

B2I Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday June 3, 2015

11:30am – 1:30pm

The Woods Charitable Foundation

1248 O Street Suite 1130

Lincoln, NE

Conference Number. (402) 436-5971 ext. 7000

Password 100

Parking: University Square 101 N. 14th Street

Parking validation tickets distributed after meeting

- I. **Call to Order** by Mary Jo Pankoke at 11:46am
 - a. Mary Jo announced placement of the Open Meetings Act Information.
- II. **Roll Call**
 - a. Present – Brandy Gustoff, Doug Lenz, Jennifer Skala, Jodie Austin, Jill Schubauer, Mary Fraser Meints, Mary Jo Pankoke, Sarah Helvey, Doug Koebernick, Katie McLeese Stephenson, Nathan Busch, by phone–Betsy Vidlak, Lana Verbrigghe, and Judge Douglas Johnson.
 - b. Absent – Amy Peters, Andrew Paul, Augusta Kamara, Corrie Edwards, Richard Mazikani, Senator Kate Bolz.
- III. **Approval** of 06/03/2015 Meeting Agenda. A **motion** was made by Jodie Austin to approve the 06/03/2015 agenda as written. The motion was **seconded** by Brandy Gustoff.
Voting **Yes**: Betsy Vidlak, Brandy Gustoff, Doug Lenz, Jennifer Skala, Jill Schubauer, Jodie Austin, Lana Verbrigghe, Mary Fraser Meints, Mary Jo Pankoke, Sarah Helvey. Voting **NO** : None. Absent: Amy Peters, Andrew Paul, Augusta Kamara, Corrie Edwards, Richard Mazikani.
- IV. **B2I Updates**
 - a. LB243– presented by Sarah Helvey (refer to handout for more details)
 1. LB 441 which included changes to B2I was amended onto LB 243 which creates a pilot family finding program.
 2. Expands eligibility to include young adults adjudicated under tribal law and young adults “guardianshiped” at age 16 or older.
 3. Clarifies eligibility for Medicaid.
 4. Creates the term “independence hearing.”

- b. Normalcy/Strengthening Families Act – DHHS
1. Public Law 113–183 Prevention of Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act was signed into law September 2014.
 2. The Reasonable Prudent Parent Standard and the Normalcy Aspect of Foster Care requires states to develop a reasonable and prudent parent standard for a child’s participation in age or developmentally appropriate extracurricular enrichment, cultural and social activities. States are required to devise strategies to assist foster parents in applying a reasonable and prudent parent standard in a manner that protects child safety while also allowing children to experience normal and beneficial activities. One foreseen regulation change is a statement regarding liability of foster parents who make the decisions. The other changes will be in culture, procedure, training, and support of the foster parents. DHHS is working with Nebraska Children & Families Foundation to strengthen the Independent Living Program beginning at age 16 to ensure a smooth spectrum in place as young adults transitions from age 16 to 21.
 3. DHHS along with 9 other states has volunteered with the Federal Government to have a NYTD Federal review during the last part of August 2015. Included in the review will be a case sample of 25 cases that had reported NYTD information and the Independent Living Program as a whole and will make recommendations as to how the program can be strengthened.
- c. B2I May Report – (refer to handout for more details)
1. This report is in a graph-type format that’s basically tracking demographic data, soon to shift to qualitative data as the program continues.
 2. Homeless – To ensure accurate data regarding homelessness is getting collected, the group agreed to further define and ask more specific questions concerning the young adult’s living arrangement.
 3. Medicaid – probably will not reach 100% because of the following:
 - application process
 - uncomfortable with the stigma
 - do not want Medicaid
 - not complying
 - denied because of income (even though they are working part-time),

- V. **Bridge to Independence Successes/Barriers Discussion** – DHHS
- a. Successes –(to mention a few) 2 young adults graduated from high school, 2 young adults purchased vehicles, 1 young adult paid off debt with Opportunity Passport Program , an Independence Coordinator was very supportive to a young adult that had recently lost her “brother”.
 - b. Barriers – failing employment drug test, nothing in regulations or statute to get the kids off drugs, need regulations or statute to regulate medications, stipends used for illegal activities, young adults dropping out of classes then owe money to FASFA, concerned about IV E as young adults are having problems getting pay stubs, B2I does not have an option for young adults involved with adoption disruptions.
 - c. The “Barrier Busters” workgroup was formed to eliminate barriers: Jenny Skala, Brandy Gustoff, Ronda Newman, Schalisha Walker, Sarah Helvey, Doug Lenz.
- VI. The Foster Care Review Office could not attend but did provide data collected on 61 cases from Feb – May and will release a report in August.
- VII. **Review** of prior Advisory Recommendations (still pending)
- a. Evaluation (Reviews, N-Focus and NYTD) – the Evaluation Workgroup ; Amy West, Sara Helvey, Jodie Austin will convene then report at our next meeting.
 - b. Fiscal Accountability (IV-E, Guardianships) – tabled until next meeting
- VIII. **Extension** to 21 for Juvenile Justice/Probation youth – Juvenile Justice Workgroup – Brandy Gustoff, Sara Helvey, Nathan Budch, Lana VerBrigghe, Amy West, Katie McLeese Stephenson, Meagann Schweitzer, Jennifer Skala, Juliet Summers along with someone from probation to co-chair.
- IX. **Recommendations** – tabled for next meeting.
- X. **Report** timeline, workgroups, and future meetings – Next report to the Commission due in November. B2I group to meet in October.
- XI. **Adjournment** – was called at 3:36pm. **Motion** –Mary Fraser Meints. **Second** – Jodie Austin. **Unanimous** verbal vote.