

**Health and Human Services Committee
Testimony on LB 87
Presented By**

**Karen Authier, Chair
Nebraska Children's Commission**

January 20, 2015

My name is Karen Authier and I serve as Chair for the Nebraska Children's Commission. I am testifying regarding LB 87 and its impact on the work of the Commission. Because the Commission has a scheduled all day retreat on January 21, I am providing this testimony in writing rather than in person.

The changes proposed in LB 87 are in keeping with discussions and ideas that have surfaced among Commission members since the Commission began its work in 2012. Frequently, as we are discussing the many issues that relate to the Commission's work as a high level leadership body with a focus on child welfare programs and services and the well-being of Nebraska's children, there has been awareness that the voice and expertise of educators is missing from the table. With increasing awareness that education is an important piece of the child well-being puzzle from early childhood through young adult years, Commission members would welcome the addition of the Commissioner of Education or his or her designee.

This month the Nebraska Departments of Education and Health and Human Services issued the Nebraska State Ward Statistical Snapshot Project report covering the years 2011- 2012 and 2012 -2013. The findings contrasted the 43.5% state ward high school graduate rate with the 84 % overall Nebraska high school graduation rate. The discrepancy provides hard data indicating that children who are in the care of the state are far more likely to be at a disadvantage for self-sufficiency as they transition into adult life. Very clearly, the report demonstrates the importance of the collaboration and joint problem solving that must occur between both departments in the effort to improve the chances for success for state wards. As Commission members grapple with this and many other issues that fall within the scope of our work, we recognize the importance of involving the education system in our discussions

LB 87 also includes a requirement that the Children's Commission provide a written report to the governor and an electronic report to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature on a yearly basis on or before December 1. The Commission welcomes that opportunity to report on our work.

Thank you for your work on behalf of children and families in Nebraska and your willingness to seek input from others who share your commitment to those children and families.

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 Bills of Interest
 Nebraska State Legislature
 104th Legislature, 1st Session

Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
<u>LB13</u>	Change Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program provisions	Krist	Judiciary					
<u>LB15</u>	Provide additional powers and duties for guardians ad litem	Krist	Judiciary					
<u>LB21</u>	Provide requirements for rate increases for providers of behavioral health services as prescribed	Krist	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB25</u>	Change court jurisdiction relating to 17 year olds and young adults	Krist	Judiciary					
<u>LB26</u>	Adopt the Choice for the Advancement of Nebraska Children in Education Act and provide for tax credits.	Krist	Revenue					
<u>LB27</u>	Create a reporting requirement under	Krist	Health and Human Services	1-21-15 1:30pm				

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	the Vital Statistics Act when parenting time is established or modified			Room 1510				
<u>LB29</u>	Change provisions relating to school health inspections	McCoy	Education					
<u>LB44</u>	Change provisions relating to a notice of objection to adoption	Coash	Judiciary	1-23-15 1:30pm Room 1113				
<u>LB46</u>	Change provisions of the Statewide Trauma Systems Act	Watermeier	Health and Human Services	1-29-15 1:30pm Room 1510				
<u>LB49</u>	Provide for allied school systems	Scheer	Education	1-27-15 1:30pm Room 1525				
<u>LB50</u>	Change provisions relating to Medicaid covered services	Scheer	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB54</u>	Change provisions relating to postsecondary education statewide transfer-	Scheer	Education	1-26-15 1:30pm Room 1525				

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	of-credit policies							
<u>LB58</u>	Provide for calculation and distribution of funds to certain schools as prescribed	Scheer	Education					
<u>LB59</u>	Redefine state aid value for purposes of the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act	Scheer	Education		Bill withdrawn Jan. 15, 2015			
<u>LB61</u>	Change funding for county offices relating to administration of public assistance programs	Bolz	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs					
<u>LB62</u>	Provide an income tax deduction for loan principal payments for graduate degree	Schumacher	Revenue					
<u>LB64</u>	Provide an income tax deduction for the income earned from second jobs	Schumacher	Revenue					
<u>LB77</u>	Require a	Nordquist	Health and	1-28-15				

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	Medicaid state plan amendment for family planning services and state intent relating to appropriations for the Every Woman Matters program		Human Services	1:30pm Room 1510				
<u>LB81</u>	Change provisions relating to eligibility for child care assistance	Cook	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB84</u>	Permit a public body to use a telephone conferencing or videoconferencing for public meetings	Davis	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	1-21-15 1:30pm Room 1507				
<u>LB87</u>	Change membership of the Nebraska Children's Commission	Campbell	Health and Human Services	1-21-15 1:30pm Room 1510				
<u>LB89</u>	Change provisions relating to aid to dependent children	Campbell	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB96</u>	Eliminate certain	Smith	Education					

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	taxing authority of learning communities							
<u>LB100</u>	Provide for allocation of state aid to tribally controlled community colleges	Sullivan	Education	1-20-15 1:30pm Room 1525				
<u>LB101</u>	Change provisions relating to statewide assessment of student learning and reporting	Sullivan	Education	1-20-15 1:30pm Room 1525				
<u>LB102</u>	Change provisions relating to the Access College Early Scholarship Program	Sullivan	Education					
<u>LB103</u>	Change provisions relating to participation in extracurricular activities as prescribed	Kintner	Education	1-20-15 1:30pm Room 1525				
<u>LB104</u>	Change provisions relating to notice of discontinuation	Krist	Natural Resources					

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	of utility service							
<u>LB107</u>	Eliminate integrated practice agreements and provide for transition-to-practice agreements for nurse practitioners	Crawford	Health and Human Services	1-22-15 1:30pm Room 1510				
<u>LB108</u>	Appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska to fund behavioral health internships	Crawford	Appropriations					
<u>LB125</u>	Create a fund relating to health care homes for the medically underserved	Nordquist	Appropriations					
<u>LB124</u>	Provide requirements relating to copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles	Nordquist	Banking, Commerce, and Insurance					
<u>LB129</u>	Require criminal background checks for applicants for an	Harr	Health and Human Services	1-28-15 1:30pm Room 1510				

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	initial nursing license							
<u>LB144</u>	Reduce levy of authority of community colleges and increase state aid to community colleges	Davis	Education	1-26-15 1:30pm Room 1525				
<u>LB147</u>	Change provisions relating to asset limitations for public assistance	Crawford	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB148</u>	Provide for medical assistance program coverage for certain youth formerly in foster care	Crawford	Health and Human Services	1-30-15 1:30pm Room 1510				
<u>LB153</u>	Exempt college textbooks from sales and use taxes	Morfeld	Revenue					
<u>LB182</u>	Create the School Funding and Educations Outcomes Review Committee	Harr	Education					

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
<u>LB185</u>	Appropriate funds to implement the Master Teacher Program Act	Bolz	Appropriations					
<u>LB189</u>	Change provisions and penalties relating to marijuana and alphabetize definitions	Davis	Judiciary	1-28-15 1:30pm Room 1113				
<u>LB199</u>	Provide for stipends for social work students	Howard	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB212</u>	Prohibit use of restraints in juvenile courts as prescribed	Chambers	Judiciary					
<u>LB219</u>	Change and eliminate child custody provisions and adopt the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act	Crawford	Judiciary	1-23-15 1:30pm Room 1113				
<u>LB227</u>	Change provisions relating to educational bridge programs	Hansen	Education					
<u>LB229</u>	Appropriate funds	Watermeier	Appropriations					

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	to the Supreme Court for court appointed special advocate state aid							
<u>LB232</u>	Adopt the College Choice Grant Program Act	Nordquist	Education					
<u>LB233</u>	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services	Howard	Appropriations					
<u>LB239</u>	Provide for a Coordinator for Educator Effectiveness and educator evaluation	Haar	Education	1-26-15 1:30pm Room 1525				
<u>LB240</u>	Change provisions relating to a behavioral health pilot program	Hansen	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB243</u>	Create a pilot project relating to family finding services	Bolz	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB248</u>	Prohibit use of interactive wireless devices by school bus	Sullivan	Transportation and Tele-communications					

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	drivers as prescribed							
<u>LB257</u>	Require insurers to provide descriptions relating to tele-health and tele-monitoring	Nordquist	Banking, Commerce, and Insurance					
<u>LB265</u>	Change provisions relating to juveniles and child welfare	Campbell	Judiciary					GAL changes, FCRO & OIG
<u>LB274</u>	Appropriate funds to the State Department of Education for mentor teacher programs	Hansen	Appropriations					
<u>LB280</u>	Authorize a school funding and reduce the levy authority of school districts and learning communities	Davis	Revenue					
<u>LB281</u>	Adopt the Child Support for College Savings Act	Kolowski	Education					

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
<u>LB282</u>	Change provisions relating to closed sessions for public bodies	Baker	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs					
<u>LB287</u>	Change provisions relating to licensure of interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing	Haar	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB290</u>	Eliminate certain notification requirements under the Sex Offender Registration Act and eliminate the offense of unlawful use of the Internet by a prohibited sex offender	Coash	Judiciary					
<u>LB292</u>	Change provisions relating to the central registry of child protection cases	Coash	Judiciary					
<u>LB294</u>	Adopt the Human Trafficking Victims	Scheer	Judiciary					

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	Civil Remedy Act and change and adopt provisions relating to service of process, sexual assault, crimes relating to morals, human trafficking, search warrants, juveniles, intercepted communications, and forfeiture of assets							
<u>LB296</u>	Require the Department of Health and Human Services to provide notification after removal of a child	Kolterman	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB302</u>	Create offense of rehoming a child	Campbell	Judiciary					
<u>LB303</u>	Authorize schools to adopt a child sexual abuse policy	Bloomfield	Education	1-27-15 1:30pm Room 1525				
<u>LB307</u>	Change provisions related to stalking	Kolowski	Judiciary					

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	and domestic abuse							
<u>LB315</u>	Change provisions relating to Medicaid recovery audit contractors	Howard	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB320</u>	Adopt the Aging and Disability Resource Center Act	Bolz	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB321</u>	Adopt the Nebraska Industrial New Job-training Act and authorize certain payments and taxes	Bolz	Revenue					
<u>LB322</u>	Increase child and dependent care tax credits	Bolz	Revenue					
<u>LB323</u>	Create the School Financing Review Commission	Davis	Education					
<u>LB326</u>	Change provisions relating to marijuana, amphetamine, and methamphetamine	Williams	Judiciary					
<u>LB330</u>	Change provisions	Larson	General Affairs	1-26-15				Regulate

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	relating to alcoholic liquor			1:30pm Room 1015				powder alcohol
<u>LB331</u>	Adopt the Bioscience Impact Opportunity Act	Nordquist	Revenue					
<u>LB333</u>	Adopt the Health Care Services Transformation Act	Gloor	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB334</u>	Repeal the Nebraska Workforce Investment Act	Mello	Business and Labor					
<u>LB335</u>	Create and Provide duties for the Intergenerational Poverty Taskforce	Mello	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB338</u>	Provide a docket fee for paternity determinations and parental support proceedings	Brasch	Judiciary	1-29-15 1:30pm Room 1113				
<u>LB343</u>	Provide funding for schools offering certain programs and	Kolowski	Education					

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	courses as prescribed							
<u>LB346</u>	Require a Medicaid state plan amendment to cover children's day health services	Krist	Health and Human Services					
<u>LB347</u>	Expand the jurisdiction of the Inspector General to the juvenile justice system	Krist	Executive					
<u>LB355</u>	Change provisions relating to certain education funding as prescribed	Morfeld	Education					
<u>LB358</u>	Change paternity provisions for a child conceived as a result of sexual assault	Garrett	Judiciary					
<u>LB365</u>	Allow school districts and educational service units to keep electronic records	Baker	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs					
<u>LB370</u>	Provide for an	Riepe	Health and					

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	amendment to the Medicaid state plan relating to dyslexia treatment		Human Services					
<u>LB371</u>	Create and provide duties for the Nebraska Council for Educational Success	Sullivan	Education	1-27-15 1:30pm Room 1525				
<u>LB373</u>	Change provisions regarding school bus safety	Hilkemann	Transportation and Tele-Communications					
<u>LB379</u>	Adopt the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program Act	Bolz	Education					
<u>LB380</u>	Create and provide duties for the Higher Education Affordability Commission	Morfeld	Education					
<u>LB381</u>	State intent relating to appropriations for housing services	Cook	Appropriations					
<u>LB382</u>	Create and	Cook	Education					

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	provide for a fund and provide for grants relating to diplomas of high school equivalency							
<u>LB395</u>	Adopt the Nebraska Enterprise Act and authorize grants for economic development	Schilz	Banking Commerce and Insurance					
<u>LB410</u>	Change eligibility provisions relating to the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act	Sullivan	Education					
<u>LB411</u>	Change income limitations for SNAP eligibility	Cook	Health and Human Services					Increase gross income eligibility limit for SNAP
<u>LB415</u>	Change provisions relating to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	Pansing-Brooks	Judiciary					

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
<u>LB417</u>	Appropriate Funds to the University of Nebraska for pediatric cancer research	Nordquist	Appropriations					
<u>LB421</u>	Eliminate learning communities	Kintner	Education					
<u>LB422</u>	Provide for payment of court appointed legal parties in probate actions involving a minor	Howard	Judiciary					
<u>LB427</u>	Provide for payment of probation office costs by the state	Groene	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee					
<u>LB436</u>	State intent relating to appropriations for pediatric oral health services	Cook						
<u>LB437</u>	Change provisions relating to the Parenting Act	Ebke						
<u>LB443</u>	Redefine support services for purposes of the Special Education	Bolz						

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	Act							
<u>LB459</u>	Change provisions relating to a deposition of a child victim or child witness	Crawford						
<u>LB472</u>	Adopt the Medicaid Redesign Act	Campbell						
<u>LB477</u>	Change provisions relating to school districts maintaining the only public high school in a county	Davis						
<u>LB481</u>	Permit school districts to opt out of a learning community as prescribed	Kintner						
<u>LB482</u>	Change provisions relating to juveniles	Krist						
<u>LB485</u>	State intent relating to appropriations for child welfare	Stinner						Funding for nine satellite offices and statewide outreach coordinator

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
<u>LB487</u>	Change the duties of the Auditor of Public Accounts	Schilz						Examine service contractor of subrecipient or state or federal funds
<u>LB489</u>	Change provisions relating to grants for early childhood education as prescribed	Sullivan						
<u>LB493</u>	Adopt the Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act	Nordquist						
<u>LB494</u>	Change minimum wage for persons compensated by way of gratuities	Nordquist						
<u>LB499</u>	Provide duties for the Department of Health and Human Services relating to behavioral and mental health services	Krist						
<u>LB500</u>	Require	Howard						

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	application for medicaid state plan amendment for multisystemic therapy and functional family therapy							
<u>LB502</u>	State intent to establish a family court pilot project	Krist						
<u>LB506</u>	Increase funding for community-based developmental disability providers	Krist						
<u>LB507</u>	Require certain examinations for special education teachers	Cook						
<u>LB508</u>	Provide minimum requirements for acceptance to teacher education programs	Cook						
<u>LB509</u>	Change and eliminate provisions relating to a poverty allowance under	Cook						

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	the state aid formula							
<u>LB511</u>	Provide for return-to-learn protocols for pediatric cancer survivors	Cook						
<u>LB519</u>	Provide for school and student aid, grants, and assistance as prescribed	Sullivan						
<u>LB524</u>	Change provisions documenting eligibility relating to free and reduced-price school meals	Sullivan						
<u>LB547</u>	Change provisions of the Quality Child Care Act	Campbell						
<u>LB549</u>	Adopt the Healthcare Transformation Act	Campbell						
<u>LB565</u>	State intent related to funding for education and training in high-need fields	Kuehn						

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
<u>LB566</u>	Change provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act	Coash						
<u>LB582</u>	Change provisions relating to a focus school and program allowance	Nordquist						
<u>LB593</u>	Appropriate funds to the University of Nebraska to study current health data systems	Nordquist						
<u>LB616</u>	Adopt the Independent Public Schools Act	Larson						
<u>LB617</u>	Adopt the Working to Improve Schools Act	Larson						
<u>LB645</u>	Adopt the Early Childhood Workforce Development Opportunity Act and provide tax credits	Nordquist						
<u>LB647</u>	Prohibit discrimination relating to child	Nordquist						

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Bill Number	Title	Introduced by	Committee Assignment	Public Hearing Date	Legislative Action	Governor Action	Date Effective	Comments
	placement							
<u>LB648</u>	Provide for adoption by two adult persons	Howard						

Governance and Organizational Structure

Approved: November 18, 2014

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

On June 17, 2014, the Nebraska Children's Commission ("Commission") met for a full day strategic planning session about the future work and direction of the Commission. The Commission decided during the "Intents for Implementation/Critical Conversations" portion of the agenda that certain commission members be delegated to represent all three branches of government and designated to make governance and organizational structure recommendations that best support work the Commission has before it over the next two years. Elements of governance and structure were identified as follows:

- A process for integrating recommendations of internal workgroups and committees into a shared vision framework and strategic focus
- Policies for making legislative recommendations
- Governance procedures (meeting schedule, decision-making procedures, terms of leadership, conflict of interest procedures)
- Expectations of members
- Policies for orienting new members and engaging existing members

The sub-committee has discussed a variety of topics relating governance and organizational structure. Feedback from all Commission members was solicited at meetings as well as via email. As has been noted at Commission meetings since the June strategic planning session, many processes that are found to improve the workings of the Commission may be implemented through the leadership of the Executive Committee. It is recommended that a meaningful discussion of structural or procedural -type issues should be revisited once every 2 years to correspond with new or re-appointments made to the Commission.

COMMISSION MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & EXPECTATIONS

As members serve on the Commission as active participants, it is important that expectations are set forth. This includes making clear what members can expect from the Commission to help in doing his/her work as well as what kind of commitment each Commission member is

making and what the typical member responsibilities are to the group. This may take the form of a sort of "job description" for Commissioners.

Members will be expected to attend Commission meetings

Attendance at regularly scheduled meetings is a vital part of a Commission member's role. Therefore, after missing two consecutive meetings the Chair and the member will discuss the attendance issue. The Chair and the member will come to a resolution, including possible resignation, if member is unable to meet attendance expectations. It is expected that a member will notify Commission staff of an anticipated absence as soon as the member becomes aware of the need to be absent from a meeting.

Members will be expected to serve on a Workgroup and/or a Committee

The Commission structure includes a number of formal statutory Committees and informal workgroups. Commission Members shall serve on at least one Workgroup and/or one Committee. Commission members are expected to actively participate in workgroups or committee meetings, as applicable.

Members will be prepared to discuss topics and participate in decision-making

To help facilitate preparation for the meetings, material to be reviewed at the meeting, including but not limited to presentation handouts, committee reports and workgroup reports will be provided to Commission Members 5 business days in advance of the formal meeting. Material may be shared via email or a content sharing platform, such as SharePoint. Staff will coordinate the details of providing the materials with presenters, workgroups, committees, and Commission Members. In the event information is not available from presenters, workgroups, committees, and/or Commission members for distribution to the Commission 5 business days prior to the full Commission meeting, these materials will be forwarded to Commission members as soon as possible but shall not delay the sending of other Commission meeting items within the specified time.

On-boarding process for new Members

An on-boarding process shall be created for new Commission Members. This process may include understanding expectations, reviewing the Commission Member Profile list, and subject matter education to create a body of shared knowledge and trust between Members. Specifics

of an orientation process can further be specified by the Executive Committee and coordinated with staff.

A part of new member orientation, tied in with an all Commission member information session, a Commission retreat should be held. Getting to know one another and building trust among Commission members would be goals of a retreat.

Informing & engaging Commission Members by participating in a retreat

It is recommended that the Commission hold a well-planned retreat annually that would orient new members, build trust among all members, and provide a learning opportunity for all to assist in preparing to be fully informed before making more formal recommendations. By picking a weighty topic that the Commission must tackle, such as considering the establishment of a new division within the department or the establishment of a new state agency to provide all child welfare programs and services (Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4202(1)), a retreat can facilitate the education of members so various options can be thoroughly considered.

Nebraska Children's Commission Vision Statement

Forming a vision statement for the Children's Commission was discussed as one element to further engage commission Members and to recognize the importance of their contribution to the Commission's work.

The Commission chose this as their Vision Statement:

To improve the safety and well-being of all children and families in Nebraska.

GOVERNANCE PROCEDURES

Beginning January 1, 2015, the Commission will meet bimonthly

Per Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4202(4), the Commission must meet no less often than once every three months; however, due to the importance and timeliness of Commission business at the current time, starting in calendar year 2015, the Commission will hold formal bimonthly, or every other month, meetings in-person with contact, education, and work of Commission Members, Committees and Workgroups completed in between formal meetings. The last portion of each

Commission meeting shall be spent planning the agenda of the next meeting, as well as identifying needs for education and work in between the formal meeting times.

It is recognized that by going to bimonthly meetings, each agenda will be “extra” substantive with possible weighty decisions to be made during the meetings. These meetings may be all day, but will adjourn by or before 3 p.m. to allow members to travel. It becomes even more important that Members, Committees, Workgroups, and presenters have all materials ready for Commission Member review prior to the meetings as the Commission moves to bimonthly meetings.

All Members shall disclose their potential conflicts in a written statement.

Commission Members are appointed because they represent a stake holding body and/or have certain expertise, because of the work they are engaged in or the experience they bring. In order to achieve transparency and provide context for the statements, positions, and votes of each member, a brief written statement of conflict shall be provided to the Commission by each Member. The conflict of interest statement is not necessarily intended to prohibit Members from voting—refraining from a vote is at the discretion of each individual Member.

A Commission Member profile list will be created. This would include each Member’s name, photo, title, employer, position filled on the Commission, committees and/or workgroups served on, whether they serve as a chairperson of a committee and/or workgroup, and any other identifying information or associations that would lend to understanding of the expertise they bring to the table as well as the roles they represent—both as members and as employees of agencies they may be representing.

It is noted that in any work of the Commission, whether it is by the full Commission or by a Workgroup or Committee, the intent is to hold full, robust discussions and deliberations where there is a free exchange of ideas. The more transparent Commission, Workgroup, and Committee members are in their roles, the better the discussion and decisions become. This also helps build trust.

If anyone—a Commission, Workgroup, or Committee member—feels that a chair or member of such is misusing their position in some way or does have a conflict that has not been discussed and/or disclosed, that person may inform the chairperson of the Commission to resolve the matter.

Identifying an Executive Committee & Terms

Since the existence of the Commission has gone past the original two years, it was thought that the Chairperson's term should be set to a time certain. The Executive Committee of the Commission should consist of 3 individuals: The Past-Chairperson, the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson. The Executive Director of the Foster Care Review Office shall function in an advisory capacity and act as a resource to the Executive Committee. The Past-Chairperson, the Chairperson, and the Vice-Chairperson would serve two years in each position. So, to agree to be Vice-Chairperson, one would be agreeing to a 6 year commitment.

Because the executive director of the Foster Care Review Office assists in employing Commission staff (Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4202 (5)) and "for administrative purposes, the offices of the staff of the commission shall be located in the Foster Care Review Office," (Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4202 (4)), the executive director of the Foster Care Review Office shall serve on the Executive Committee of the Commission. The Commission's budget is under the Foster Care Review Office. Having the Foster Care Review Office executive director on the Executive Committee will help with clear management, understanding, and coordination of Commission activities. These 4 Commission Members would be responsible for setting the agenda and working with staff to ensure the work of the Commission, Committees, and Workgroups progresses and priorities are established.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair shall occur in June of odd-numbered years. With many possible new appointments being made in even-numbered years, this gives members time to become oriented.

Consent Agenda

The Commission shall utilize a consent agenda. The consent agenda may include approving the agenda, approving minutes, receiving reports, and other items that do not need discussion. It could be that Commission meeting time would not be needed for some Committee and Workgroup reports that are sent to Members prior to meetings. During discussion of the consent agenda motion, a commissioner may ask to pull an item from the consent agenda and put it on the regular agenda.

Process for Substantive Recommendations to and by the Commission

Work of Committees and Workgroups

At the current time, "Committees" of the Commission are those set forth in statute (please note that the Commission may create any further committees it deems necessary) and "Workgroups" of the Commission are those ad hoc groups formed through the work of the Commission. Committees and Workgroups should adhere to the same processes.

Regular meetings

As expectations shift to full Commission meetings every other month, the work of the Committees and Workgroups becomes more crucial. In order to achieve quality and timely work from internal Workgroups and Committees, Workgroups and Committees shall meet during the months the full Commission is not meeting. Scheduling the work of the Workgroups and Committees shall be formed around timelines. Timelines should recognize agenda items, reports and other presentation materials that should be forwarded to the Executive Committee far enough in advance (at their specified direction) of the full Commission meetings to prepare both the agenda and the Commission Members for discussion.

Chairpersons

Chairs of Committees and Workgroups shall be members of the Commission. A non-member may be a Co-Chair as long as the other Co-Chair is a member of the Commission. Every Co-Chair is expected to attend the full Commission meetings to help with the communication between the Commission and the Committees and Workgroups and to clarify any information presented.

Membership of Workgroups & Committees

The membership of Workgroups and Committees shall be approved by the full Commission. There may be members and there may be resources to the groups as subject matter experts in certain areas to be addressed. In all cases, the composition of a committee should be balanced to ensure that no one agency/organization has an advantage.

- There shall be no more than one stakeholder representing one agency/organization as members of a Workgroup or a Committee.

- All members of a Committee or Workgroup shall be voting members of that Committee or Workgroup, unless that member is serving as the Chair.

Integrating recommendations of internal Workgroups and Committees

Committees of the Commission are generally designated in statute and as such, must go by any statutory obligations. Workgroups have been formed as internal smaller groups of the Commission to focus on specific areas. Much of the work of the Commission is happening in either Workgroups or Committees. How these Workgroups and Committees should have uniform ways in which they function and inform the work of the Commission as a whole.

Recommendations made by the full Commission

The Commission makes recommendations, either by or through the work of its Committees and Workgroups, or takes on a subject itself without designating a committee or workgroup. Whatever way the Commission makes such recommendations, first it must be educated and informed of the issues, then discussions are had, then decisions are made.

It is noted that there are appropriate topics, especially complicated ones, where it makes sense to separate out learning about the issues surrounding that topic, and then the decision-making discussions would be reserved for the full formal meeting of the Commission. The point of this is to utilize less time during the formal Commission meetings to get all of the members "on the same playing field" in terms of understanding a topic. Time during a retreat to learn about a certain topic might be one way to accomplish this.

As recommendations are put forth from the Commission, issues will be noted, including any dissent.

Other Items Discussed

Recognition that though the Commission is made up of voting and non-voting Members, it is crucial to get input from all Members.

The Commission is composed of a number of voting Members as well as non-voting Members. Recognizing the importance of the insight of non-voting Members, decision-making is a process whereby all Members' opinions are heard during meetings.

Nebraska Children's Commission
Suggested 2015 Meeting Dates
Time: 9:00am to 3:00pm
Place: TBD

Thursday, January 22

Wednesday, February 18

Tuesday, March 17

Tuesday, April 21

Tuesday, May 19

Tuesday, June 16

Tuesday, July 21

Tuesday, August 18

Tuesday, September 15

Tuesday, October 20

Tuesday, November 17

Tuesday, December 15

Nebraska Children's Commission
2015 Action Item Planning Agenda

Legal Parties Task Force Recommendations

Potential of Contracting with Private Nonprofit Entities as Lead Agency

Nebraska Child Welfare Financial Primer

Collaborative Funding

Juvenile Justice Initiatives (Crossover Youth, JDAI, FSG)

Alternative Response Pilots

NDHHS Structure

Evidence Based Practices

Trauma Informed Care

Data Based Decision Making

Disproportionate Minority Representation

Facilitated Conferencing

Developmental Disability/Child Welfare Interface

Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice Sentinel Events, Court Decisions, Noteworthy Events

Psychotropic Medication in Child Welfare

Priority Concepts & The Process of Converting Data to Evidence

Jennifer Haight

January 21, 2015

Nebraska Children's Commission

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Priority Concepts

- Concept 1: Know your question. Write it down. Measurement starts with a question.
- Concept 2: Know the population from which you are measuring (usually the denominator). The choice of measurement depends on the question.
- Concept 3: Use an entry cohort to answer general questions about characteristics or outcomes.
- Concept 4: Know your data and organize it well (events and spells). From what date forward does it contain information about every child served? Through what date is activity reflected?
- Concept 5: Likelihood (or Probability): Examining the past to predict the future

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Priority Concepts, cont'd

- Concept 6: Conditional Probability: What happens next given what has come before.
- Concept 7: The Cycle of Innovation: Baseline, Target, Actual
- Concept 8: The Window: Reform can only influence that which has yet to happen.
- Concept 9: Stratification: Identifying and managing diagnostically-related groups.
- Concept 10: Working with Parameters: A parameter is a number that characterizes a population that can be applied to similar populations of different sizes or populations from different time periods.

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Priority Concepts, cont'd

- Concept 11: Reinvestment: Looking into the future, could we spend the same money more effectively?
- Concept 12: Structure produces behavior

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"Data" is about summarizing

Case-specific: What happened with this particular child or family? What can we learn from it?



Summary: What happened to a group of children or families? What can we learn from it?

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Why is summarizing useful?

- Efficiently describes a complicated system.
- Uncovers common experiences with the system.
- Allows comparisons:
 - How does my system compare to others? Useful, to learn about how systems function in other places.
 - How does my system compare to itself over time? Useful, to measure impact of change
- Helps answer this question: How could resources be used more efficiently to reach the desired outcomes of my system?

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Foundational Child Welfare Outcomes or The Profile Reports

Jennifer Haight
January 21, 2015
Nebraska Children's Commission

The Center for
State Child Welfare Data

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at the University of Chicago

Goals of Session

- Describe how core outcomes in a child welfare system can be displayed longitudinally.
- Review selected profile reports and connect them to core outcomes
- Review other core system questions and the data available to answer those questions

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Foundational Outcomes for a Child Welfare System

Safety:

1. Minimize likelihood of child abuse incidents.
2. Minimize likelihood of foster care placements.

Permanency:

3. Maximize use of the least restrictive placement.
(placement type)
4. Maximize placement stability. *(movement)*
5. Minimize time in non-permanent home. *(duration)*
6. Maximize likelihood of exit to either reunification, relatives or other support family, adoption. *(permanency)*
7. Minimize likelihood of reentry *(permanency)*

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The Profile Reports

- Longitudinal data file:
 - Events & spells
 - Ability to track children over time
- Data Center & Profile Reports

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1. Minimize likelihood of child abuse incidents.

Year	Child Pop	First Ever Investigations	Number of Sub Investigations	Rate of Inv per 1,000	Sub Rate	Rate of Sub Inv per 1,000
2000	1,396,963	46,650	11,591	33.4	25%	8.3
2001	1,396,963	50,395	10,327	36.1	20%	7.4
2002	1,396,963	43,495	9,457	31.1	22%	6.8
2003	1,396,963	60,259	12,391	43.1	21%	8.9
2004	1,396,963	86,346	17,559	61.8	20%	12.6
2005	1,396,963	104,440	21,214	74.8	20%	15.2

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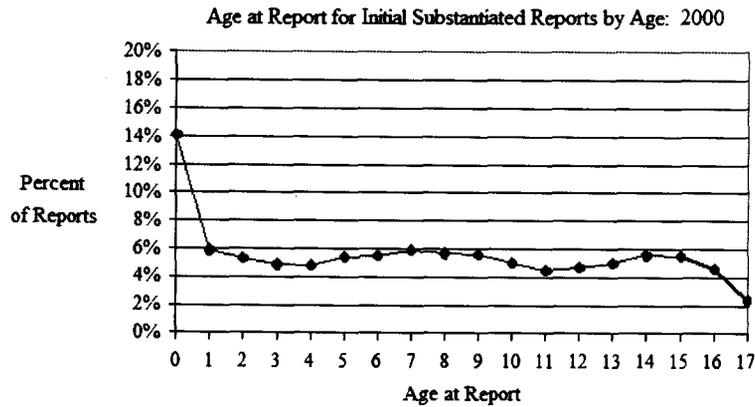
1. Minimize likelihood of child abuse incidents, cont.

Age at Inv Start	Child Pop	Total # of Inv	Total # of Sub Inv	Rate of Inv per 1,000	Sub Rate	Rate of Sub per 1,000
Total	1,396,963	104,440	20,122	74.8	19%	14.4
Age < 1	76,609	8,273	2,482	108.0	30%	32.4
Age 1 - 5	379,750	32,989	6,268	86.9	19%	16.5
Age 6 - 12	546,128	39,528	7,115	72.4	18%	13.0
Age 13 +	394,476	23,650	4,257	60.0	18%	10.8

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Age and Maltreatment

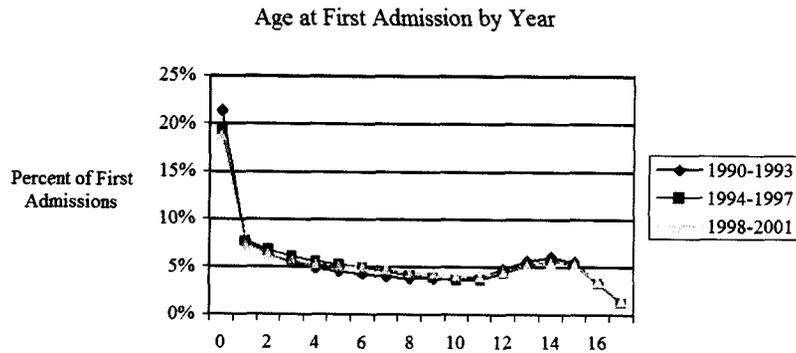


Source: "Beyond Common Sense." -- F. Wulczyn

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Age and Placement

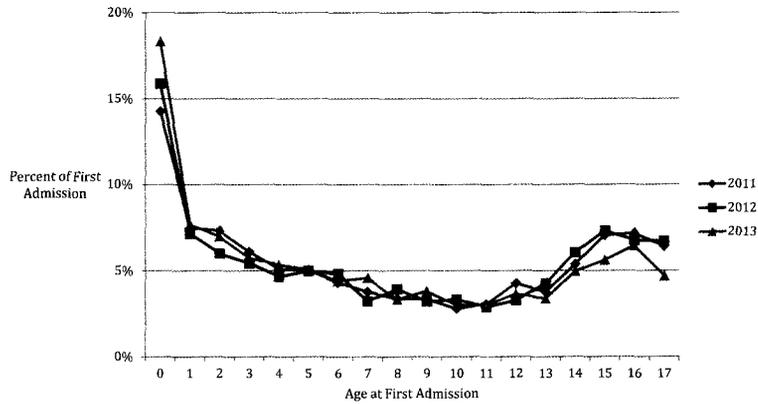


Source: "Beyond Common Sense." -- F. Wulczyn

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Age and Placement



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2. Minimize the likelihood of placement

Entry Year	Number of First Placements in Foster Care	
	Region A	Region B
2002	127	300
2003	143	339
2004	165	333
2005	125	360

Entry Year	Placement Rate per 1000	
	Region A	Region B
2002	3.5	1.6
2003	4.0	1.8
2004	4.6	1.8
2005	3.5	1.9

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2. Minimize the likelihood of placement, cont.

Table 2: Entry Rate Per 1000 Children by Age at Entry (First Admissions)

(NE, All Counties)

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Age at Entry			
		Under 1	1-5	6-12	13-17
2007	5.22	14.88	5.04	3.28	6.13
2008	4.59	13.69	4.91	2.65	5.09
2009	5.08	12.66	5.27	3.47	5.47
2010	4.59	13.57	4.93	2.86	4.81
2011	4.79	12.00	5.17	3.10	5.27
2012	3.92	10.97	3.86	2.52	4.51
2013	3.99	12.88	4.28	2.68	3.70
2014	3.57	12.58	3.89	2.74	2.51

(Note: For the year 2014 only the first 6 months of activity < through 06-30-2014 > is reflected.)
(Most recent database update: 06-30-2014)

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3. Maximize use of least restrictive placements

Year	Point-in-time, January 1	
	Family	Congregate
2002	79%	21%
2003	87%	13%
2004	90%	10%
2005	91%	9%

Year	Entry Cohorts, First Placement Type	
	Family	Congregate
2002	80%	20%
2003	84%	16%
2004	85%	15%
2005	86%	14%

Year	Entry Cohorts, Predominant Placement Type	
	Family	Congregate
2002	84%	16%
2003	90%	10%
2004	90%	10%
2005	91%	9%

3. Maximize Use of Least Restrictive Placements

Table 6: Number and Percent of First Admissions by First Placement Type and Age at Entry

(NE, All Counties)

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	All First Admissions				Total First Admissions	Percent By Placement Type			
		Number By Placement Type					Foster	Kinship	Congregate	Other
2007	2,397	1,154	587	550	106	100%	48%	24%	23%	4%
2008	2,107	977	552	476	102	100%	46%	28%	23%	5%
2009	2,288	930	782	478	98	100%	41%	34%	21%	4%
2010	2,108	827	851	366	64	100%	39%	40%	17%	3%
2011	2,198	680	994	445	79	100%	31%	45%	20%	4%
2012	1,801	589	700	412	100	100%	33%	39%	23%	6%
2013	1,834	654	833	241	106	100%	36%	45%	13%	6%
2014	819	276	434	48	61	100%	34%	53%	6%	7%

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3. Maximize Use of Least Restrictive Placements

Table 7: Number and Percent of First Admissions by Predominant Placement Type and Age at Entry

(NE, All Counties)

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	All First Admissions						Total First Admissions	Percent By Placement Type				
		Number By Placement Type					Foster		Kinship	Congregate	Other	Mixed	
2007	2,397	1,121	797	432	24	23	100%	47%	33%	18%	1%	1%	
2008	2,107	892	799	388	18	10	100%	42%	38%	18%	1%	0%	
2009	2,288	948	904	395	25	16	100%	41%	40%	17%	1%	1%	
2010	2,108	815	937	312	25	19	100%	39%	44%	15%	1%	1%	
2011	2,198	739	1,059	370	16	14	100%	34%	48%	17%	1%	1%	
2012	1,801	701	738	325	22	15	100%	39%	41%	18%	1%	1%	
2013	1,834	695	888	222	24	5	100%	38%	48%	12%	1%	0%	
2014	819	302	461	41	13	2	100%	37%	56%	5%	2%	0%	

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4. Maximize placement stability

- Movement is a complex phenomenon.
- Movement is related to duration.
- Moves can be early, in the middle, and late in a foster care spell.
- Moves can be during short, medium and long spells.

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4. Maximize placement stability

Population	Percent of Children				
	Number of Moves				
	None	One	Two	Three	Four+
In care on Jan. 1, 2005 (Observed prior to January 1, 2005)	38%	25%	13%	9%	15%
In care on Jan. 1, 2005 (Observed through 12/31/06)	67%	18%	9%	2%	5%
Admitted 2005 (Observed through 12/31/06)	42%	33%	12%	6%	6%

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4. Maximize placement stability

Table 8: Number and Percent of Movements Observed (First Admissions)

(NE, All Counties)

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Number By Number Of Moves				Total First Admissions	Percent By Number Of Moves			
		No Moves	One Moves	Two Moves	Three or More Moves		No Moves	One Moves	Two Moves	Three or More Moves
2007	2,397	1,172	646	263	316	100%	49%	27%	11%	13%
2008	2,107	1,038	550	229	290	100%	49%	26%	11%	14%
2009	2,288	1,207	596	213	272	100%	53%	26%	9%	12%
2010	2,108	1,111	517	246	234	100%	53%	25%	12%	11%
2011	2,198	1,168	590	209	231	100%	53%	27%	10%	11%
2012	1,801	912	502	209	178	100%	51%	28%	12%	10%
2013	1,834	1,070	509	153	102	100%	58%	28%	8%	6%
2014	819	585	187	35	12	100%	71%	23%	4%	1%

(Note: For the year 2014 only the first 6 months of activity < through 06-30-2014 > is reflected.)
(Note: For more recent entry groups, less time will have elapsed to observe movement.)
(Most recent database update:06-30-2014)

Note that for more recent entry groups, less time will have elapsed to observe movement. Outcomes are comparable when percent still in care is comparable.

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4. Placement Stability

Table 9: Number of Movements Observed Per Child by Duration Interval (First Admissions)

(NE, All Counties)

Entry Year	6 Months and Under	7 to 12 Months	13 to 18 Months	19 to 24 Months	25 to 30 Months	31 to 36 Months	37 to 42 Months
2007	0.71	0.34	0.23	0.24	0.22	0.15	0.31
2008	0.72	0.32	0.26	0.26	0.24	0.34	0.39
2009	0.65	0.26	0.23	0.19	0.17	0.28	0.30
2010	0.67	0.27	0.18	0.21	0.17	0.23	0.28
2011	0.63	0.23	0.26	0.25	0.33	-	-
2012	0.70	0.25	0.25	-	-	-	-
2013	0.58	-	-	-	-	-	-
2014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(Note: For the year 2014 only the first 6 months of activity < through 06-30-2014 > is reflected.)
(Most recent database update:06-30-2014)

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5. Minimize Duration in Out Home Care

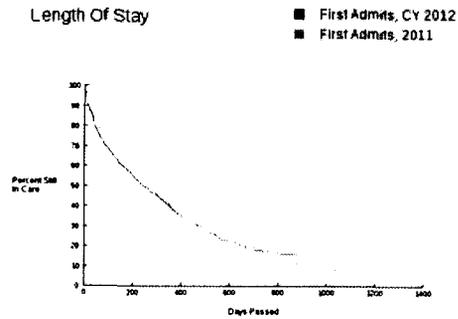
Table 10: Quartile Duration in Months

Survival Curve

(NE, All Counties)

Entry Year	Total First Admissions		
	25th Percentile	50th Percentile	75th Percentile
2007	1.41	7.34	18.39
2008	1.70	7.21	17.21
2009	2.07	8.00	17.61
2010	2.79	8.13	18.43
2011	2.89	8.72	18.66
2012	2.07	8.23	18.03
2013	2.56	10.33	--

Length Of Stay



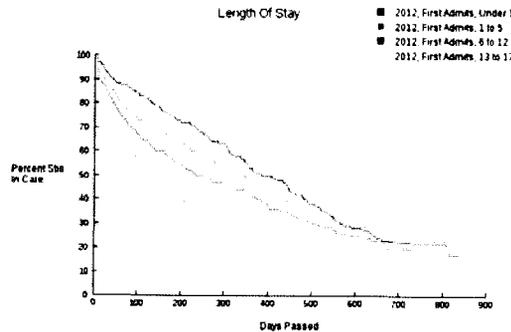
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5. Minimize Duration in Out Home Care

Days Passed Before Percentage of Selected Spells Are Completed				
	2012, First Admits, Under 1	2012, First Admits, 1 to 5	2012, First Admits, 6 to 12	2012, First Admits, 12 to 17
25%	177	84	12	40
50%	352	343	247	138
75%	645	708	604	529
100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Length Of Stay

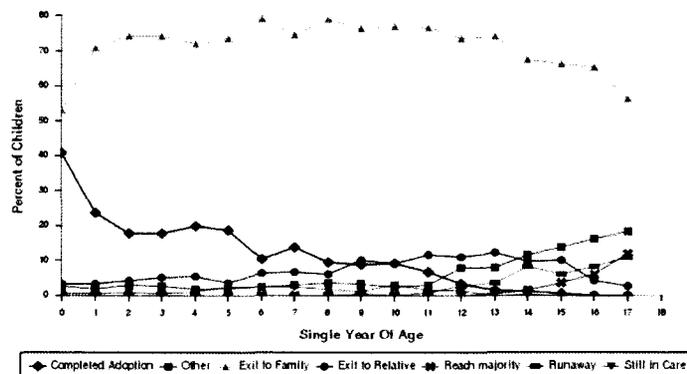


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6. Increase Likelihood of Permanent Exit

Figure 3: Exit Type by Age at Entry (First Admissions, 3-Year Cohort)
(NE, All Counties)



(Note: This figure shows outcomes for children in the 3-year entry cohort ending on 12-31-2009. Most recent database update: 06-30-2014.)

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6 Increase Likelihood of Permanent Exit

Table 11: Number and Percent of First Admissions by Entry Year and Exit Destination from First Spell

(NE, All Counties)

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Total Discharged as of 06-30-2014	Number to Each Outcome						Still in First Spell as of 06-30-2014
			Reunification	Adoption	Relative	Reach Majority	Runaway	Other	
2007	2,397	2,390	1,642	348	159	32	83	146	7
2008	2,107	2,087	1,439	308	138	31	56	115	20
2009	2,288	2,261	1,573	330	120	34	46	158	27
2010	2,108	2,033	1,416	312	97	27	48	133	75
2011	2,198	2,057	1,485	262	124	21	44	121	141
2012	1,801	1,517	1,148	118	86	4	45	116	284
2013	1,834	1,030	897	22	24	2	19	66	804
2014	819	175	156	1	10	0	2	6	644
Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Total Discharged as of 06-30-2014	Percent to Each Outcome						Still in First Spell as of 06-30-2014
2007	100%	100%	69%	15%	7%	1%	3%	6%	0%
2008	100%	99%	68%	15%	7%	1%	3%	5%	1%
2009	100%	99%	69%	14%	5%	1%	2%	7%	1%
2010	100%	96%	67%	15%	5%	1%	2%	6%	4%
2011	100%	94%	68%	12%	6%	1%	2%	6%	6%
2012	100%	84%	64%	7%	5%	0%	2%	6%	16%
2013	100%	56%	49%	1%	1%	0%	1%	4%	44%
2014	100%	21%	19%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	78%

(Note: For the year 2014 only the first 6 months of activity < through 06-30-2014 > is reflected.)
(Note: Entry years should only be compared when the Percent Discharged is comparable.)
(Most recent database update: 06-30-2014)

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7. Minimize likelihood of reentry

Table 15: Number and Percent of All Admissions by Admission Type

(NE, All Counties)

Entry Year	All Admissions	Number		Percent	
		First Admission	Re-entry	First Admission	Re-entry
2007	3,522	2,397	1,125	68%	32%
2008	3,126	2,107	1,019	67%	33%
2009	3,301	2,288	1,013	69%	31%
2010	3,172	2,108	1,064	66%	34%
2011	3,143	2,198	945	70%	30%
2012	2,721	1,801	920	66%	34%
2013	2,769	1,834	935	66%	34%
2014	1,171	819	352	70%	30%

This table tells you what proportion of the entry population is coming into care as a reentry...

...it does not tell you the *likelihood* of re-entering care after exiting.

(Note: For the year 2014 only the first 6 months of activity < through 06-30-2014 > is reflected.)
(Most recent database update: 06-30-2014)

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7. Minimize likelihood of reentry (exit)

Table 14: Likelihood of Re-entry from Reunification, Discharge to Relative, Runaway, or Other Exit, by Exit Cohort (First Admissions)

(NE, All Counties)

Exit Year	Total Exits (First Admissions)	All Exits (Except Adoption and Reach Majority)			
		Total Re-entries To Date	Re-entries w/in 1 Year	Total Re-entries to Date as Percent of Exits	Re-entries w/in 1 Year as Percent of Exits
2007	2,064	581	369	28%	18%
2008	1,987	645	412	32%	21%
2009	1,845	508	326	28%	18%
2010	1,861	493	374	26%	20%
2011	1,706	430	319	25%	19%
2012	1,667	380	310	23%	19%
2013	1,476	234	229	16%	16%
2014	693	50	50	7%	7%
Exit to Reunification					
2007	1,668	501	312	30%	19%
2008	1,630	568	356	35%	22%
2009	1,481	443	282	30%	19%
2010	1,510	426	327	28%	22%
2011	1,397	364	267	26%	19%
2012	1,367	326	260	24%	19%
2013	1,236	199	197	16%	16%
2014	548	41	41	7%	7%

7. Minimize likelihood of reentry (entry)

Table 13: Likelihood of Re-entry from Reunification, Discharge to Relative, Runaway, or Other Exit by Entry Cohort (First Admissions)

(NE, All Counties)

Entry Year	Total First Admissions	Exits To Date	Exits as a Percent of Admits	All Exits (Except Adoption and Reach Majority)					
				Total Re-entries To Date	Re-entries w/in 1 Year of Exit	Total Re-entries as Percent of Admits	Total Re-entries as Percent of Exits	Re-entries w/in 1 Year of Exit as Percent of Admits	Re-entries w/in 1 Year of Exit as Percent of Exits
2007	2,397	2,010	84%	608	405	25%	30%	17%	20%
2008	2,107	1,748	83%	520	335	25%	30%	16%	19%
2009	2,288	1,897	83%	513	370	22%	27%	16%	20%
2010	2,108	1,694	80%	416	316	20%	25%	15%	19%
2011	2,198	1,774	81%	421	339	19%	24%	15%	19%
2012	1,801	1,395	77%	265	240	15%	19%	13%	17%
2013	1,834	1,006	55%	139	138	8%	14%	8%	14%
2014	819	174	21%	14	14	2%	8%	2%	8%
Exit to Reunification									
2007		1,642		532	348		32%		21%
2008		1,439		460	291		32%		20%
2009		1,573		453	332		29%		21%
2010		1,416		368	276		26%		19%
2011		1,485		366	288		25%		19%
2012		1,148		222	200		19%		17%
2013		897		124	123		14%		14%
2014		156		12	12		8%		8%

Nebraska Children's Commission
Suggested 2015 Meeting Dates
Time: 9:00am to 3:00pm
Place: TBD

Thursday, January 22

Wednesday, February 18

— Tuesday, March 17

Tuesday, April 21

— Tuesday, May 19

Tuesday, June 16

— Tuesday, July 21

Tuesday, August 18

— Tuesday, September 15

Tuesday, October 20

— Tuesday, November 17

Tuesday, December 15