

November 22, 2013

Senator Brad Ashford
Judiciary Committee
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

RE: Legislative Bill 561

Dear Senator Ashford and members of the Judiciary Committee:

As you know, Legislative Bill 561 of the 103rd Legislative Session of 2013 requires the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee of the Nebraska Children's Commission to provide recommendations on the future role of the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers (YRTC) to the commission and electronically to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature by December 1, 2013. The committee has been working diligently on the review of the YRTCs and the assessment of the juvenile justice continuum of care to provide meaningful recommendations to the Judiciary Committee. Although the report is nearing completion, I regret to inform you that we will not have the recommendations document completed by the December 1, 2013 deadline. Therefore, the committee is respectfully asking for a slight extension of the deadline to December 15, 2013.

The committee has worked to ensure that our recommendations complement the Nebraska Children's Commission Phase 1 Strategic Plan and the other initiatives put in place by the 103rd Legislative Session. Delaying delivery of the report until December 15 will allow the committee one more monthly meeting time to finalize the recommendations and ensure that all aspects of the juvenile justice reform recommendations have been fully contemplated and coordinated with other reform efforts. We anticipate that the final recommendations will provide a good structure for continued reform of the juvenile justice system and will address the role and effectiveness of the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers. We will also be making recommendations on YRTC populations, treatment services, mental and behavioral health services, and a general framework for systems of care in the juvenile justice system.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information from the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee.

Sincerely,



Ellen Fabian Brokofsky
Co-Chairperson
Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee



Martin R. Klein
Co-Chairperson