

Nebraska Children's Commission

Twenty-sixth Meeting
August 19, 2014
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Country Inn & Suites, Lincoln Room
5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

Call to Order

Karen Authier called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. 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, Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Jennifer Clark, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Susan Staab, and Diane Tedrow.

Commission Members absent: Holly Brandt, Candy Kennedy Goergen, and Norman Langemach.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Colby Coash, Hon. Linda Porter, Thomas Pristow.

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Jeremy Nordquist, Julie Rogers, Vicky Weisz, and Kerry Winterer.

Also in attendance: Bethany Connor and Leesa Sorensen from the Nebraska Children's Commission; and Cris Copeland, Southeast Community College practicum student.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to approve the agenda, as written. The motion was seconded by Gene Klein. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Jennifer Clark, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Susan Staab, and Diane Tedrow. Voting no: none. Holly Brandt, Candy Kennedy Goergen, and Norman Langemach were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of July 15, 2014, Minutes

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2014, meeting as written. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Beth Baxter. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Susan Staab, and Diane Tedrow. Voting no: none. Pam Allen, Teresa Anderson, Holly Brandt, Jennifer Clark, and Andrea Miller abstained. Candy Kennedy Goergen, and Norman Langemach were absent. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report

Karen Authier provided a brief chair's report. Karen asked commission members to introduce themselves and give a brief description of job titles when their name was called during roll call. Karen encouraged new members to ask questions. Three new members were present for this meeting: Teresa Anderson, Jennifer Clark, and Diana Tedrow. Leesa Sorensen then provided all members with an updated Nebraska Children's Commission Contact/ Phone list.

Karen reviewed the agenda and noted that there would be a public comment time near the end of the meeting.

DHHS Update

Thomas Pristow provided an overview of the status of Alternative Response, Bridge to Independence, and Results Based Accountability initiatives:

- Alternative Response - DHHS is training staff and working on finalization of updates to the regulations. Thomas will present information on the regulations to the Commission in September with the plan for the formal approval and implementation process in October.
- Bridges to Independence - DHHS received approval of the Bridges to Independence plan from the Kansas City Regional office and is now awaiting approval at the federal level. Once DHHS received federal approval, DHHS can have the program up and running in 30 days. Thomas noted that the Sherwood Foundation would continue funding the Bridge to Independence program until the State program and funding begins.
- Results Based Accountability - August will be the first full month of data collection. Thomas there are 72 providers and DHHS is receiving about 80 percent of the total data.
- IV-E Waiver - Thomas will provide information at the September Commission meeting.

Structure Taskforce Report, Discussion, and Action Item

David Newell and Thomas Pristow presented on the Governance and Organizational Structure Recommendations for Consideration memo on behalf of the Structure Taskforce. Julie Rogers and Vicky Weisz are also members of the taskforce. The memo provides preliminary information on the topics discussed by the taskforce including a review of the taskforce assignment, vision of the Commission, expectations for Commission members, delivery of meeting materials, timing of Commission meetings, the need for bylaws, and governance procedures. The taskforce also created a chart that provides an overview of the Commission structure and assigned tasks. Commission members discussed the timing of meetings. The taskforce recommended moving to quarterly meetings. After a general discussion, Commission members reached consensus that Commission meetings should be held bi-monthly (every other month).

The Commission also discussed the need for a vision statement. It was noted that a vision statement was a necessary part of the state budgeting process that was being worked on by the FCRO and Commission staff. Kim Hawekotte made a motion that the vision statement for the Commission should be "To improve the safety and well-being of all Nebraska's children and families." The motion was second by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Teresa Anderson,

Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Jennifer Clark, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Susan Staab, and Diane Tedrow. Voting no: none. Holly Brandt, Candy Kennedy Goergen, and Norman Langemach were absent. Motion carried.

Tomas and David then reviewed the remaining taskforce recommendations and asked for comment on the forms. The recommendations included: 1) Members will be expected to attend a certain number of meetings and an attendance rule will be in place; 2) Members will be expected to serve on a Workgroup or a Committee; 3) Workgroups and Committees will meet during the months when the Commission is not meeting; 4) the commission will create an on-boarding process for new members, possibly a retreat or dinner and will set up a mentoring system.

Commission members then discussed when the next Commission meeting would be held. It was determined that the Commission will meet on September 16th, 2014, due to the fact that there were DHHS topics that Thomas was requesting Commission input on in September to meet deadlines in October.

IT and Data Sharing Workshop Report

David Newell presented on the Whole Population Discussions that took place on December 17, 2013, and May 2, 2014. Meeting notes for each meeting were provided to Commission members as reference points. Dave started with the question that provides the framework for Whole Population data: "How are all the kids in NE doing?" Whole Population data tracks outcomes related to child well-being. Meeting notes suggest several indicators and outcomes for the Commission to consider.

At the conclusion of the presentation and Commission discussion, Gene Klein made a motion for the Commission to endorse the whole population work that has been done to date and to commit to moving forward in collaboration with the Prevention Partnership. The motion was seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Jennifer Clark, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Susan Staab, and Diane Tedrow. Voting no: none. Holly Brandt, Candy Kennedy Goergen, and Norman Langemach were absent. Motion carried.

Strategic Plan Document Review and Discussion

Karen Authier noted that Commission members were provided with a copy of the Phase II Strategic Planning notes from the June 2014 Commission meeting. Karen provided an overview for the new Commission members. Karen and Beth asked Commission members to provide input on the issues that should be addressed in the next phase of planning and work by the Commission. During the discussion, Commission members recommended the following:

- Tribal Workgroup
 - Discuss Tribal Community topics
- Include Education

- Education workgroup
- County Representation is needed
 - When building community infrastructure, communities need a voice
 - County representation is important when deciding what communities need
- Address Funding
 - Understand where it is going, how it is being used
 - Fresh look at priorities and how funding is distributed
- Informal supports
- Foster parents work with birth families
 - Shared responsibility for child
- Prioritize Statutory Charge
- Foster Parent Recruitment
- Braided Funding
 - Identify priorities
 - Maximize impact of funds
 - Review funding stagnation vs funding innovation
 - Assess current funding situation
- Community Level Data
- Funding evaluation based on Evidence-based Practices

Karen indicated that these recommendations will be incorporated with notes from the facilitated discussion with a plan for review at a future meeting.

Public Comment

None.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Tuesday, September 16, 2014, 9:00am-12:00pm. Country Inns & Suites, Lighthouse Room, 5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

Adjourn

A motion was made by Susan Staab to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.