

Nebraska Children's Commission

Thirteenth Meeting
July 16, 2013
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Country Inn and Suites, Omaha Room
5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

Call to Order

Karen Authier called the meeting to order at 9:05am and noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the room as required by state law.

Roll Call

Commission Members present: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab.

Commission Members absent: Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski.

Ex Officio Members present: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Hon. Linda Porter, Thomas Pristow, Julie Rogers, and Kerry Winterer.

Ex Officio Members absent: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Jeremy Nordquist, and Vicky Weisz.

Also in attendance: Leesa Sorensen from the Nebraska Children's Commission.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to approve the agenda, as written. The motion was seconded by Becky Sorensen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of June 18, 2013, Minutes

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2013, meeting. The motion was seconded by Pam Allen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin

Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report

Karen Authier provided the Commission with a list on interim studies that relate to the work of the Children's Commission. Karen also indicated that Senator Campbell, Senator Coash, and Anna Eickholt from Senator Dubas's office will be providing additional information during the legislative update.

Karen noted that the Nebraska Children's Commission has certain requirements related to the foster care rates and assessments that were outlined in LB530. These requirements include reporting that is due on October 1, 2013; December 1, 2013; and February 1, 2014; and appointment of a Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee by January 1, 2016. Karen suggested that the Commission consider creating the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee earlier than 2016 so that the committee can provide input for the required reports. Karen noted that a panel will be providing information to the Commission during the meeting to update Commission members regarding progress toward implementation of the recommendations developed by the Foster Care Rate Committee in 2012 and approved by the Commission for inclusion in the Phase 1 Strategic Plan.

Karen requested that Beth Baxter report on the System of Care grant that had been awarded to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Beth provided the Commission with information on the planning grant that has been awarded to DHHS Division of Behavioral Health. Beth informed the Commission that the grant is to be used for planning and expanding the current initiatives for children/youth with Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED) and their families. Beth noted that there are several references to the Nebraska Children's Commission in the grant and that the System of Care workgroup will be working to help identify how the Commission will be involved with the grant process. The project is specifically designed to help children with SED through integration of behavioral health, the child welfare, school, and juvenile justice systems. A small workgroup, led by Sheri Dawson from DHHS Behavioral Health, that includes Vicki Maca and Candy Kennedy-Goergen will be meeting to begin to figure out how the group will expand on current initiatives and build on the foundation that has already been created. Beth noted that she will be working with Sheri Dawson and Vicki Maca to set up a panel discussion for the August or September Nebraska Children's Commission meeting.

Legislative Update

Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Coash, and Anna Eickholt from Senator Dubas's office provided a brief update on legislative issues.

Senator Campbell noted that the Health and Human Services Committee has twenty six interim studies for consideration. She noted that many of the legislative resolutions relate to bills that are already drafted and have had public hearings. Some of the interim studies may also be handled in other manners including through the use of workgroups that will help discuss and develop ideas further. Senator Campbell did note that she anticipates that there will be a public hearing on LR387 which examines how Nebraska is utilizing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds.

Senator Coash noted that the Judiciary Committee also has approximately twenty six interim studies that are being reviewed and prioritized for the committee and the committee staff. Senator Coash informed the Commission members that he anticipates that some interim study work will be done to examine additional issues related to juvenile justice reform included in LB561. Specifically, additional work is anticipated to identify issues related to detention needs and the need for additional juvenile justice resources.

Anna Eickholt from Senator Dubas's office noted that there will not be a public hearing on LR209 because of all the work that was done on LB530. Instead, Senator Dubas will be working with a smaller workgroup to determine what other legislation may be needed related to foster care rate and assessment issues. Anna indicated that she anticipates that this workgroup will meet throughout the fall to identify any additional legislative needs. She also noted that LR238 on Access Nebraska was being looked at by the Health and Human Services Committee.

Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee Report

Mary Jo Pankoke gave a report on the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Supports Advisory Committee. She provided Commission members an agenda for the next meeting that will be held on July 31, 2013. The handout included a summary of the six proposed workgroups that will be formed to develop recommendations related to the work required by LB216. The proposed workgroups are: 1) Eligibility and Transition from Current Service Array; 2) Case Management and Supportive Services; 3) Placement; 4) Case Oversight; 5) Communication/Marketing; and 6) State Extended Guardianship Assistance Program. Mary Jo indicated that the advisory committee will also be meeting a second time on September 3, 2013.

Foster Care Rate and Assessment Status Report

Lana Temple-Plotz and Theresa Webster on behalf of the Foster Family-Based Treatment Association (FFTA); Barb Nissen on behalf of Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (NFAPA); and Sara Goscha and Director Thomas Pristow on behalf of DHHS provided an update on the status of implementation of the foster care rate and assessment process outlined in LB530.

Thomas reported that DHHS has begun training on the use of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment and that DHHS will be administering the assessments in all cases. Sara indicated that DHHS has selected four counties for the pilot CANS assessment implementation. The pilot program will include Lancaster, Adams, Lincoln, and Platte counties

and will provide a good representation of the youth in out of home care for both urban and rural populations. Thomas noted that data will be collected and evaluated during the pilot process and will be made available to the Commission for the reports that are required by LB530.

Lana, Theresa, and Barb provided information on the need to educate foster families on the changes made by LB530. It was noted that families may not be aware of the pilot process and that the families will need to understand the assessment tool and the benefit that it will provide in having a more complete picture of children's needs. FFTA and NFAPA will be collaborating with DHHS on the process of implementing the assessments and the foster care rate process that will follow. It was also noted that it will be important to develop a collaborative process with probation for the population of youth in the juvenile justice system that are placed in foster homes.

The panel reminded Commission members that the research on the foster care rate and assessment evaluation process was completed in 2012. This research was used by the legislature in crafting LB530. The reports from the original committees' research were included in appendix F of the Nebraska Children's Commission Phase I Strategic Plan.

Following the panel presentation, Karen Authier provided Commission members with a copy of LB530 which includes information regarding reporting requirements on the CANS pilot and rate recommendations and provision for the Commission to appoint the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee. Karen advised that although LB530 required that the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee be created by January 1, 2016, it will be helpful to have this committee in place to help with the reports and evaluations that are required by LB530 within the next 6 months.

Beth Baxter made a motion that the Nebraska Children's Commission create the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee and begin taking nominations for the committee. The motion was seconded by Pam Allen. During discussion of the motion, Commission members discussed how this committee will relate to the previous committees that were created in 2012 by LB820. Thomas Pristow indicated that the LB820 foster care rate committee had completed its work. Karen indicated that the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee that was the subject of the motion will be building upon the work that was completed by the previous committee. In the absence of further discussion on the motion, the Commission members voted. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

Karen provided the group with a Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Nomination Form that can be completed by individuals who have interest in serving on the newly created rate committee. Completed nomination forms are due to Leesa Sorensen by August 9, 2013, so that a slate of nominees can be considered at the Nebraska Children's Commission meeting in August.

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to recess the Commission meeting for work group meetings. The motion was seconded by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier,

Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

The Commission recessed at 10:20am for work group discussions that included members of the public.

The Commission reconvened at 11:15am.

Commission Members present: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab.

Commission Members absent: Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski.

Ex Officio Members present: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Hon. Linda Porter, Thomas Pristow, Julie Rogers, and Kerry Winterer.

Ex Officio Members absent: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Jeremy Nordquist, and Vicky Weisz.

Phase II Strategic Plan – Workgroup Reports

Each workgroup reported on the work they are currently doing related to the four goals included in the Phase 1 Strategic Plan:

System of Care

The System of Care workgroup discussed the Nebraska DHHS System of Care Planning Project grant. The committee specifically talked about how the workgroup can develop and determine strategies to integrate the Commission's role in the planning grant and support the Department of Health and Human Services' efforts of furthering system of care principles throughout the child and family-serving systems as the workgroup moves forward with Phase II strategic plan recommendations. The group discussed the need to collaborate with probation and the foster care rate committee. The group also noted that they need to address funding issues and the need for consistency of implementation across the state.

Technology

The Technology workgroup finalized the work group charter to define the scope of the work and role that the workgroup will have. The workgroup meet on July 12 at the Executive building in Lincoln. The workgroup received an update on the Georgetown Project and discussed information exchange. The workgroup also received an update from the Foster Care Review Office (FCRO) on their data needs, which was included in the June 2013 FCRO report. The workgroup decided that future meetings of the workgroup will be held on the first Friday of each month with the next meeting being scheduled for August 2. Dave Newell also reported that

the workgroup needed input from the Commission on the whole population measures that will shape the focus of the Commission's work going forward. This whole population measure will be consistent with the guidance that was given by Dr. Deb Daro in the presentation the Commission received in June. Karen indicated that the Commission will plan for a facilitated discussion on whole population outcomes at the September Commission meeting.

Community Ownership

The Community Ownership workgroup held listening sessions in May and June with five communities. The workgroup is currently putting together a summary of the recommendations and information that was collected from these sessions. The workgroup specifically highlighted the Panhandle Community group that has 15 years of experience working together. The Community Ownership group is exploring the possibility of creating a Handbook for Communities that will help share lessons learned and items to consider for newer community groups.

Workforce

The Workforce workgroup has been researching other surrounding state models related to professional workforce development and found that information is lacking. Because information is lacking, the workgroup has decided to develop workforce recommendations in the areas of staff recruitment, training/development, retention, salary and compensation, and career trajectories. The workgroup is continuing to research tuition reimbursement and student loan forgiveness possibilities.

General Discussion no action item

After the workgroup reports, the Commission members had a brief discussion on timelines and priorities for the Phase II recommendations and the format for upcoming Commission meetings. It was indicated that some of the workgroups need clarification of the focus of the Commission's work. The September meeting will be used to discuss whole population measure recommendations. Senator Campbell and Senator Coash recommended that the Commission consider doing an update on the Strategic Plan and any additional recommendations by December 1 to provide time for briefings to be scheduled for state senators before the start of the new legislative season. The briefings will be important if there is additional legislation needed.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is August 20, 2013, 9:00am-12:00pm at the Country Inns and Suites, 5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting will be held in the Omaha room.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Janteice Holston to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Candy Kennedy-Goergen. The meeting adjourned at 11:57am.