

Nebraska Children's Commission

Fifteenth Meeting
September 17, 2013
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Country Inn and Suites, Lighthouse 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.

Introduction of New Member

Legislative Bill 269 (LB269), signed by the Governor on June 4, 2013, added new members to the Commission. Andrea Miller was appointed by the Governor as a representative of a federally recognized Indian tribe residing within the State of Nebraska. Andrea is an attorney in western Nebraska and is a member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe. She is a voting member of the Children's Commission.

Roll Call

Commission Members present: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab.

Commission Members absent: Beth Baxter, Janteice Holston, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Becky Sorensen.

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

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Kathy Campbell and Senator Jeremy Nordquist.

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 Marty Klein. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Beth Baxter, Janteice

Holston, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Becky Sorensen were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of August 20, 2013, Minutes

A motion was made by Candy Kennedy-Goergen to approve minutes of the August 20, 2013, meeting. The motion was seconded by Pam Allen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Beth Baxter, Janteice Holston, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Becky Sorensen were absent. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report

Karen Authier provided a brief chair's report. The Nebraska Children's Commission received 90 applications for the Policy Analyst position. Thirty of those applications were deemed eligible to move forward in the process. The Commission website is still under construction and Leesa is working on contact lists for the committees and workgroups. Karen then provided an overview of the items on the agenda including and advised members that the meetings for October and November would be extended to 3:30pm to allow the Commission members time to address the various tasks required by statute.

Public Comment

Teresa Dameron from the Santee Sioux Nation Indian Center provided Commission members with information on the system of care planning that is being done to create a more culturally sensitive system of care model. Because of the group's work they have created a Society of Care model and have created a design for a Natural Helpers network. Teresa provided Commission members with a document that contained the key elements of the Society of Care model that has been created. Additional information is available at www.societyofcare.org.

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Report

Karen Authier introduced Peg Harriott who will be chairing the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee. Peg gave a verbal report on the work that has been done to set up the first meeting. The committee's first meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 18 from 9:00am to noon. The committee will be reviewing the work of the previous committee, monitoring the Assessment Pilot Project and developing recommendations regarding foster care rates, including attention to administrative rate issue for agency based foster care in accordance with the responsibilities assigned by LB530.

Level of Care Assessment Pilot Project Report

Thomas Pristow provided a one page written report on the LB530 Level of Care Assessments pilot. The report included milestones for work done from June through September of 2013. During the pilot project a minimum of 350 assessments will be completed between the urban and rural pilot sites.

A motion was made by Susan Staab to approve the Level of Care Assessment report and submit the report on behalf of the Nebraska Children's Commission as the progress report required by LB 530. The motion was seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Beth Baxter, Janteice Holston, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Becky Sorensen were absent. Motion carried.

Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee Report

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

The Juvenile Services (OJS) committee received 3 proposals for the Technical Consultant/Facilitator/Writer position. On September 5, 2013, Schmeackle Research Inc. was selected as the contractor for this project.

The Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee met on September 10, 2013. Joan Frances facilitated the discussion with assistance from Joyce Schmeackle and Will Schmeackle. The committee created draft framework recommendations to add to the strategic planning efforts. The committee will meet again for facilitated discussion on October 8, 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 Mary Klein to approve Schmeackle Research Inc. as the contractor for providing the facilitation and to write the report as required by LB 561. The motion was seconded by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Beth Baxter, Janteice Holston, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Becky Sorensen were absent. Motion carried.

Alternative Response Progress Report

Jim Blue, Gene Klein, Emily Kluver, and Thomas Pristow provided a panel presentation on the alternative response implementation planning that is underway in accordance with provisions of LB 561. Emily and Thomas provided an overview of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) planning meetings that have been taking place. Jim and Gene then provided information on issues the Commission may want to consider as the alternative response plan is developed. Jim and Gene reviewed critical questions and issues that still need to be answered and addressed for families that are diverted into the alternative response path: 1) Who will oversee participation?; 2) What services will be available?; 3) Who will provide those services? DHHS or private entities?; 4) Who will fund the payment for services? IV-E or some other source?; 5) What structure will be used for youth who are not under court jurisdiction? Gene also reviewed the need for a process for stakeholders to weigh in on the issues outside of the DHHS meeting process.

Senator Coash then provided some information on the background of the process that led to alternative response being added to the LB 561 legislation and the 19 points that he was hoping the Nebraska Children's Commission would review related to the DHHS alternative response report. Senator Coash offered to provide additional information to the Commission members on these specific points.

Gene Klein then made a motion to create a committee of the Nebraska Children's Commission to specifically focus on the 19 points of the legislation and to review and comment on the Alternative Response report from DHHS. The motion was seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. The Commission members discussed the motion and the process of creating another committee of the Commission. Based on concerns, David Newell then suggested a friendly amendment to the motion that would create the group as a sub-workgroup of the System of Care workgroup to allow more flexibility in completing the work in such a short time frame. Based on the discussion Karen Authier suggested that a group be convened as a taskforce for the purpose of dealing with this single issue. The Commission members expressed support for the more informal taskforce process to make recommendations back to the full Commission. Based on Karen's suggestion, Gene Klein withdrew his motion. Karen indicated that she would provide additional information on the taskforce at a future meeting.

Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee Report

Mary Jo Pankoke gave opening comments about the work of the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory (YAVSSA) Committee and provided a report with the group's initial recommendations. Mary Jo Pankoke, Nathan Busch, Sara Goscha, Mary Kate Gulick, Sarah Helvey, Judge Douglas F. Johnson, Mary Fraser Meints, Ronda Newman, Jenny Skala, Amy West and Amy Williams provided a panel presentation on the recommendations from each of the six workgroups: 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 YAVSSA Committee will be continuing to meet to future develop the recommendations for the report that is due on December 15, 2013.

Mary Jo Pankoke then made a motion to accept the report of the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory committee as written and have the report forwarded on to the Legislature and Governor as required by LB216. The motion was seconded by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab. Voting no: Kim Hawekotte. Beth Baxter, Janteice Holston, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Becky Sorensen were absent. Motion carried.

New Business

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is October 16, 2013, 9:00am-3:00pm at the Country Inn and Suites, 5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting will be held in the Lighthouse room.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kim Hawekotte. The meeting adjourned at 11:58am.