

Nebraska Children's Commission

Twentieth Meeting
February 19, 2014
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 9:03am 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, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab.

Commission Members absent: Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, and John Northrop.

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

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

Also in attendance: Bethany Connor and 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 Gene Klein. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, 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. Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of January 22, 2014, Minutes

A motion was made by Candy Kennedy-Goergen to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2014, meeting as written. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Pam Allen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Gene Klein and Dale Shotkoski abstained. Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report

Karen Authier provided a brief chair's report. Karen gave Commission members an update on the status of the Nebraska Children's Commission website and provided a brief overview of the items on the agenda for the day. Karen specifically highlighted information on legislation related to Alternative Response and the coordination with Senator Coash's office and the work that was done by the Community Ownership workgroup on Facilitated Conferencing. Karen concluded her remarks by noting that there would be time on the agenda to talk about the Phase II Strategic Plan Next Steps so that a tentative plan could be outlined.

Public Comment

There were no public attendees who wished to make comments.

Legislative Update

Bethany Connor provided Commission members with a list of Legislative Bills that might be of interest to or have impact on the work of the Commission. Bethany noted that the legislature was in the process of identifying priority bills. Bethany gave a brief overview on the progress of the bills related to Alternative Response (LB503), Guardianship (LB908), Lead Agency (LB660), and Facilitated Conferencing (LB1093). It was also noted that the clean-up bill for needed juvenile justice reform will be handled in LB464. A list of scheduled legislative hearings for the legislation of interest was also distributed.

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Report

Peg Harriott provided a written progress report on the work of the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee. Peg noted that the committee had intended to bring recommendations and a more specific timeline for development of deliverables for implementation of rates by July 1, 2014, as agreed upon at the January Commission meeting. However, DHHS had provided an implementation plan and had arranged to have a consultant review the proposed foster care rates. Due to this development, the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee decided to delay the process of finalizing recommendations. At Director Pristow's invitation, he representatives of the committee will meet with DHHS and the consultant on the rates. The meeting is scheduled for March. The committee hopes to have final recommendations after that meeting. Peg also noted that Sara Goscha had resigned her position at DHHS and that Thomas had indicated that Nanette Simons had been hired as Policy Administrator and should replace Sara on the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee.

After Peg finished her report, Pam Allen made a motion to appoint Nanette Simons to the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee to fill the DHHS position on the committee that was vacated due to Sara Goscha's resignation from DHHS. The motion was seconded by Candy Kennedy-Goergen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, 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. Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

IT Workgroup Report

David Newell provided a brief update on the IT Workgroup. David noted that the workgroup had been focusing on 3 main topics: 1) use of technology; 2) whole population measures; and 3) information sharing across agencies. Dave noted that the committee is made up of subject matter experts from various agencies and that at the February meeting a Department of Education representative was included in the discussions. The committee has continued to meet monthly and has a varied group of participants based on the agenda. The agenda for the next meeting of the committee will include the review of IT related legislation and the review of an IT white paper on other states.

Workforce Workgroup

Susan Staab gave a brief update on the workforce workgroup including handing out a one page document on the key workforce recommendations. Susan noted that she would be working with Bethany to do some additional research on these key recommendations and would have a more substantial document at a future Commission meeting.

System of Care Planning Grant Update

Sheri Dawson, Deputy Director, Division of Behavioral Health, provided an update on the DHHS Systems of Care Planning Project including a handout with key items from the planning process. Sheri noted that the most recent statewide stakeholder's meeting was attended by 200 stakeholders who want to be involved in the planning process. A readiness assessment was completed and is available on the DHHS website. The planning process has been split into several planning groups. The information from the planning process will be used to apply for a system of care grant. It was noted that several Commission members are participating in the planning process. Sheri has agreed to provide updates at future Children's Commission meeting so that the System of Care workgroup and the DHHS planning process can continue to align strategic planning recommendations.

DHHS Report

Thomas Pristow provided a brief update on the IV-E Waiver correction action plan and the work that is being done on Alternative Response (AR). Thomas indicated that DHHS is continuing to move forward on implementation of Results Based Accountability by July 1 and implementation of AR by October 1, 2014. DHHS is working closely with Senator Coash and other stakeholders to make sure these two programs are implemented properly since the programs are key to the IV-E waiver process. Thomas noted that DHHS is also working to implement the pilot program for the Level of Care Assessment for the foster care reimbursement rates and that he didn't have anything else to add to the report that was previously given by Peg Harriott.

Psychotropic Medication Committee Report

Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, and Candy Kennedy-Goergen provided information on a research proposal that would assess the state of Nebraska's prescribing practices of psychotropic medications to children and adolescents across various age groups and environmental areas of care. The research would specifically look at evaluating prescribing patterns by prescribers and the rate of psychotropic medications prescribed within the past decade. A copy of the research proposal from Hailey Kimball and Margo Lorimer was distributed to Commission members. Candy and Jennifer also indicated that they would like to work with Dr. Fromm from Magellan and the two researchers to enhance the research process. Candy and Jennifer indicated that they would work with the committee to establish a time to meet. It was also noted that Sara Goscha was a member of the Psychotropic Medication Committee and would need to be replaced by Nanette also.

A motion was made by Kim Hawekotte to have the Nebraska Children's Commission's Psychotropic Medication Committee begin meeting again to review the standardized statewide protocol and to provide guidance to the research proposal; that the membership of the committee should be expanded to include the Foster Care Review Office and the Child Welfare Inspector General since each office had data to contribute to the project; and that Nanette Simmons should be added to the committee membership to fill the position previously held by Sara Goscha. The motion was seconded by David Newell. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, 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. Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Phase II Strategic Plan Next Steps Discussion

Karen Authier and Beth Baxter led Commission members in a discussion about the next steps that needed to take place for each workgroup and committee to arrive at Phase II of the Strategic plan. It was noted that a lot of work had been done by each of the groups. The Commission members brainstormed ideas for what activities should take place next. The committee also had a brief discussion on whole population measures and the need to consider bringing Deb Burnight back to facilitate a meeting in May with an updated report being looked at in June. A suggestion was also made that the Commission consider moving meetings to every other month.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 9:00am-12:00pm. Information on the meeting location will be sent at a later date.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Kim Hawekotte to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Beth Baxter. The meeting adjourned at 12:03pm.