

Nebraska Children's Commission

Fourteenth Meeting
August 20, 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, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab.

Commission Members absent: Gene Klein and Andrea Miller.

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

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Jeremy Nordquist.

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

Approval of July 16, 2013, Minutes

A motion was made by John Northrop to approve minutes of the July 16, 2013, meeting. The motion was seconded by Candy Kennedy-Goergen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, and Andrea Miller were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to approve the agenda, as written. The motion was seconded by John Northrop. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab.

Voting no: none. Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, and Andrea Miller were absent. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report

Karen Authier informed the Commission members that the Nebraska Children's Commission website would be shut down by DHHS at the conclusion of the August 20, 2013, Commission meeting. The Commission is currently working on getting a new website set up but was delayed due to the budget not being in effect until July 1, 2013.

Karen also provided information on the hiring of the policy analyst as required by LB269. The Department of Administrative services has not yet completed its work on the job description. The position will be posted as soon as the description is approved.

Leesa is working on a new membership listing that will include the new Commission members added by LB269.

Karen provided an overview of the items that would be covered during the meeting including the Juvenile Services (OJS) committee action items; the nomination of committee members for the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee; the System of Care Grant panel presentation; and the presentation of facilitated conferencing information as required originally by LB821.

Karen also noted that the Commission has a large amount of work to accomplish in order to meet the deadlines established in legislation. Karen indicated that due to the volume of work, the group may need to consider extending meeting times in October and November. Karen informed the group that Leesa Sorensen would be sending out an e-mail poll to check on Commission member availability.

Legislative Update

Senator Colby Coash provided information on a November 14 public hearing regarding the front-end processes in child protective services to gather input on potential improvements. The afternoon session of the hearing will address Native American placements and jurisdiction issues. Senator Coash invited Commission members to contact him if they felt they had information and a perspective that would be helpful for the planned hearings.

Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee Report

Mary Jo Pankoke reported on the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Supports Advisory Committee (YA Committee), including an update on the July 31, 2013, meeting. The committee created six workgroups to develop recommendations related to the work required by LB216. The YA Committee collaborated with DHHS to combine the identified workgroups with internal committees already created by DHHS. The 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 reported that there has also been great participation on the workgroups by a variety of stakeholders.

Mary Jo indicated that the YA Committee will be meeting on September 3, 2013, to review the proposed recommendations from the six workgroups. The YA Committee plans to have a panel presentation on the recommendations for the Children's Commission meeting on September 17.

Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee Report

Ellen Brokofsky and Martin Klein provided an update on the Juvenile Services Committee, including a written report. The committee held a full day meeting on August 13 to continue its work on the strategic recommendations of the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee. During the August 13 meeting, the committee discussed the recommendations made in the *Nebraska Juvenile Justice System Evaluation* report written by Dr. Terry Lee. The report evaluated the Nebraska juvenile justice system and made recommendations to improve the system of care. The key points highlighted by committee members included legal representation for youth; enhanced family engagement in the juvenile justice process; evidence-based practices; and proper youth assessment. The committee will be utilizing this report as it continues the strategic planning process.

Marty reported that the committee has one nominee for a vacancy on the OJS committee. The committee voted on August 13 to nominate Cindy Gans, Director of Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice for the open committee position. Marty also noted that Stacy Conroy would no longer be functioning as a resource to the committee due to accepting a new position. A motion was made by Marty Klein to approve Cindy Gans for OJS committee membership. The motion was seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, and Andrea Miller were absent. Motion carried.

Ellen reported that on August 13, 2013, the committee approved the August 9, 2013 draft of the Solicitation of Proposals to select a technical consultant/facilitator/writer. The committee voted to recommend to the Nebraska Children's Commission that the Solicitation of Proposals be approved as written. If approved at the August 20, 2013, Children's Commission meeting, the proposal will then be immediately distributed to the community in order to contract with a technical consultant/facilitator/writer as a contractor by no later than September 3, 2013. The contractor will be working with the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee to facilitate the remaining strategic planning efforts and write a report that will fulfill the requirements as outlined in LB 561. It is the intention of the committee that the finalized draft Juvenile Services (OJS) committee report will be delivered to the Nebraska Children's Commission for consideration at its November 19, 2013 meeting. A motion was made by Marty Klein to approve the August 9, 2013 Solicitation of Proposals, as written. The motion was seconded by Susan

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

Ellen provided information on the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility visit that took place on July 19, 2013. Members of the Juvenile Services (OJS) committee and the Nebraska Children's Commission toured the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility. Warden Ryan Mahr arranged for the group to speak with three youth who are currently being held in that facility. The youth answered questions from the committee about what led to each of the youth being involved in the juvenile justice system. It was noted that many of the youth in this facility did not receive family visits and that many of the youth distrusted the juvenile justice system.

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Nominations

Karen Authier reminded Commission members about the nomination request form that was e-mailed to Commission members in July, for the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate committee. Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Pam Allen, and Thomas Pristow served as a nominating committee to prepare a slate of nominees from applications/nominations that were received.

Pam Allen provided a list of nominees for the Commission's consideration to approve as members of the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate committee and made a motion to accept the list of nominees and to have Peg Harriott function as the Chair of the committee. The nominees are: Peg Harriott (Chair), Susan Henrie, Jackie Meyer, Katie McLeese Stephenson, Ryan Suhr, Corrie Edwards, Lana Temple-Plotz, Shannon-Jo Hamilton, Barb Nissen, David Newell, Alana Pearson, Bev Stutzman, Jena Davenport, Sherry Moore, Bobby Loud, Leigh Esau, Thomas Pristow, Sara Goscha, Lindy Bryceson, Debbie Silverman, Michele Anderson, and Karen Knapp. The motion was seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Gene Klein, Andrea Miller and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Ellen Brokofsky suggested that it might be helpful to have someone representing juvenile justice issues on the committee. Ellen recommended that the committee consider adding Richard Pope. A motion was made by Susan Staab to add Richard Pope to the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate committee as an ex-officio member. The motion was seconded by Janteice Holston. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Gene Klein and Andrea Miller were absent. Motion carried.

System of Care Grant Report

Vicki Maca and Sheri Dawson provided a presentation on the Substance Abuse – Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) System of Care Expansion Planning Grant. The award period for the grant is July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, and provides a federal award of \$504,500 with a State and local match of \$311,654. The grant will be used to help create a planning framework to infuse systems of care through the system with coordination and integration across partnerships. The goals of the planning grant are to: 1) develop a plan to infuse the system of care (SOC) framework and philosophy to improve the lives of children experiencing serious mental health challenges (SED) and their families; 2) develop a logic model describing inputs, approaches, outputs and outcomes to support infusion of SOC approach statewide; and 3) develop a culturally and linguistically competent social marketing/strategic communication plan. Vicki and Sheri also reviewed the SOC structure, planning phases, key planning processes, and the SOC workgroup list of stakeholders identified in the grant application. The list of stakeholders includes the Nebraska Children’s Commission. Vicki and Sheri indicated that they would be willing to give updates to the Commission as the process moves forward.

Facilitated Conferences in Juvenile Court

Kelli Kauptman and Judge Larry Gendler provided a presentation on facilitated conferencing and mediation in Nebraska juvenile cases. The presentation including information on the purpose of facilitation/mediation, types of facilitation/mediation, outcome data, frequency of facilitation, current capacity for facilitation, and recommendations related to facilitation/mediation for consideration by the Nebraska Children’s Commission. The types of facilitation/mediation currently used include: Initial Pre-hearing Conference; Family Group Conference; PHPR – Permanency Pre-hearing Conference; PHTPR – Pre-hearing TPR Conference; Child Welfare Mediation; and Restorative Justice/Victim-offender Mediation.

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

The Commission recessed at 11:10am for work group discussions that included members of the public.

The Commission reconvened at 11:49am.

Commission Members present: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab.

Commission Members absent: Gene Klein and Andrea Miller.

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

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Jeremy Nordquist.

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:

Community Ownership

The Community Ownership workgroup discussed the possibility of creating a Handbook for Communities that will help share lessons learned and items to consider for newer community groups. The workgroup discussed how the listening session information can be used for a model or tool kit especially for smaller communities. The workgroup also discussed the need to begin formulating the next series of recommendations for the Phase II strategic plan.

Workforce

The Workforce workgroup invited DHHS staff to speak with them about workforce training, development, and human resource issues. The workgroup plans to continue those discussions at future Commission meetings. The workgroup hopes to discuss staff retention and career trajectories as a part of these future discussions. The workgroup is also researching tuition reimbursement and student loan forgiveness possibilities.

Technology

The Technology workgroup continued its discussion of whole population measures. The workgroup will meet on September 6 at 1:30pm. The workgroup plans to review information about community initiatives and information about the Iowa data system.

System of Care

The System of Care workgroup discussed the System of Care planning grant in greater detail with Vicki Maca and Sheri Dawson during the workgroup time. The workgroup specifically discussed readiness assessments, opportunities for collaboration with the Community Ownership workgroup, and the process for bringing various groups together.

New Business

John Northrop provided copies of an August 16, 2013, Hastings Tribune newspaper article about Nebraska Chief Justice Mike Heavican's tour of the Maryland Living Center. The center opened August 1 and is a permanent housing facility that works to transition homeless youth ages 16 to 24 into independent living within 12 to 18 months. The Hastings Community has been

recognized for its efforts in renovating the structure to serve the homeless youth population in their community.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is September 17, 2013, 9:00am-12:00pm at the Country Inns and Suites, 5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting will be held in the Lighthouse room.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Janteice Holston to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Becky Sorensen. The meeting adjourned at 12:02pm.