held in-person.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Ms. Fernandez adjourned the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed and edited by Vanessa Castro, Office of the Chief Information Officer.