

Nebraska Children's Commission

Third Meeting
August 14, 2012
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Country Inn and Suites, Lighthouse Room
5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

Call to Order

Beth Baxter called the meeting to order at 9:00am. The Open Meetings Act information is posted as required by state law.

Roll Call

Commission Members present: Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, Thomas Pristow, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab and Kerry Winterer.

Commission Members absent: Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Dale Shotkoski.

Ex Officio Members present: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Senator Lavon Heidemann, and Hon. Linda Porter.

Ex Officio Members absent: Vicky Weisz and Ellen Brokofsky.

Also in attendance: Governor Dave Heineman; Vicki Maca, Terri Nutzman, Nathan Busch, Wes Nesor, Neleigh Korth, Russ Reno, and Bonnie Engel from the Department of Health and Human Services; and Jeremiah Blake from the Governor's Policy Research Office.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Candy Kennedy-Goergen to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Gene Klein. A unanimous voice vote of voting members present was received. Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

Dale Shotkoski and Vicky Weisz arrived at 9:03am.

Approval of July 16, 2012, Minutes

A motion was made by Norman Langemach to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2012, meeting, seconded by John Northrop. A unanimous voice vote of voting members present was

received. Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, and Mary Jo Pankoke were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of August 1, 2012, Report to the Health and Human Services Committee

A motion was made by John Northrop to approve the August 1, 2012, report, seconded by Gene Klein. Voting yes: Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, and Mary Jo Pankoke. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Public comment was received.

Vice-Chairperson's Report

Progress on hiring staff

Interviews for the Administrative Assistant III position to support the Nebraska Children's Commission were held on August 3, 2012. An offer of employment has been made and accepted with a start date of August 27, 2012.

Status of RFP's

Strategic Plan – RFP 4079Z1

- Released – July 23, 2012
- Proposal Opening – August 21, 2012, 2:00pm
- Evaluation Period – August 22-September 5, 2012
- Letter of Intent to Contract – September 14, 2012
- Contract Award – September 17, 2012
- Contractor Start Date – September 24, 2012

Cross System Analysis – RFP 4081Z1

- Released – July 26, 2012
- Proposal Opening – August 28, 2012, 2:00pm
- Evaluation Period – August 29-September 12, 2012
- Letter of Intent to Contract – September 20, 2012
- Contract Award – September 24, 2012
- Contractor Start Date – October 1, 2012

Committee Reports

Psychotropic Medication Committee

Candy Kennedy-Goergen provided an update on the members to be appointed to the Psychotropic Medication Committee – Pam Allen and Sara Goscha.

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

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee update will be taken up when Martin Klein is present at the meeting.

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

Thomas Pristow provided an update on the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee, including a written report.

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

IV-E Demonstration Project Committee

Thomas Pristow and Vicky Weisz provided an update on the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee, including a written report.

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

A motion was made by Kerry Winterer to approve Gene Klein's appointment to the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee and to serve as the Co-Chairperson of the Committee, seconded by Thomas Pristow. Voting yes: Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-

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

Legislative Report

Legislative role in child welfare

Senator Campbell provided a brief summary of the role of the Legislature.

Update on Interim Studies

Senator Campbell provided an update on the Interim Studies assigned to the Health and Human Services Committee. Several Interim Studies have been scheduled for public hearing.

Expectations regarding the Strategic Plan

Senator Campbell provided a handout titled, *Nebraska Children's Commission*.

Martin Klein arrived at 10:04am.

Children and Family Services Report

Thomas Pristow presented on the Strategic Focus of the Division of Children and Family Services Protection and Safety Section.

Committee Reports (continued)

Juvenile Services Committee

Martin Klein provided an update on the Juvenile Services Committee, including a written report.

A motion was made by Kerry Winterer to ratify Jana Peterson's appointment to the Juvenile Services Committee, seconded by Thomas Pristow. Voting yes: Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, and Mary Jo Pankoke. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Gene Klein to accept the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee report, seconded by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and

Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, and Mary Jo Pankoke. Motion carried.

Recessed at 10:25am.

Reconvened at 10:43am with all members present as before.

Collaborative Work Process

Candy Kennedy-Goergen provided her perspective on collaborative work process.

New Business

General Discussion no action item

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is September 14, 9:00-12:00pm, location to be determined.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Thomas Pristow to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Becky Sorensen. The meeting adjourned at 11:40am.



Kerry T. Winterer
Chief Executive Officer

State of Nebraska
Dave Heineman, Governor

September 14, 2012

Patrick O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature
State Capitol, Room 2018
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

Legislative Bill 821 of the 102nd Legislative Session of 2012 requires the Nebraska Children's Commission to report on its activities to the Health and Human Services Committee on September 15, 2012.

The attached report provides a progress summary regarding the activities the Commission has accomplished. The report includes the meeting agenda and minutes of the third meeting.

Sincerely,

Kerry T. Winterer
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Health and Human Services

Karen Authier, Chairperson
Nebraska Children's Commission

Beth Baxter, Vice Chairperson
Nebraska Children's Commission

Attachment

REPORT FOR: Nebraska Legislature, Health and Human Services Committee
REPORT DATE: September 14, 2012
LEGISLATIVE BILL: LB 821
COMMISSION NAME: Nebraska Children's Commission
CONTACT PERSONS: Kerry Winterer, CEO, DHHS, (402) 471-9433
Karen Authier, Chairperson, (402) 898-7754
Beth Baxter, Vice Chairperson, (308) 237-5113

General Information:

LB 821, passed during the 2012 Legislative Session, created the Nebraska Children's Commission. Responsibilities include 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.
- Recommend, either by the establishment of a new division within DHHS or establishment of a new state agency, options for attaining the intent of this act.
- Provide a permanent forum for collaboration among state, local, community, public and private stakeholders in child welfare programs and services.

Also required are a committee to examine state policy regarding the prescription and administration of psychotropic drugs for state wards, a committee to examine the structure and responsibilities of the Office of Juvenile Services, and other committees as necessary.

Progress Summary:

The Nebraska Children's Commission met on August 14, 2012, at the Country Inn and Suites, Lincoln, NE. The meeting agenda and minutes are attached.

Members of the Psychotropic Medication Committee have been named. They are:

Jennifer Nelson, Chairperson; Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Co-Chairperson; Commission members Beth Baxter, Norman Langemach, and Vicky Weisz; Pam Allen, Executive Director, NFAPA; Amanda Blankenship, CASA; Sara Goscha, DHHS Division of Children and Family Services; Carla Lasley, Collaborative Industries; Kayla Pope, M.D., Boys Town National Research Hospital; Blaine Shaffer, M.D., Chief Clinical Officer, DHHS Division of Behavioral Health; Gary Rihanek, PharmD, Wagey Drugs; Kristi Weber, PRN, VP of Program, Epworth Village; and Gregg Wright, M.D., M.Ed, Center on Children, Families and the Law.

Members of the Juvenile Services Committee have been named. They are:

Martin Klein, Chairperson; Ellen Brokofsky, Co-Chairperson; Kim Culp, Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center Director; Rachel Daughterty, Hall County Public Defender's Office; Sarah Forrest, Voices for Children; Judge Larry Gendler, 2nd Judicial District/Sarpy County Juvenile Court; Kim Hawekottee, CEO, KVC; Anne Hobbs, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute; Jana Peterson, Administrator, DHHS Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center at Kearney; Ron Johns, Gering Detention Center Director; Nick Juliano, Boys Town; Corey Steel, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Juvenile Services/Office of Probation Administration; and Monica Miles Steffens, Juvenile Detention Alternatives State Director.

Both the Psychotropic Medication Committee and the Juvenile Services Committee are scheduled to meet in late September.

Issues:

No issues have been brought forward to date.

Recommendations:

Recommendations are expected in future reports.

NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

Third Meeting

August 14, 2012

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Country Inn and Suites, Lighthouse Room

5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

- I. Call to Order (Beth Baxter)
 - a. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of July 16, 2012, Minutes
- V. Approval of August 1, 2012, Report to the Health and Human Services Committee
- VI. Public Comment

Public comment will be limited to three minutes per person and fifteen minutes total unless otherwise announced by the vice chairperson at the beginning of the public comment period. Persons wishing to offer public comment will be asked to provide name and address.
- VII. Vice-Chairperson's Report (Beth Baxter)
 - a. Progress on hiring staff
 - b. Status of RFP's
- VIII. Committee Reports
 - a. Psychotropic Medication Committee (Candy Kennedy-Goergen)
 - b. Juvenile Services Committee (Marty Klein)
 - c. Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (Thomas Pristow)
 - d. IV-E Demonstration Project Committee (Thomas Pristow)
- IX. Legislative Report (Sen. Campbell)
 - a. Legislative role in child welfare
 - b. Update on Interim Studies
 - c. Expectations regarding the Strategic Plan
- X. Children and Family Services Report (Thomas Pristow)
- XI. Collaborative Work Process (Candy Kennedy-Goergen)
- XII. New Business
 - a.
- XIII. General Discussion
- XIV. Next Meeting Date
 - a. Friday, September 14
- XV. Adjourn

Nebraska Children's Commission

Third Meeting
August 14, 2012
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Country Inn and Suites, Lighthouse Room
5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

Call to Order

Beth Baxter called the meeting to order at 9:00am. The Open Meetings Act information is posted as required by state law.

Roll Call

Commission Members present: Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, Thomas Pristow, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab and Kerry Winterer.

Commission Members absent: Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Dale Shotkoski.

Ex Officio Members present: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Senator Lavon Heidemann, and Hon. Linda Porter.

Ex Officio Members absent: Vicky Weisz and Ellen Brokofsky.

Also in attendance: Governor Dave Heineman; Vicki Maca, Terri Nutzman, Nathan Busch, Wes Nespor, Neleigh Korth, Russ Reno, and Bonnie Engel from the Department of Health and Human Services; and Jeremiah Blake from the Governor's Policy Research Office.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Candy Kennedy-Goergen to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Gene Klein. A unanimous voice vote of voting members present was received. Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

Dale Shotkoski and Vicky Weisz arrived at 9:03am.

Approval of July 16, 2012, Minutes

A motion was made by Norman Langemach to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2012, meeting, seconded by John Northrop. A unanimous voice vote of voting members present was

Committee Reports

Psychotropic Medication Committee

Candy Kennedy-Goergen provided an update on the members to be appointed to the Psychotropic Medication Committee – Pam Allen and Sara Goscha.

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

Juvenile Services Committee

Committee update will be taken up when Martin Klein is present at the meeting.

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

Thomas Pristow provided an update on the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee, including a written report.

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

IV-E Demonstration Project Committee

Thomas Pristow and Vicky Weisz provided an update on the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee, including a written report.

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

A motion was made by Kerry Winterer to approve Gene Klein's appointment to the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee and to serve as the Co-Chairperson of the Committee, seconded by Thomas Pristow. Voting yes: Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-

Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, and Mary Jo Pankoke. Motion carried.

Recessed at 10:25am.

Reconvened at 10:43am with all members present as before.

Collaborative Work Process

Candy Kennedy-Goergen provided her perspective on collaborative work process.

New Business

General Discussion no action item

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is September 14, 9:00-12:00pm, location to be determined.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Thomas Pristow to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Becky Sorensen. The meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

Psychotropic Medication Committee

Report to the Nebraska Children's Commission

Chairperson: Jennifer Nelson

Co-Chairperson: Candy Kennedy-Goergen

Commission members

- Beth Baxter
- Norman Langemach
- Vicky Weisz

Committee members approved by the commission

- Amanda Blankenship, CASA, Lincoln
- Carla Lasley, Collaborative Industries; formerly Division of Developmental Disabilities NDHHS
- Kayla Pope, M.D., Psychiatrist, Boys Town National Research Hospital
- Blaine Shaffer, M.D., Chief Clinical Officer Division of Behavioral Health, NDHHS
- Gary Rihancek, PharmD, Wagey Drug, Lincoln
- Kristi Weber, APRN (psychiatric and family medicine), VP or Program, Epworth Village; private clinical practice
- Gregg Wright, M.D., M.Ed Center on Children, Families and the Law; Pediatrician; public health
- Pam Allen, Foster Care
- Sara Goscha, Special Projects Administrator for the Director, NDHHS

Meeting dates

September 25, 2012 – 2:30pm-4:30pm at Bryan LGH West, Lincoln.

November 6, 2012 – 2:00pm-4:00pm at Bryan LGH West, Lincoln

Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee

Report to the Nebraska Children's Commission

Chairperson: Martin Klein, Nebraska Children's Commission

Co-Chairperson: Ellen Brokofsky, Nebraska Children's Commission

Committee members approved by the commission on July 16, 2012

- Kim Culp
- Rachel Daugherty
- Sarah Forrest
- Judge Larry Gendler
- Kim Hawekottee
- Anne Hobbs
- Jana Peterson
- Ron Johns
- Nick Juliano
- Corey Steel
- Monica Miles Steffens
- Pastor Tony Sanders – addition since last commission meeting (to be voted on 9/14/12)
- Dalene Walker – addition since last commission meeting (to be voted on 9/14/12)

Resources to the Committee:

- Sen. Kathy Campbell
- Sen. Colby Coash
- Doug Koebernick
- Jerall Moreland – addition since last commission meeting
- Liz Neeley
- Terri Nutzman
- Dan Scarborough – addition since last commission meeting
- Amy Williams – addition since last commission meeting

OPEN Slots:

- Nominations for two slots were considered. Recommendations for these two slots are posted above with the language, "addition since last commission meeting."

*First meeting to be held September 26, 2012 – 2:00pm-4:00pm, Lincoln. Additional videoconference sites TBD.

General Information

LB 820, Sec. 4 & 5 requires the Department to create a committee to develop a standard statewide foster care reimbursement rate structure. This will include a statewide standardized level of care assessment and tie performance with payments to achieve permanency outcomes for children and families.

Progress Summary

The full Committee (Thomas Pristow, Chair) met:

- June 20, 2012
- July 11, 2012
- August 6, 2012
- September 5, 2012

Two sub-committees were established at the June 20, 2012 meeting.

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Sub-Committee (Sara Goscha, Lead) met:

- July 9; and July 30, 2012
 - Reimbursement Rate discussion involves assessing what it costs to raise a child.
 - The sub-committee evaluated Nebraska's FCPAY documentation, the M.A.R.C. study, and the USDA Cost of raising children by age group.
 - An average of the USDA urban Midwest 2-parent families in the lowest and middle income brackets were used (before tax income <\$59,250; \$59,251-102,590). Health care, child care & education were excluded from the calculations, as they are paid for separately.
 - The rates are comparable to the M.A.R.C. recommendations.

Combined to match M.A.R.C. Ages Groups:		With Transp.	With Transp.
0-2	0-2	\$ 20.03	\$ 609.17
3-9	3-5, 6-8	\$ 21.60	\$ 657.08
10-18	9-11, 12-14, 15-18	\$ 24.40	\$ 742.22

- Next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2012
- Topics requiring more consideration are Transportation, and whether to split age groupings.

The Foster Care Level of Care Sub-Committee (Lana Temple-Plotz, Lead) met:

- June 28; July 11; July 30; August 17; and September 5, 2012
- The Level of Care sub-committee is reviewing multiple assessment tools from several states.
- An assessment tool and a set of rates are expected to be recommended in October and November.

The Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar is being used for meeting notices. DHHS established public web pages for the Commission activity, and posts final minutes for this committee on-line. <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/childrenscommission.aspx>

General Information

LB 820 requires the Department to appoint a IV-E Demonstration Committee. The committee shall review, report and provide recommendations regarding the application for a demonstration project to apply for a IV-E Waiver. This effort may include hiring a consultant. The committee will review the current Title IV-E participation and penetration rates, review strategies and solutions for raising Nebraska's participation rate and reimbursement for Title IV-E in child placement, case management, replacement, training, adoption, court findings, and proceedings and recommend specific actions for addressing barriers to participation and reimbursement. The committee shall create an implementation plan and time line for making application for a Title IV-E waiver. The Implementation plan shall support and align with the goals of the statewide strategic plan requirement in LB 821.

Progress Summary

The IV-E Demonstration Project Committee (Sara Goscha, Chair) met:

- June 21, 2012
- July 13, 2012
- August 8, 2012
 - Gene Klein, Executive Director of Project Harmony joined the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee by the Nebraska Children's Commission.
- September 7, 2012

Two sub-committees were formed at the June 21 meeting, these are public meetings.

- IV-E Penetration Rate Sub-Committee (Lead Vicky Weisz, Lead) met:
 - July 11; and August 15, 2012
- Demonstration Project Implementation Plan & Timeline Sub-Committee (Sara Goscha, Lead) met on:
 - July 10; August 3; and September 11, 2012

- A great deal of data has been reviewed and continues to be evaluated by the sub-committees.
- The Implementation Sub-Committee is outlining the goals of the demonstration project, discussing policy improvement plans, and beginning a time line for the waiver.
- The DHHS Strategic Plan for increasing the penetration rate was shared with the Penetration Rate Sub-Committee.
- Agendas and minutes are available.
- Recommendations regarding the IV-E Penetration Rate efforts and the IV-E Demonstration Project Implementation Plan are expected in October.

IV-E Disallowance

Nebraska received a disallowance letter for IV-E funds paid through the lead agencies for 2010. Federal staff in Washington, DC are working with Nebraska to continue with the efforts to submit a waiver application

Nebraska Children's Commission - Strategic Planning

Overarching questions for Strategic Planning

1. What should a system designed for the benefit of children and families look like?
2. What experience do we want children and families to have in the system?

Vision and Values

What are our values?

What is our Vision – what will it look like when we succeed?

Is there a way to “flip the pyramid: and maintain our values?

Priorities and Objectives

What are the key issues to address?

What are the priorities?

What view should the Commission take – 5000, 10000-50000?

Where are we going?

How do we know when we arrive?

How can we achieve permanency quicker?

NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

SUMMARY OF SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

August 14, 2012

"What questions should a strategic plan for child welfare answer?"

Present: Senator Kathy Campbell, Judge Linda Porter, Beth Baxter, Vicki Weisz, Martin Klein, Dale Shotkoski, Kerry Winterer

- What should a system designed for the benefit of children and families look like?
- What experience do we want children and families to have in the system?
- What is the best way (best practice) to provide services?
- What are the objectives of the system?
- What is the timeline for implementing the plan?
- How can we identify potential DHHS wards before they come into the system?
- How best to pay for services for children and families?
- Are the system's resources allocated appropriately, and, if not, how to re-allocate resources?
- How can we achieve permanency quicker?
- How can we better use technology?
- How can we better integrate with other services/entities (Eyes of the Child, private entities)?
- What is the role of the case worker?
- What is the best service delivery approach for CFS?
 - Case management/care coordination
 - Linkages
 - Brokering
- How can we ensure the behavioral health needs of children and families are being met without families relinquishing custody of their children?
- What should be included in a comprehensive service array to meet the various needs of children and their families?

Tom's Team

Notes from the 8/14 Nebraska Children's Commission Lunch

Attendees: Nancy Fourney
Candy Kennedy-Goergen
Gene Klein
Norman Langemach
Lisa Lechowicz
Thomas Pristow
Susan Staab
Bonnie Engel

What are the Questions should the Strategic Plan answer?

The Strategic Plan should be a Map for the Child Welfare System for Nebraska for the next 2-5 years. As such we came up with the following questions:

- (1) What are the key issues to address?
- (2) What are the priorities?
- (3) What view should the Commission take – 5000, 10000-50000?
- (4) What are our values?
- (5) Where are we going?
- (6) How do we get there?
- (7) How do we know when we arrive?
- (8) What are the key measurements?
- (9) What is our Vision – what will it look like when we succeed?
- (10) Is there a way to “flip the pyramid: and maintain our values?
- (11) How do we get everyone on the same page?
- (12) What assumptions do we make in the process today and are they still valid?
- (13) How do communities address gaps in service?
- (14) What are our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWAT)?
- (15) How do we ensure all systems communicate and align with the plan?
- (16) How do we tie the Educational System into the process?
- (17) How do we incorporate all the current legislation into the plan?
- (18) How do we use data to meet the goals?
- (19) What data is available?
- (20) What data do we need?

We also had other questions/suggestions as follows:

- What are the current case loads and cost per child and what are the benchmarks?
- What is the hiring process for case workers and others in the process?
- What are the salary ranges for the various positions?
- What happened to ICCU?
- What happened to the Birth to Age 5 initiative?
- What programs worked in the past and can they be resurrected?
- How do funds flow and what improvements can be made?
- Would creating specialized tracks for each child be beneficial?
- Please continue to disseminate information to the Commission so we can communicate to stakeholders we represent.

Submitted 8/24/2012

Lisa Lechowicz