

Nebraska Children's Commission

First Meeting
June 7, 2012
1:00-3:15 pm
Hruska Law Center
635 S 14th Street, Lincoln, NE

Minutes

Call to Order

Kerry Winterer called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. The Open Meetings Act information is posted in the back of the meeting room as required by state law.

Roll Call

Commission Members present: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer.

Commission Members absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Senator Lavon Heidemann, Hon. Linda Porter, and Kelli Hauptman representing Vicky Weisz.

Also in attendance: Governor Dave Heineman; Vicki Maca, Sara Goscha, Terri Nutzman, Chris Hanus, Wes Nespor, Kathie Osterman, Russ Reno, and Bonnie Engel from the Department of Health and Human Services; Jeremiah Blake from the Governor's Policy Research Office; and Elton Larson from the Department of Administrative Services Budget Division.

Welcome – Governor Heineman

Governor Heineman welcomed members and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the Children's Commission. He stated they have a special responsibility and an opportunity to make a real difference for children and families in Nebraska and to assist the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the development of a strategic plan and structure of the Division of Children and Family Services. He encouraged the Commission to be very open and fully transparent in all discussions and ideas, no secret offline conversations with only a few members.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Thomas Pristow to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by John Northrop. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen,

Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Adopt Procedural Rules

Roberts Rules of Order

A motion was made by Gene Klein to adopt Roberts Rules of Order, seconded by Thomas Pristow. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Rule for publication of public notices

A motion was made by Thomas Pristow to give published notice of meetings to members of the Commission by regular United States mail or e-mail and to the public by posting to the Nebraska Government Website public meeting calendar, seconded by Candy Kennedy-Goergen. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Presentation on open meetings/public records requirements

Wes Nesor, Deputy Administrator, DHHS Legal Services, provided a presentation on the general guidelines for open meetings and public records requirements. By default quorum for the Commission is 13 members and for simple motions to carry, a majority of voting members present in the quorum is required.

Comments – Senator Campbell

Senator Campbell thanked Governor Heineman and Kerry Winterer for their remarks, echoed the Governor's thanks to members for their willingness to serve on the Children's Commission, and the importance of setting a strategic direction. Copies of the *Health and Human Services Committee LR 37 Report – December 15, 2011* was provided to members. Senator Campbell encouraged members to be honest in the problems when discussing, share among all their concerns and questions, to be honest about the solutions, and to work collaboratively to find honest answers in building the future.

Self-introduction of Commission Members

Commission members introduced themselves giving a brief overview of their background.

Overview of Commission duties

Kerry Winterer provided an overview of the Commission's duties. The Nebraska Children's Commission was created as a high-level leadership body to create a statewide strategic plan for reform of the child welfare system programs and services, review the operations of DHHS regarding child welfare programs and services and recommend options for attaining legislative intent of LB821. LB821 also mandates the Commission to select a chairperson and vice-chairperson, hire staff, hire a consultant to provide assistance in developing the statewide strategic plan, and provide direction to DHHS in issuing an RFP for Medicaid analyst. The Commission will also create committees to examine state policy regarding the prescription of psychotropic drugs and the structure and responsibilities of the Office of Juvenile Services. The Title IV-E Demonstration Project Committee and the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee will become a part of the Commission. The Commission shall provide a written report to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature on the status of its activities on or before August 1, 2012, September 15, 2012, and November 1, 2012. The Commission shall complete the statewide strategic plan and provide a written report to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature and the Governor on or before December 15, 2012.

The Commission will terminate on June 30, 2014, unless continued by the Legislature.

Members of the Commission will be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as members in accordance with State employee reimbursement guidelines. To be reimbursed completion of the Direct Deposit Enrollment Form, Form W-4 (2012) and the Expense Reimbursement for Non-State Employees form are to be completed.

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

David Newell nominated Karen Authier to be Chairperson. No other nominations were received and nominations were closed. A motion was made by David Newell to appoint Karen Authier as Chairperson, seconded by Gene Klein. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Candy Kennedy-Goergen nominated Beth Baxter for Vice Chairperson. No other nominations were received and nominations were closed. A motion was made by Candy Kennedy-Goergen to appoint Beth Baxter as Vice Chairperson, seconded by John Northrop. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Background/overview of CFS Division and reform efforts

Thomas Pristow presented an overview of the Division of Children and Family Services and reform efforts.

New Business

Authorize Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and CEO to hire staff (LB821, Sec 2(4))

A motion was made by Gene Klein to authorize Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and CEO to move forward to get staff in place, seconded by John Northrop. A motion was made by Thomas Pristow to amend the previous motion to allow for one or two Commission members to provide input into the hiring decision and for the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and CEO to do the actual hiring, seconded by Lisa Lechowicz. Candy Kennedy-Goergen and Lisa Lechowicz volunteered. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

The Commission then voted on the main motion as follows: Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Authorize DHHS to issue RFP for strategic planning consultant (LB821, Sec 1(4))

A motion was made by Candy Kennedy-Goergen to authorize DHHS to issue RFP for strategic planning consultant, seconded by Kerry Winterer. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Volunteering to serve on committee to provide input are Lisa Lechowicz, David Newell, Gene Klein, Dale Shotkoski, Karen Authier, and Beth Baxter. Thomas Pristow set the timeline to have comments by Friday, June 15.

Authorize DHHS to issue RFP for Medicaid analyst (LB821, Sec 5)

A motion was made by Gene Klein to authorize DHHS to issue RFP for Medicaid analyst with members who want to participate in the development, seconded by Jennifer Nelson. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Volunteering to serve on committee are Jennifer Nelson and Beth Baxter. Karen Authier asked Beth Baxter to take the lead in gathering input. Thomas Pristow set the timeline to have comments by Friday, June 15.

Create committee to examine use of psychotropic drugs (LB821, Sec 3(2)(a))

Create committee to examine the structure and responsibilities of the Office of Juvenile Services (LB821, Sec 3(2)(b))

A motion was made by Gene Klein to create both committees and populate within next few weeks, each committee to have no more than ten members (can be non-members of Commission), and Chair and Co-Chair of committees be Commission members for a total of 12 members on each committee, seconded by Candy Kennedy-Goergen. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Committee regarding psychotropic drugs: Jennifer Nelson volunteered to Chair, and Candy Kennedy-Goergen volunteered to Co-Chair; Beth Baxter, Norman Langemach, and Vicky Weisz volunteered to serve on Committee.

Committee regarding Office of Juvenile Services: Martin Klein volunteered to Chair and Ellen Brokofsky volunteered to serve on Committee.

General Discussion no action item

Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting is July 16, 9:00-12:00pm, location to be determined.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Gene Klein to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jennifer Nelson. The meeting adjourned at 3:24pm.