

## Nebraska Children's Commission

Thirty-second Meeting  
May 19, 2015  
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
Project Harmony  
11949 "Q" Street, Omaha, NE 68137

### Call to Order

Karen Authier called the meeting to order at 9:02 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: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Jennifer Clark, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, David Newell, Debra O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski (9:06), and Diana Tedrow.

Commission Members absent: Teresa Anderson, Holly Brandt, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, and Susan Staab.

Ex Officio Members present: Tony Green, Courtney Phillips (9:13), Judge Linda Porter, and Julie Rogers.

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Kate Bolz, Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Kathy Campbell, and Senator Patty Pansing-Brooks.

Also in attendance: Bethany Allen, Mandy Bush, Jeanne Brandner, Lynn Castrianno, Alyson Goedken, Vicki Maca, Donna Rozell, Jennifer Skala, Julia Tse, and Nick Zadina.

### Consent Agenda Items

Kim Hawekotte made a motion to approve the consent agenda items, the March 17, 2015 Nebraska Children's Commission Meeting Minutes and the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Nomination Report. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Clark. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Jennifer Clark, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, David Newell, Debra O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Diana Tedrow. Voting no: none. Teresa Anderson, Holly Brandt, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, and Susan Staab were absent. None abstained. Motion carried.

### Approval of Agenda

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

**Chairperson's Report**

Karen Authier gave a brief chairperson's report. She reminded the Commission that as per the Structure Taskforce's recommendations Vice Chair Beth Baxter would become Chair and a Vice Chair will need to be elected in July. The Structure Taskforce will serve as the nominating Committee. She then invited the Commission members to introduce themselves to Courtney Phillips, the CEO of the Department of Health and Human Services.

**DHHS Update**

Courtney Phillips, CEO of the Department of Health and Human Services, gave the Commission an update on the Department's activities. She noted that she is in the process of reaching out to stakeholders for feedback to plan priorities for the Department.

**Child Welfare Financing Primer Update and Action Item**

Karen provided an update on the Child Welfare Financing Primer (Primer). She noted that there had been two release events, one for senators and another for the public. Tony Green stated that the Department is very interested in continuing the dialogue and further discussing the funding system. He noted that the Department was in a period of significant transition while the Primer was developed, and that further discussion could provide clarity to some questions from the Primer. The Commission discussed options for fund-mapping and the legislative study (LR296) that will explore child welfare financing.

**Lead Agency Taskforce Update and Action Item**

Beth Baxter provided an update from the Lead Agency Taskforce. The Taskforce has met to look broadly at the options for managing child welfare systems across Nebraska. She shared that the Taskforce has looked at the challenges and strengths of both public and private management of the child welfare system. The Department and NFC representatives attended the last meeting to provide information and perspective. The Taskforce will continue looking at the big picture issues that play into the child welfare system, and anticipates having recommendations at the next Commission meeting in July 2015.

**Workforce Workgroup DHHS and NFC Response to Recommendations.**

Tony Green and Vicky Maca led a presentation of the Department's response to the Workforce Workgroup's recommendations from the March 2015 Commission meeting. They walked the Commission through their efforts to increase retention, incentivize education, and address vicarious trauma. Due to time constraints, the presentation was stopped, and the Commission moved to the next agenda item, with the intention to return to the presentation.

**Project Harmony Alternative Response Training**

Mandy Bush and Nick Zadina from Project Harmony provided the Commission with an abbreviated version of a training provided to Alternative Response workers. The interactive training included videos, discussion, and a simulation of a home visit on a stage set.

**Workforce Workgroup DHHS and NFC Response to Recommendations**

Following the training, Tony Green and Vicky Maca returned to their presentation. Dave Newell, Lynn Castrianno, and Donna Rozell provided NFC's response to the Workforce Report. Tony shared that they have determined a way to access IV-E funds for NFC's training. Julie

Rogers noted that the next steps for the workforce workgroup would be to reconvene and determine next steps.

### **Alternative Response Update**

Tony Green and Vicki Maca provided an update on the Alternative Response program. Vicki noted that they strive to understand the behavior drivers and connect families with sustainable community resources. Vicki walked the Commission through a comprehensive presentation that included data and updates.

### **Barriers to Permanency Report Panel and Discussion**

Chairperson Karen Authier noted that the meeting was nearly out of time and there were action items still left on the agenda. Kim Hawekotte and Julie Rogers agreed to continue the panel and discussion until the July meeting.

### **Community Ownership of Child Well-Being Report and Action Item**

Mary Jo Pankoke, Chair of the Community Ownership of Child Well-Being workgroup, led the Commission through the workgroup's report. She noted that there are two recommendations that she would ask the Commission to adopt. Mary Jo Pankoke made a motion that the Commission recognize the Prevention Partnership as a state-level collective impact group as per the report, and that the Commission adopt the definitions for "prevention system" and the three levels of prevention as presented. Gene Klein seconded the motion. Discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Jennifer Clark, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Debra O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Diania Tedrow. Voting no: Dave Newell. None abstained. Teresa Anderson, Holly Brandt, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, and Susan Staab.

### **Legal Parties Taskforce and Action Item**

Kim Hawekotte, Chair of the Legal Parties Taskforce, gave a brief update. She noted that the Taskforce would be looking at Unified Family Courts and Jennifer Clark had been working to recruit members from other areas of Nebraska for the Taskforce.

### **Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee Report and Action Item**

Kim Hawekotte, Co-Chair of the Juvenile Services Committee, gave a brief update. She noted that the Committee would have presentations on Medicaid and Magellan Services in June, presentation on evaluation and assessments in July, and may have representatives from Missouri's juvenile justice system present in August.

### **Probation Report**

Jeanne Brandner, Deputy Probation Administrator of the Juvenile Services Division, gave a Probation update. She updated the Commission on interim studies that could affect Probation, and noted that LB500 had passed earlier in the day. Probation is working on a template update for July.

### **Policy Analyst Update**

Chairperson Karen Authier directed the Commission to the written materials for this agenda item, due to time constraints.

**Next Meeting Planning**

The Commission discussed meeting planning for the July meeting. The new senators would be attending, and members discussed an on-boarding process. Members discussed a possible location, including meeting in a Native community, or a community with an active community collaborative.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is Tuesday, July 21, 2015, from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

**Adjourn**

A motion was made by Kim Hawekotte to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Diana Tedrow. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.