

Nebraska Children's Commission – Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee

Thirteenth Meeting
November 12, 2013
9:00AM-4:30PM
Country Inns & Suites, Lighthouse Room
5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

Call to Order

Ellen Brokofsky and Marty Klein called the meeting to order at 9:09am and noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the room as required by state law.

Roll Call

Subcommittee Members present: Martin Klein, Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Barb Fitzgerald, Sarah Forrest, Cindy Gans, Judge Larry Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Mark Mason, Jana Peterson, Pastor Tony Sanders, Corey Steel, and Dr. Ken Zoucha.

Acting as resources to the committee: Jim Bennett, Tony Green, Liz Hruska, Doug Koebernick, Jerall Moreland, Julie Rogers, and Dan Scarborough.

Subcommittee Member(s) absent: Tina Marroquin, Monica Miles Steffens, and Dalene Walker.

Resource members absent: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Liz Neeley, Jenn Piatt, Hank Robinson, and Amy Williams.

Also attending: Bethany Connor and Leesa Sorensen.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Ron Johns to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Dr. Ken Zoucha. Voting yes: Martin Klein, Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Sarah Forrest, Cindy Gans, Kim Hawekotte, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Mark Mason, Jana Peterson, Corey Steel, and Dr. Ken Zoucha. Voting no: none. Barb Fitzgerald, Judge Larry Gendler, Anne Hobbs, Tina Marroquin, Pastor Tony Sanders, Monica Miles Steffens, and Dalene Walker were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of October 8, 2013, Minutes

A motion was made by Nick Juliano to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2013, meeting, seconded by Sarah Forrest. Voting yes: Martin Klein, Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Barb Fitzgerald, Sarah Forrest, Cindy Gans, Kim Hawekotte, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Mark Mason,

Jana Peterson, Corey Steel, and Dr. Ken Zoucha. Voting no: none. Judge Larry Gendler, Anne Hobbs, Tina Marroquin, Pastor Tony Sanders, Monica Miles Steffens, and Dalene Walker were absent. Motion carried.

Co-chair's Report

Ellen Brokofsky and Marty Klein gave a co-chair's report. Ellen and Marty started the meeting by asking everyone what their assessment was of the draft report. Several committee members expressed a concern that the recommendations were not strong enough and that the language needed to be changed to make the recommendations more specific. Ellen also noted that Leesa Sorensen had written a summary for the beginning of the report that gives an overview of the Committee's work. The Ideal Treatment chart and Continuum of Service chart was also handed out for consideration by the committee. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the discussion of the report.

Draft Report Review and Discussion

The committee discussed further the general outline of the report and how the report relates to the work of the Nebraska Children's Commission. A suggestion was made that oversight for the final report was needed as the recommendations move to the implementation phase. It was suggested that the committee consider using the same set up that Georgia is using. Additional information was gathered during the meeting and the committee determined that the Georgia model for oversight did not include enough state representatives. A suggestion was then made to create a list of the parties that would be needed on an oversight group. The committee began creating a list and then tabled the discussion until later in the meeting.

The committee then discussed a variety of recommendations to consider adding to the report. One committee member recommended utilizing assessment based decisions by adding a recommendation to the report that when an assessment is done that the assessment results should be utilized. Several committee members recommended making changes to the community aid process through the Crime Commission. A recommendation was made to consider using those funds to incentivize counties to create programs that keep kids out of the juvenile justice system.

The committee also discussed the recommendations related to the YRTC's. A suggestion was made that the committee may not be able to make clear cut recommendations on the YRTC's as it is still unclear how the changes made by LB561 will impact the number of youth who get sent to the YRTC's. The committee recommended making comments that the data on commitment numbers should be reviewed to see what changes need to be made to the YRTC's. The committee also had a brief discussion of how important community-based services are to the process, especially for after care for youth that are released from the YRTC's. The committee also discussed the need for enhanced programs to address substance abuse issues.

The committee then discussed a variety of issues related to the structure of the report and the recommendations that related to the Nebraska Children's Commission. A motion was made by

Anne Hobbs to have the Juvenile Services (OJS) report as a stand-alone report from the Nebraska Children's Commission. The motion was seconded by Ellen Brokofsky. Voting yes: Martin Klein, Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Barb Fitzgerald, Sarah Forrest, Cindy Gans, Judge Larry Gendler, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Mark Mason, Jana Peterson, Pastor Tony Sanders, Corey Steel, and Dr. Ken Zoucha. Voting no: none. Tina Marroquin, Monica Miles Steffens, and Dalene Walker were absent. Motion carried.

The committee then returned to the discussion on the oversight committee that was needed and who should be on the committee. A motion was made that a recommendation be made to the Legislature to create an independent non-code Commission that would be charged with overseeing and coordinating all state wide juvenile justice continuum of services activities that keep kids out of the juvenile justice system. The motion was seconded by Kim Hawekotte. Voting yes: Kim Culp, Sarah Forrest, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Mark Mason, and Dr. Ken Zoucha. Voting no: Ellen Brokofsky, Barb Fitzgerald, Judge Larry Gendler, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, and Corey Steel. Abstaining: Martin Klein, Cindy Gans, and Jana Peterson. Tina Marroquin, Monica Miles Steffens, and Dalene Walker were absent. Motion failed.

The committee then discussed using the Juvenile Services (OJS) committee as the oversight committee for the juvenile justice recommendations since all entities that were added to the list are the same as the membership of the current committee. The committee also discussed the need to incorporate into that some oversight of the distribution of SAG funds to communities. A suggestion was made that the committee might want to consider structuring itself after the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate committee that was established as a committee that will continue even if the Nebraska Children's Commission sunsets. Ellen Brokofsky made a motion to create the Juvenile Services (OJS) committee as a permanent standing committee of the Nebraska Children's Commission that would continue even if the Nebraska Children's Commission sunsets; and that the legislature would empower SAG as an independent entity. The motion was seconded by Nick Juliano. Voting yes: Martin Klein, Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Barb Fitzgerald, Cindy Gans, Judge Larry Gendler, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Mark Mason, Corey Steel, and Dr. Ken Zoucha. Voting no: Sarah Forrest, Kim Hawekotte, and Jana Peterson. Anne Hobbs, Tina Marroquin, Pastor Tony Sanders, Monica Miles Steffens, and Dalene Walker were absent. Motion carried.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2013 from 9:00a.m. to 4:30p.m.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Corey Steel to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Barb Fitzgerald. The meeting adjourned at 4:17p.m.