

Bridge To Independence
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 23, 2014
2:00pm. – 3:30pm.
Chez Hay
210 N. 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-489-7445

- I. **Called to Order** by Mary Jo Pankoke at 2:19pm due to technical difficulties.
 - a. Mary Jo announced the placement of the Open Meetings Act Information.
 - b. **New member Doug Koebernick** will replace Amy Williams.
- II. **Roll Call**
 - a. **Present:** Mary Jo Pankoke, Sarah Helvey, Doug Lenz, Mary Frasier Meints, Amy Peters, Jill Schubauer, Jennifer Skala, Lana Verbrigghe, Nathan Busch, Vicky Weisz, Doug Koebernick, Brandy Gustoff (phone), Schalischa Walker (phone), Jill Schubauer(phone).
 - b. **Absent:** Jodie Austin, Corrie Edwards, Jan Fitts, Janteice Holston, Augusta Kamara, Sararose Luichinger, Richard Mazikani, Senator Kate Bolz, Judge Douglas Johnson.
 - c. **Visitors:** Doug Peters, Meagann Schweitzer, Amy West, Jessica Hilderbrand, Jason Feldhaus, Brittney Livingston, Leesa Sorensen, Bethany Conner.
- III. **Approval** of 4/23/14 Meeting Agenda. A **motion** was made by Mary Frasier Meints to approve the 4/23/14 agenda as written. The motion was **seconded** by Jennifer Skala. Voting **Yes:** Mary Jo Pankoke, Brandy Gustoff, Sarah Helvey, Doug Lenz, Mary Frasier Meints, Amy Peters, Jill Schubauer, Jennifer Skala, Lana Verbrigghe. Voting **NO, None.** Absent: Jodie Austin, Corrie Edwards, Jan Fitts, Janteice Holston, Augusta Kamara, Sararose Luichinger, Richard Mazikani. **Motion Carried.**
- IV. **Approval** of November 5, 2013 Minutes. A **motion** to approve the 11/5/2013 minutes with corrections under Review Timeline/Next Steps, sentence 2 from *Healthy Human Services* to *Health and Human Services* Committee was made by Mary Frasier Meints. The motion was **seconded** by Sarah Helvey. Voting **Yes:** Mary Jo Pankoke, Brandy Gustoff, Sarah Helvey, Doug Lenz, Mary Frasier Meints, Amy Peters, Jill Schubauer, Jennifer Skala, Lana Verbrigghe. Voting **NO, None.** Absent: Jodie Austin, Corrie Edwards, Jan Fitts, Janteice Holston, Augusta Kamara, Sararose Luichinger, Richard Mazikani. **Motion Carried.**

- V. **Timeline** of Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee is required to meet twice per year, and responsible for monitoring implementation of B2I Program, file a report with DHHS, the Governor, and Legislature by December 15th each year. The B2I report must be complete, submitted and accepted by the Children's Commission no later than November 18, 2014.
- VI. **LB 853 Report** – Sarah Helvey (refer to fact sheet handout.)
- a. Referred to as LB216 cleanup bill.
 - b. Provides guidance on how to implement the requirements of the program.
 - c. Clarifies juvenile court jurisdiction and process.
 - d. Makes technical changes.
 - e. LB 908 is a bill to create permanent guardianships within the juvenile code.
- VII. **Implementation Planning update** – Nathan Busch, Doug Peters, Meagann Schweitzer (refer to power point handout)
- a. Regulations were approved by the AG's office and submitted to the Governor's office on Jan. 16, 2014. The Governor has not yet signed nor rejected. There are two possible ways to implement B2I; the Federal IV-E Waiver Program and the State Funded Program, either way it was required to file an amended IV-E state plan by October 15, 2013. The amended plan was filed with the federal government. The government stated that they would not grant absolute approval or denial until a copy of the signed regulations has been received. All other requirements have been met. A copy of the draft regulations has been submitted to ACF in Kansas City to give a preliminary view just in case the regulations are approved then they will be able to process a fast review. A meeting will be held with the Governor on Monday, April 28, 2014 to request approval of the regulations. This group can expect an update of said meeting from Nathan soon. Mary Frasier Meints asked if giving examples of young adults impacted by the delay would help speed up the process. The response was to wait until after Monday's meeting. After the group discussion of addressing "the gap" and the formal procedures of requesting the Governor to quickly approve the regulations, a **motion** was made by Sarah Helvey as written. *If the Governor has not signed the regulations by the next Children's Commission meeting on May 20th, Mary Jo Pankoke will recommend to the Children's Commission that they send a formal request to the Governor to approve the regulations highlighting the impact of the young adults who are aging out without a program in place.* The motion was seconded by Amy Peters. Voting Yes: Mary Jo Pankoke, Brandy Gustoff, Sarah Helvey, Doug Lenz, Mary Frasier Meints, Amy Peters, Jill

Schubauer, Jennifer Skala, Lana Verbrigghe. Voting NO, None. Absent: Jodie Austin, Corrie Edwards, Jan Fitts, Janteice Holston, Augusta Kamara, Sararose Luichinger, Richard Mazikani. **Motion Carried.**

If regulations are not approved, there may be an option to request a denial from the federal government of the amended IV-E State plan to implement a state funded pilot project.

Department policies and procedures have been developed and a copy has been submitted to Sarah. **Action Item-Nathan will distribute copy of the Policies and Procedures to the group soon.**

- b. Gap Services – Since January 2014 young adults who have aged out have been receiving support from private sources coordinated through NCFE. Currently there are 22 young adults receiving support. Efforts are being made to reach out for more young adults impacted by the change.
- c. Staffing – A staff of 11 is anticipated- (4) Omaha, (1) Norfolk, (4) Lincoln, (1) Kearney, (1) North Platte, (2) Reserves. Six (6) staff members have transitioned into Independence Coordinator's positions and are unable to receive pay as the monies were appropriated under the specific Bridge program. Some have declined positions as Independence Coordinator's because of the delay in B2I implementation and uncertainty of pay for time worked. In order for staff to receive monies under the Bridge program, it must be demonstrated that the staff is spending 100% of their time on the program. Although it can be proven that the current 2 supervisors are spending 100% of their time on the B2I program, they are being paid from state general funds.
- d. Training will cover the entire B2I process which includes a 5 day classroom training session, field training exercises, and case management. Training sessions will also include the application process, initial screening, initial contact with the young adults, participation eligibility, verification of program eligibility, housing options, voluntary services and support agreement, case oversight, court processes, case review, extended adoption and federal guardianship assistance, state extended guardianship assistance, medical services provided, termination and re-engagement of services, and data collection. **Action Item-Amy West will follow up the Meagan and Doug regarding data and evaluations.** Ongoing support and training will also be offered to the Independence Coordinators. Vicky reminded the group to address substance abuse. Mary offered to share *Harm Reduction* - a nationally recognized curriculum which helps the youth make decision to reduce the ability

of being in harms- way. Jill offered services from Region III such as certified prevention training.

e. Website- <http://BRIDGETO INDEPENDENCE.NE.GOV>

VIII. Workgroups

a. Status of Current Workgroups are as follows: Policy, Case Management, and Marketing workgroups will no longer meet separately as their tasks have been completed and are now in monitoring mode which the advisory committee will conduct. Case Oversight, Fiscal Monitoring, Evaluation and Data Collection will continue to meet and report to the B2I Committee.

b. New Cross-Cutting Workgroup will address the OJS population. It will go through a similar planning process plan as LB 216. If interested please contact Jenny or Mary Jo.

IX. Next Steps are to stay abreast of B2I implementation. If regulations are approved on Monday, they will go to KC for review which could take a month or 2, therefore, the next meeting will be held in July. *Action Item-Glenda will email doodle poll 1st week of May.*

X. Adjournment. A motion was made by Mary Frasier Meints to adjourn the meeting at 3:56pm. The motion was seconded by Doug Lenz. Voting Yes, Unanimous verbal vote by all present.