

Nebraska Children's Commission

Eighteenth Meeting
December 17, 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 9:07 am and noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the room as required by state law.

Roll Call

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

Commission Members absent: Pam Allen, Janteice Holston, and John Northrop.

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

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

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of November 19, 2013, Minutes

A motion was made by Kim Hawekotte to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2013, meeting. The motion was seconded by Beth Baxter. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab.

Voting no: none. Norman Langemach and Andrea Miller abstained. Pam Allen, Janteice Holston, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report

Karen Authier provided a brief chair's report including an overview of the issues to be covered during the meeting. Karen noted that the Children's Commission work and the work of the various outside committees and workgroups are at a point where the groups are beginning to provide additional substance to the ideas that are contained within the Phase 1 plan. Karen encouraged Commission members to begin to think about areas that were emerging as themes and priorities for the next phase of the Commission's work. Karen also provided a copy of the Legislative calendar and a list of proposed 2014 Nebraska Children's Commission meeting dates.

Legislative Update

Senator Colby Coash provided a legislative update. Senator Coash indicated that he appreciated the reports and feedback that had been gathered since the last Commission meeting, especially on Alternative Response. He noted that the reports would be helpful as the legislative session starts in January 2014. Senator Coash also noted that the legislative hearings that were held provided some good information on the Barriers to Permanency and ICWA issues. Senator Coash indicated that the Judiciary Committee is working on the LB561 recommendations from the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee and that a meeting would be held to review that report.

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Report

Peg Harriott provided a written progress report on the work of the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee. The committee continues to: review the ongoing results of the DHHS pilot project; identify and complete additional work with the Level of Care Assessment tool to fully operationalize the instrument; and discuss implementation implications for current foster homes, supporting agencies, DHHS, NFC, and Probation. Peg also indicated in the report that both Thomas Pristow and Liz Hruska had confirmed that the LB 530 appropriations provided sufficient funds to cover both the implementation of the base rates and the levels of care assessed rates. It was noted that the funds included in the DHHS budget for the new foster care rates would need to be including in budget negotiations with Probation and in the contract that DHHS has with NFC. Peg noted that at the third meeting the committee also changed the names of the three levels of care for the caregiver assessment tool to: Essential, Enhanced, and Intensive. Peg indicated that the committee would have a more substantive report for the January meeting of the Commission for the report that is due to the legislature on February 1, 2014.

DHHS Report

Thomas Pristow provided a brief update on the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Level of Care Assessment pilot. Thomas indicated that the report from Peg on the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate committee basically covered all the information. Thomas did note that DHHS has been working to continue to complete the level of care assessment and make sure that those

assessments are being done properly. Thomas indicated that he would be happy to share additional information on the pilot as that analysis moves farther along.

Alternative Response Model Development Update

Thomas Pristow, Vicki Maca, Jerrilyn Crankshaw, and Emily Kluver gave a DHHS update on the Alternative Response pilot sites. DHHS provided a handout with information on the pilot sites that were selected and the methodology that was used to select those sites.

DHHS also presented information on the intended roll out of the alternative response process to the pilot sites. The group indicated that DHHS does not have a set process in place to implement the alternative response pilot, but that they will work individually with each selected community to function within the infrastructures each community already has in place. Thomas also indicated that the group wants to make sure that community leaders are involved to help with the process as the group looks to expanding the process statewide. There will also be an evaluation process built in that will be done by an outside evaluator.

Commission Feedback on Alternative Response Model

Bethany Connor presented the Alternative Response Model Feedback report that summarized the feedback that was given by Nebraska Children's Commission members on the 27 ineligibility criteria proposed by DHHS. The report provides survey responses including general comments that were made by Commission members. It was noted during the presentation that only 6 Commission members responded to the survey on this issue. During discussion on the report, Senator Coash indicated that the report reflected a disappointing response rate on behalf of the Commission and again informed the Commission that the legislature would be relying on the Commissioner's input as the Alternative Response legislation moves forward. It was discovered that some Commission members didn't receive the email because of Nebraska.gov server issues. A suggestion was made to allow Commission members to provide additional input for those members who had not responded. It was decided that an electronic survey would be done to collect additional results.

Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee Report

Mary Jo Pankoke reported that Amy Williams had resigned from Senator McGill's office and that she would no longer be serving on the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee. Mary Jo indicated that an application for the open position had been received from Doug Koebernick from Senator Lathrop's office.

Mary Jo Pankoke then made a motion to appoint Doug Koebernick to the YAVSSA Committee. The motion was seconded by Marty Klein. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Pam Allen, Janteice Holston, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

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

Mary Jo Pankoke provided a written report on behalf of the Community Ownership workgroup related to facilitated conferencing and mediation in juvenile court cases. The workgroups report included information on Prehearing Conferences, Family Group Conferencing, Victim-Offender Mediation, and Evaluation Results. During discussion of the report, it was also suggested that facilitated conferencing and mediation be extended to include tribal courts.

Mary Jo Pankoke then made a motion to have the Nebraska Children’s Commission adopt the Community-Ownership recommendation and send the report to the Governor, DHHS, the Legislature, and the Chief Justice. The motion was seconded by Becky Sorensen. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Pam Allen, Janteice Holston, and John Northrop were absent. Candy Kennedy-Goergen and Marty Klein were absent for the vote. Motion carried.

Technology

David Newell provided information on the Whole Population discussion that was planned after the Nebraska Children’s Commission meeting. Dave explained that the Whole Population process would help the group look at what areas within the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice system the Commission might want to consider as Safety, Well-Being, and Permanency outcomes.

Dave then explained that Bethany Connor had provided a summary report on the work that the Technology workgroup had completed. The report provides information on the various systems that the workgroup has reviewed and provides recommendations.

David Newell then made a motion to have the Nebraska Children’s Commission accept the Technology workgroup report and forward it to the Health and Human Services Committee and to DHHS for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Marty Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Pam Allen, Janteice Holston, and John Northrop were absent.

Workforce

Susan Staab provided a list of key recommendations on behalf of the Workforce workgroup. The report included recommendations on Staff Recruitment, Training and

Development, Retention, Salary and Compensation, and Career Trajectories. Susan noted that the workgroup would be providing more detail concerning their recommendations.

System of Care

The System of Care workgroup is continuing to work on the System of Care grant with Behavior Health and focus groups. The group reported that the statewide kickoff meeting was well attended. It was also noted that meetings have been set up with a consultant to help with the process. It was suggested that DHHS Behavioral Health be asked to give a report out at an upcoming Commission meeting.

Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee Report

Ellen Brokofsky and Martin Klein provided an update on the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee report that was provided to the Judiciary Committee on December 13, 2013. Marty and Ellen noted that the recommendations included a suggestion to transition the system to a more regionally based system. The recommendations also suggest that the Juvenile Services Committee be created as a more permanent entity to oversee the continued work of juvenile justice reform. The Commission members agreed that the report should be reviewed in greater detail at the January 2014 Commission meeting. Marty and Ellen did indicate that it would be helpful to allow the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee to continue to meet to address issues related to the report. Commission members were also asked to review the report and provide feedback to Leesa Sorensen for the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee to consider.

A motion was made by David Newell to allow the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee of the Nebraska Children's Commission to continue to meet as needed to address juvenile justice issues. The motion was seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Becky Sorensen. Voting no: none. Pam Allen, Janteice Holston, and John Northrop were absent. Susan Staab was absent for the vote. Motion carried.

New Business

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is January 22, 2014, 9:00am-12:00pm. Information on the meeting location will be sent at a later date.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Norman Langemach. The meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.