

Nebraska Children’s Commission

Thirty-Third Meeting

July 21, 2015

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Staab Management Co.

3048 W. Stolley Park Road

Grand Island, NE

I. Call to Order

The Nebraska Children’s Commission Chair, Karen Authier, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Karen noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted at the sign in table at the back of the room as required by state law.

II. Roll Call

Commission Members present (15):

Teresa Anderson	Kim Hawekotte	Deb O’Brien
Karen Authier	Candy Kennedy-Goergen	Mary Jo Pankoke
Beth Baxter	Gene Klein	Dale Shotkoski
Holly Brandt	Norman Langemach	Susan Staab
Jennifer Clark	Andrea Miller	Paula Wells

Commission Members absent (2):

David Newell	Diana Tedrow
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Ex Officio Members present (5):

Senator Kate Bolz	Katie McLeese Stephenson	Julie Rogers
Senator Kathy Campbell	Courtney Phillips (9:36)	

Ex Officio Members absent (4):

Ellen Brokofsky	Tony Green	Senator Patty Pansing-Brooks
Hon. Linda Porter		

A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (14):

Bethany Connor Allen	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Monika Anderson	Nebraska Families Collaborative
Jim Blue	CEDARS
Jeanne Brandner	Office of Probation Administration
Anna Eikholdt	Nebraska State Legislature
Corrie Edwards	Mid-Plains Center for Behavioral Healthcare Services
Amanda Felton	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Senator Mike Gloor	Nebraska State Legislature
Kelli Hauptman	Center for Children, Families, and the Law
Joni Kuzma	Hall County Community Collaborative
Audrey Lutz	Heartland United Way

Donna Rozell.....	Nebraska Families Collaborative
Cindy Rudolph.....	CEDARS
Lana Temple-Plotz.....	Nebraska Children’s Home Society

III. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Gene Klein. No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (15):

Teresa Anderson	Kim Hawekotte	Deb O’Brien
Karen Authier	Candy Kennedy-Goergen	Mary Jo Pankoke
Beth Baxter	Gene Klein	Dale Shotkoski
Holly Brandt	Norman Langemach	Susan Staab
Jennifer Clark	Andrea Miller	Paula Wells

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (2):

David Newell	Diana Tedrow
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ABSTAINED (0)

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. Chair Authier brought the minutes from the previous May 19, 2015 meeting to the Commission’s attention. She inquired as to if there were any corrections. No corrections were provided.
- b. The next topic for this agenda item was the nominations for membership on the Foster Care Rate Committee. The Nominating Committee recommended the following individuals for appointment:
 - Western Service Area: Jerrilyn Crankshaw, Western Service Area Administrator
 - Southeast Service Area: Sherrie Spilde, Southeast Service Area Administrator
 - Eastern Service Area: Stacey Scholten, Statewide Foster Care Licensing Administrator
- c. A review was given of the Data, Technology, Accountability, and Reporting (DTAR) Workgroup activities. The workgroup recommended that the next step would be to collaborate with Jennifer Haight from Chapin Hall. A presentation would be presented at the September meeting of the Commission.

Mary Jo Pankoke moved to approve the items of the Consent Agenda as presented. Susan Staab seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (15):

Teresa Anderson
Karen Authier
Beth Baxter
Holly Brandt
Jennifer Clark

Kim Hawekotte
Candy Kennedy-Goergen
Gene Klein
Norman Langemach
Andrea Miller

Deb O'Brien
Mary Jo Pankoke
Dale Shotkoski
Susan Staab
Paula Wells

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (2):

David Newell

Diana Tedrow

ABSTAINED (0):

MOTION CARRIED

V. Chairperson's Report

Karen Authier, gave her last report as Chair of the Nebraska Children's Commission. She thanked the members for their hard work. With the Commission reaching its third anniversary, Ms. Authier believed that the group was hitting its stride, and were ready for the work ahead. She commented that the Commission was a much needed umbrella of structure that allowed multiple stakeholders to come together and focus on the vulnerable youth of Nebraska.

VI. Approval of Slate of Officers

The floor was given to Julie Rogers to discuss the Slate of officer nominations for the Commission Chair and Vice Chair. Recommendations for Beth Baxter as Chair and Gene Klein as Vice Chair, were given. There were no further nominations. Susan Staab moved and Jennifer Clark seconded to approve the recommendation of Beth Baxter as Chair and Gene Klein as Vice Chair of the Nebraska Children's Commission. No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (15):

Teresa Anderson
Karen Authier
Beth Baxter
Holly Brandt
Jennifer Clark

Kim Hawekotte
Candy Kennedy-Goergen
Gene Klein
Norman Langemach
Andrea Miller

Deb O'Brien
Mary Jo Pankoke
Dale Shotkoski
Susan Staab
Paula Wells

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (2):

David Newell

Diana Tedrow

MOTION CARRIED

Beth Baxter and Gene Klein both accepted the positions. Ms. Baxter assumed the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

VII. Lead Agency Taskforce Report and Panel

The members of the Lead Agency Taskforce presented their report for the Commission. Members present included Beth Baxter, Jim Blue, Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kelli Hauptman, Norman Langemach, and Mary Jo Pankoke. Also present were Kim Hawekotte and Julie Rogers who served as expert resources to the Taskforce. The members met several times to discuss the options for management of the child welfare system and services across the state. These discussions included talk of lead agency contracting as one of the options as required by State statute. During this process, the Taskforce determined seven key components that would lead to a seamless system of care.

The seven components provided included Outcomes and Accountability, Clarification of Roles and Responsibility, Quality Case Management Workforce, Trust, Coordinated and Flexible Service Delivery Model, and a Singular Data Repository/Warehouse. Lengthy discussion occurred regarding how to “professionalize” the role of the Case Manager. Questions arose as to the process of changing the job classification in a public vs. lead agency setting.

Other concerns that were addressed included the legal party status and liability of lead agencies, diminishing competition between lead and public agencies, and limiting the number of times the participants are required to repeat data to various agencies. Courtney Phillips, CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), indicated that the information from this report would be taken into consideration when creating and updating policies as well as when introducing recommendations to the Legislature. Senator Kate Bolz also commented that it would be important to prioritize what items need to be addressed so as not to get lost in the legislative discussion.

Paula Wells moved to approve and submit the recommendations of the Lead Agency Taskforce to the Governor and the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature for consideration. Susan Staab seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll Call Vote as follows:

FOR (15):

Teresa Anderson
Karen Authier
Beth Baxter
Holly Brandt
Jennifer Clark

Kim Hawekotte
Candy Kennedy-Goergen
Gene Klein
Norman Langemach
Andrea Miller

Deb O’Brien
Mary Jo Pankoke
Dale Shotkoski
Susan Staab
Paula Wells

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (2):

David Newell

Diana Tedrow

ABSTAINED (0)

MOTION CARRIED

The Commission paused for break at 10:34 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:49 a.m.

VIII. Barriers to Permanency Report Panel and Discussion

Chair Baxter gave the floor to the Project's collaborative members. Members present included Kim Hawekotte, Julie Rogers, and Donna Rozell. Ms. Hawekotte summarized for the Commission the findings from the report. The report looked at children who, at a point in time, were in out-of-home care for three years or longer. The report identified five top barriers to permanency that included the following:

- Past case management/supervision issues and practices.
- County attorney would not, or could not, file a termination of parental rights petition.
- Court delays, continuance, full dockets, scheduling issues and related matters.
- Need for a relative search at the time of removal.
- Length of time to an appellate decision of a termination of parental rights.

One key point of discussion included the high percentage of cases with parental rights still intact despite the large number of adoption or guardianship plan objectives for the cases. Mental and behavioral health diagnoses were also topics of conversation. Ms. Hawekotte mentioned ways in which the report had brought light to and improved current practices. She then covered several areas that still needed addressing such as the types of moves the youth were undergoing, encouraging relative searches earlier in the process, and re-examining the systematic perspective in a way to address the trauma that may be caused by its actions. Ms. Hawekotte indicated hopes to repeat the study in three years' time.

IX. Legislation Overview and Legislative Resolution Discussion

Chair Baxter invited Senator Kathy Campbell to provide an update to the Commission. Senator Campbell summarized for the members the Bills referenced to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee for the 2015 year. Senator Campbell emphasized the importance of providing a history of child welfare to the new Senators. She went on to review the resolutions that were referred to the HHS Committee.

X. Lunch

The Commission suspended business to take lunch at 12:06 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 12:55 p.m.

XI. Community Ownership of Child Well-Being Presentation

Mary Jo Pankoke addressed the Commission regarding Community Ownership of Child Well-Being. Ms. Pankoke stressed the need for community assistance in providing services. Moving forward, Community Collaboratives will play a key part in ensuring the well-being of youth in our communities.

a. Hall County Community Collaborative Presentation

Ms. Pankoke invited Teresa Anderson and Joni Kuzma forward to present on the Hall County Community Collaborative (H3C). They explained that the collaborative has three subcommittees with focuses on youth age 0-5, 6-11, 12-18. Teresa and Joni discussed the

elements of the H3C and its progression. Encouraging transparency, working to overcome competition, and showing the benefit of multiple group resources are ways the H3C has been to become successful.

b. Heartland United Way Presentation

Ms. Anderson and Ms. Kuzma introduced Audrey Lutz, a representative from United Way. Audrey began her presentation with sharing the goal of the United Way which is to improve lives and create possibilities. Their impact areas encompassed education, income, and health. Ms. Lutz went on to give a presentation regarding teen pregnancy in the Hall county area. She provided several statistics showing the large number of teen births and the age and race percentages of those births.

XII. Bridge to Independence Membership

Chair Baxter welcomed Mary Jo Pankoke to present on this agenda item. Ms. Pankoke brought to the Commission's attention that the Bridge to Independence Committee was having difficulty finding youth members who could regularly attend meetings. It was recommended that the youth positions consist of rotating memberships to ensure that the Committee remains in compliance. Mary Jo Pankoke moved and Paula Wells seconded to have rotating youth memberships on the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee. No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (15):

Teresa Anderson
Karen Authier
Beth Baxter
Holly Brandt
Jennifer Clark

Kim Hawekotte
Candy Kennedy-Goergen
Gene Klein
Norman Langemach
Andrea Miller

Deb O'Brien
Mary Jo Pankoke
Dale Shotkoski
Susan Staab
Paula Wells

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (2):

David Newell
Diana Tedrow

MOTION CARRIED

XIII. Workforce Workgroup Report

Susan Staab was invited to give an update on the Workforce Workgroup. Ms. Staab indicated that there was no new information to discuss for the Workgroup, but that they were continuing to make progress.

XIV. Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Report

Chair Baxter drew the Commissions' attention to Lana Temple-Plotz, who filled in for Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) Chair, Peg Harriott. Ms. Temple-Plotz reviewed with the members the items of discussion from the FCRRC's last two meetings.

a. Group Home Sub-Committee Report

In their efforts to create a new financial methodology for the group home rate tracking, the Committee found the proposed licensing regulations would have significant financial implications for providers and the DHHS Division of Children and Family Services. Two recommendations from the FCRRC were presented to the Commission. They are as follows:

- The Foster Care Rate Committee asks the Children's Commission to recommend to DHHS that a fiscal analysis be done for any proposed new licensing regulations, and if they are not cost neutral to provide adequate funding to address the fiscal impact of the required licensing regulations.
- The Foster Care Rate Committee asks the Children's Commission support for the FCRRC to further advance the work on group home rates by using the agreed upon methodology to establish recommendations for group home rates.

Gene Klein moved to accept the report and move forward on the recommendations of the FCRRC. The motion was seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (15):

Teresa Anderson	Kim Hawekotte	Deb O'Brien
Karen Authier	Candy Kennedy-Goergen	Mary Jo Pankoke
Beth Baxter	Gene Klein	Dale Shotkoski
Holly Brandt	Norman Langemach	Susan Staab
Jennifer Clark	Andrea Miller	Paula Wells

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (2):

David Newell	Diana Tedrow
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MOTION CARRIED

XV. Legal Parties Taskforce Update

Kim Hawekotte presented on the Legal Parties Taskforce progress. Ms. Hawekotte stated that a large push would be made to increase professionalism in juvenile court. The members had much discussion covering the necessity of informed case managers and the relationship between attorneys and case managers.

XVI. Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee Report

Ms. Hawekotte continued on with a report on the Juvenile Services Committee. She gave a brief summary of happenings and informed the members that representatives from the National Council for Juvenile Justice will be attending the August meeting of the OJS Committee. She noted that representatives from Missouri would be traveling to Nebraska to present to the OJS Committee about Missouri's regional juvenile justice model. The Committee plans to invite Commission members and members of the Judiciary and Health and Human Services Committees of the Legislature.

XVII. Public Comment

Chair Baxter invited any members of the public forward. No public comment was offered.

XVIII. New Business

There was no New Business to present at this time.

XIX. Next Meeting Planning

The Chair welcomed any recommendations for a meeting location or items to add to the next agenda. It was recommended that presentations be given by Children & Family Services and by the Nebraska Families Collaborative.

XX. Adjournment

It was moved by Karen Authier and seconded by Gene Klein to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

07/23/2015

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Nominating Committee Report

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Nomination
Report to the Nebraska Children's Commission
September 15, 2015

The following individuals have submitted nomination applications for positions on the Foster Care Rate Committee. These three positions have voting authority on the Committee.

- **A foster parent who contracts directly with the Department of Health and Human Services:**
 - Vanessa Humaran – Lincoln, NE

- **A foster parent who contracts with a child welfare agency:**
 - Jude Dean – Lincoln, NE
 - Dr. Anne Hobbs – Denton, NE

The Nominating Committee supports these nominations and recommends their appointment to the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee.

Nominating Committee Report

Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee Nomination
Report to the Nebraska Children's Commission
September 15, 2015

The following individual has submitted a nomination application for position on the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee. This positions has voting authority on the Committee.

- **A representative of the Legislative Branch of government:**
 - Timoree Klingler – Legislative Aide to Senator Sara Howard

The Nominating Committee supports this nomination and recommends appointment to the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee.

Nebraska Children's Commission Logo Selection

Below are two options for the logo of the Nebraska Children's Commission.

Color Versions



Black & White Versions



The Nebraska Children's Commission
Annual Report and Update on Activities

December 1, 2015

The Nebraska Children's Commission (Commission) was created in 2012 by the Nebraska State Legislature to devise a strategic plan for child welfare and juvenile justice and provide a permanent leadership forum for the collaboration for child welfare and juvenile justice reform among the three branches of government and public and private stakeholders at the state, regional, and community levels. The Commission is required to submit an annual report of its activities as per LB87 (2015). It is the intent of the Commission that this document serves not only as a report of activities, but also as a meaningful and thoughtful contribution to the continued reform and improvement of Nebraska's child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Commission History

The Nebraska Children's Commission was created as a result of LR37, an investigation by the Health and Human Services Committee that identified a number of gaps in the service delivery model for children and families. One of LR37's many significant findings was that a lack of clear vision and overarching planning for the provision of services for children has created a fragmented system. To remedy this problem, the legislature created the Nebraska Children's Commission to serve as a leadership body for child welfare and juvenile justice, and to create a statewide strategic plan for child welfare and juvenile justice reform.

2015 Activities

The Commission has entered its fourth year and continues meeting to work on the many issues and assignments that were part of the original charge to the Commission as provided by LB821, additional responsibilities added by legislation, and strategic plan priorities identified by the Commission. Some highlights from the year include:

- In January members met for the Commission's first annual retreat featuring a presentation on leadership from Senator Colby Coash, information regarding the utilization of data to child welfare from Chapin Hall's Jennifer Haight, and a facilitated discussion to reaffirm the Commission's direction and focus. The Commission plans to continue the tradition of holding an annual retreat.
- The Commission experienced a change in leadership when Beth Baxter became Chair, Gene Klein became Vice-Chair, and Karen Authier moved into the role of Past Chair.
- The Commission released the Child Welfare Financing Primer, a document intended to inform thoughtful discussion about child welfare funding in Nebraska.

- New voting member Paula Wells was welcomed to the Commission in the role of foster parent. New ex-officio members Matthew Blomstedt (Commissioner of Education), Katie McLeese Stephenson (Court representative), Courtney Phillips (CEO of the Department of Health and Human Services), and Doug Weinberg (Director of Children and Family Services) were also welcomed to the Commission.
- The Commission expanded its knowledge and familiarity with the communities and initiatives of Nebraska by holding meetings outside of Lincoln, including Omaha, Grand Island, and Fremont.

Committees

The Commission completes some of its assigned tasks through Committees created by legislation. The Commission appoints members to ensure that each Committee has a balanced membership representing all three branches of government, system stakeholders, community representatives, and families and youth whose lives have been impacted by the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee (Mary Jo Pankoke, Chair)

Statutory Information: This Committee, created by LB216(2013) and codified at Neb. Rev. Stat. §473-4513, is appointed by the Commission to make recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Commission regarding the Bridge to Independence Program, extended guardianship assistance, and extended adoption assistance.

The Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee has been meeting since July 2013 to make recommendations regarding the creation of a program offering voluntary services and support for youth who have aged out of foster care before attaining permanency. This program was implemented on October 1, 2014, and the Committee continues to make recommendations for improvement.

This Committee has also focused its attention on youth served in the juvenile justice-system. Recognizing that this population needs similar supports and services, a workgroup was formed to examine the possibility of implementing a similar program to serve these youth. The Committee will consult with a national firm to perform an analysis of the program's potential fiscal impact.

Priority Recommendations/Focus:

See Appendix __ for full Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee report.

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) (Peg Harriott, Chair)

Statutory Information: This Committee was created by LB530 (2013) and codified at Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4217 to make recommendations on foster care reimbursement rates, statewide standardized level of care assessment, and adoption assistance payments.

The Committee submitted final recommendations regarding implementation of a new rate structure, and level of care assessment tools in May 2014. Since that time, the Committee has continued to meet to monitor the implementation and complete other tasks requested by the Commission and DHHS.

The FCRRRC created the Level of Care Subcommittee to create a tool to identify the level of care needed by the child, and identify the responsibilities of the caregiver to ensure the child receives the appropriate level of care. The Level of Care subcommittee has resumed meeting to refine and revise this tool, the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibilities Tool (NCR).

DHHS requested that the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee unbundle the group home rates for purposes of Title IV-E compliance. The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee created the Group Home Rate Sub-Committee to perform this task with membership representation from group home providers, DHHS and Probation. The Group Home Rate Subcommittee completed the task to the satisfaction of DHHS. The FCRRRC and Commission requested that the subcommittee continue to meet to calculate the actual costs of providing group home services using the same methodology used to unbundle the rates. The Subcommittee completed this task, and the final report is attached. In addition to its assigned tasks, the subcommittee also provided a forum for group home providers to share information about policies and practices with the intent of improving the effectiveness of group home care.

Priority Recommendations/Focus:

See Appendix ___ for full Group Home Subcommittee Report and Appendix ___ for full Level of Care Subcommittee Report.

Juvenile Services Committee (Nicole Brundo and Kim Hawekotte, Co-Chairs)

Statutory Information: Created by LB821(2012) and codified at Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4203, this Committee examines the structure and responsibilities of the Office of Juvenile Services and makes recommendations related to the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTC's) and the juvenile justice system of care.

The Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee submitted its December 2013 Phase I Strategic Plan to the Legislature and has continued to meet to monitor juvenile justice reform. This Committee has remained highly active with monthly meetings. The Committee structured its work in 2015 by thoroughly reviewing its Phase I Plan and delving more deeply into the report's priority topics to create the recommendations in the 2015 Report.

Priority Recommendations/Focus:

See Appendix ___ for full Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee Report.

Psychotropic Medication Committee (Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Chair)

Statutory Information: The Psychotropic Medication Committee was established by LB821 (2012) and codified at Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4203(2)(a) to examine state policy regarding the psychotropic drugs prescribed for children who are wards of the state and administration of such drugs to such children.

The Committee recommended a framework of policies and procedures for children receiving psychotropic medications in the Commission’s 2012 Phase I Strategic Plan, and was authorized by the Commission in 2014 to provide guidance to research and assess practices for prescribing psychotropic medications to children and adolescents living in Nebraska.

The Psychotropic Medications Committee has resumed meeting with the intention of reviewing the policies and procedures of administering psychotropic drugs to state wards and providing guidance on psychotropic medication research protocols. The Committee receives updates from the Department on the implementation of policy and procedure designed to provide oversight and monitoring for the utilization of psychotropic medications in children who are state wards.

Priority Recommendations/Focus:

Workgroups

The Nebraska Children’s Commission was charged with the statutory duty of creating a statewide strategic plan for child welfare and service reform under Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4204. The Commission created four workgroups to create recommendations to further the goals identified in the Phase I Strategic Plan. Each is chaired by a Commission member and provides regular updates and reports to the Commission on the workgroup’s progress toward their strategic plan goals.

Community Ownership of Child Well-Being (Mary Jo Pankoke, Chair)

Strategic Plan Goal: Encourage timely access to effective services through community ownership of child well-being.

The Community Ownership of Child Well-Being workgroup has been meeting regularly and working diligently on a number of important topics, including creating common criteria for evidence based and informed practices, inventorying evidence based programs in Nebraska, and identifying existing community collaboration efforts to enhance efforts and reduce duplication. The group put forth a vision for a state level collective impact group, and

recommended the Commission recognize the Prevention Partnership as that group focused on improving the well-being of children. The Commission approved the Prevention Partnership as this body at the May meeting. In 2013, the workgroup held a number of listening sessions across the state to learn about the ongoing child well-being activities in communities and how the Commission could support their work. The workgroup will also hold another round of community listening sessions to obtain information from communities that are implementing Community Response to obtain data on the results and how it is coordinated with Alternative Response.

Priority Recommendations/Focus:

See Appendix ___ for full Community Ownership of Child Well-Being report.

System of Care (Gene Klein, Chair)

Strategic Plan Goal: Support a family driven, child focused, and flexible system of care through transparent system collaboration with shared partnerships and ownership.

The System of Care Workgroup has remained active in the Division of Behavioral Health's Design for a Nebraska System of Care (SOC) Planning Project. The workgroup continues to advocate moving forward with the implementation of the project.

The Workgroup also continues to support the implementation of the Division of Children and Family Services' Alternative Response Project. Most recently System of Care Workgroup Chair and Commission Vice Chair, Gene Klein, provided public comment on the Alternative Response regulations to support the Department's implementation of the program. The Commission will provide feedback on the Department's report on the Alternative Response evaluation as per Neb. Rev. Stat. §28-712(1) with the assistance of the System of Care Workgroup.

Priority Recommendations/Focus:

Data, Technology, Accountability and Reporting (DTAR) (David Newell, Chair)

Strategic Plan Goal: Utilize technological solutions to information exchange and ensure measured results across systems of care.

The Data, Technology, Accountability and Reporting Workgroup has been meeting to work towards the statutory duty to identify the type of information needed for a clear and thorough analysis of progress on child welfare indicators as per Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4204(1)(d). Formerly the IT Workgroup, the group reviewed its role in the Commission and renewed its focus after a report to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature providing information on three categories of promising technological solutions: case management software, data warehouse, and predictive analytics software. The group

has collaborated with Chapin Hall to bring presentations on the use of data in child welfare and juvenile justice to the Commission.

Priority Recommendations/Focus:

Workforce (Susan Staab, Chair)

Strategic Plan Goal: Foster a consistent, stable, skilled workforce serving children and families.

The Workforce Workgroup developed a report with recommendations related to the recruitment and retention of quality caseworkers. This continued the work done by the group in 2014 to identify the priority areas to achieve its strategic plan goal. The workgroup recognizes the critical importance of caseworkers to achieving safety, permanency, and well-being for children in Nebraska. DHHS and NFC presented information to the Commission following the workgroup's report regarding their efforts to recruit and retain skilled caseworkers. The Commission and workgroup support DHHS and lead agency Nebraska Families Collaborative's (NFC) continued efforts to professionalize and enhance the role of caseworker in the child welfare system.

See Appendix ___ for full report of the Workforce Workgroup.

Priority Recommendations/Focus:

Taskforces

The Commission has created taskforces to create recommendations on limited scope issues that do not fall within existing Committees or Workgroups. These Taskforces provide the Commission with recommendations and updates on their issues of focus.

Lead Agency Taskforce (Beth Baxter, Chair)

Statutory Information: The Commission was charged by LB821 and codified at Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4204 with creating recommendations relating to the potential of contracting with not for profit entities as lead agencies.

The Commission convened a group of stakeholders to have a series of thoughtful conversations about what an ideal child welfare system should look like, and the potential role of a lead agency within that system. The taskforce created a report setting forth the seven components of a seamless system of care necessary for any child welfare agency, public or private, to effectively serve children and families. The report included recommendations on the potential role of a private agency within the ideal seamless system of care. The Lead Agency Taskforce is not currently active, but is awaiting the further

direction of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature and Governor's Office, and remains willing to resume work in support of a successful child welfare system.

See Appendix ___ for full Lead Agency Taskforce Report.

Priority Recommendations/Focus:

Legal Parties Taskforce (Kim Hawekotte, Chair)

Issue: The Commission formed this group to examine and make recommendations related to legal parties in the Juvenile Court.

This Taskforce was initially formed to begin its examination of legal parties with Guardians ad Litem charged with representing the best interests of children involved in child welfare cases. The Taskforce thoroughly examined the role of the Guardian ad Litem in Nebraska and other states to create recommendations to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature. Since submitting these recommendations, the Taskforce has continued working to elevate and professionalize the practice of law in the Juvenile Court and is in the process of creating presentations for court stakeholders on recent juvenile law practice related legislation.

Priority Recommendations/Focus:

How are
we doing?



annual
survey

2015

Nebraska
Families
COLLABORATIVESM

Your feedback matters!

Survey Results

2015 Distribution

- Paper Surveys (English & Spanish)
 - Youth over 12
 - Parents
- Online surveys emailed
 - Stakeholders
 - Schools
 - Community Members
 - Legal Parties
 - Providers
 - Foster Parents
- Business Cards
 - Provided to all NFC Staff with survey link



Survey Details

All survey items used a 5-point likert rating scale.

All responses were anonymous.

Classification questions were included for the Stakeholder Survey and the Foster Parent Survey.

Comment sections provided.

5= Excellent

4 = Very Good

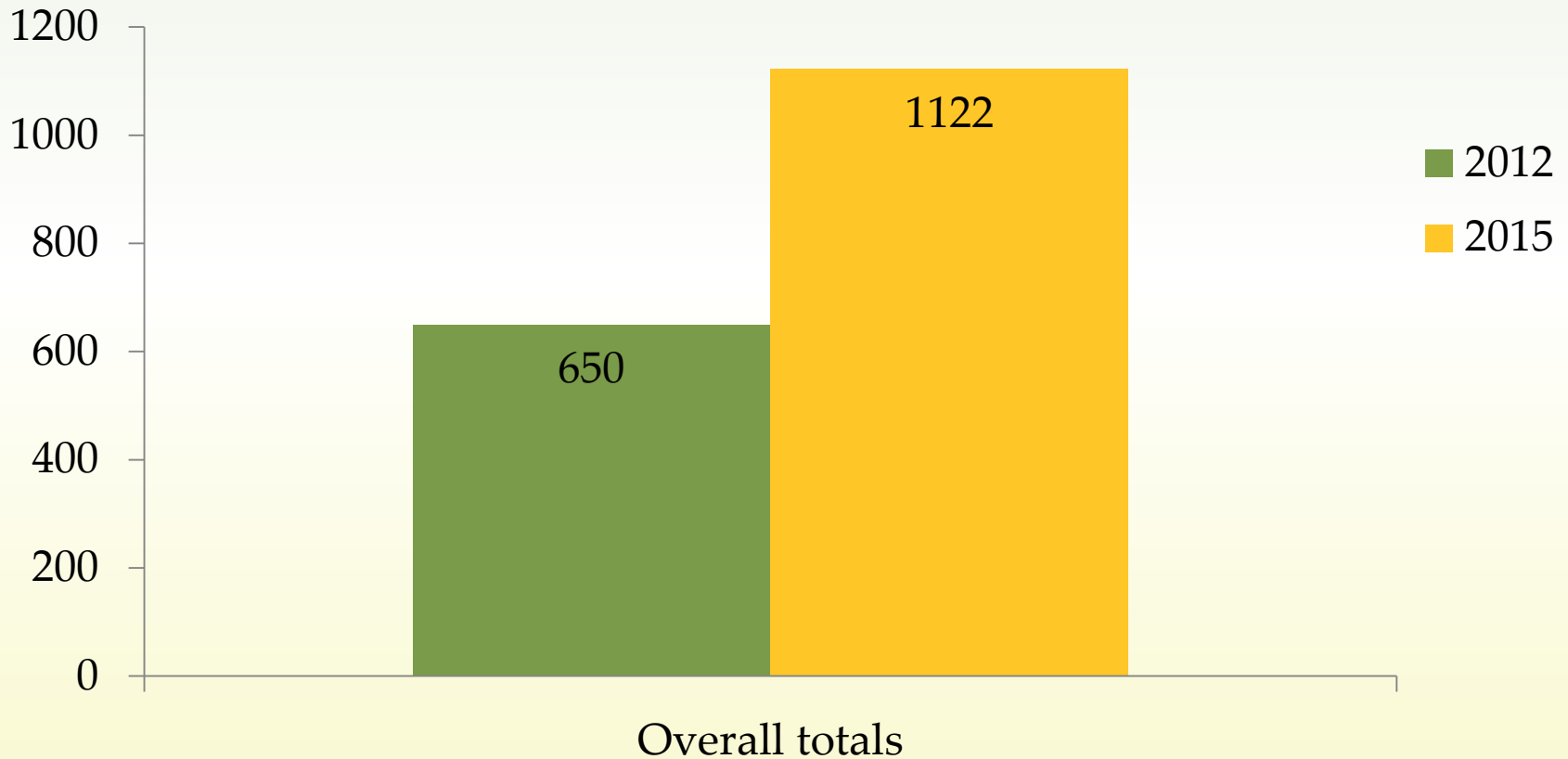
3 = Average

2 = Poor

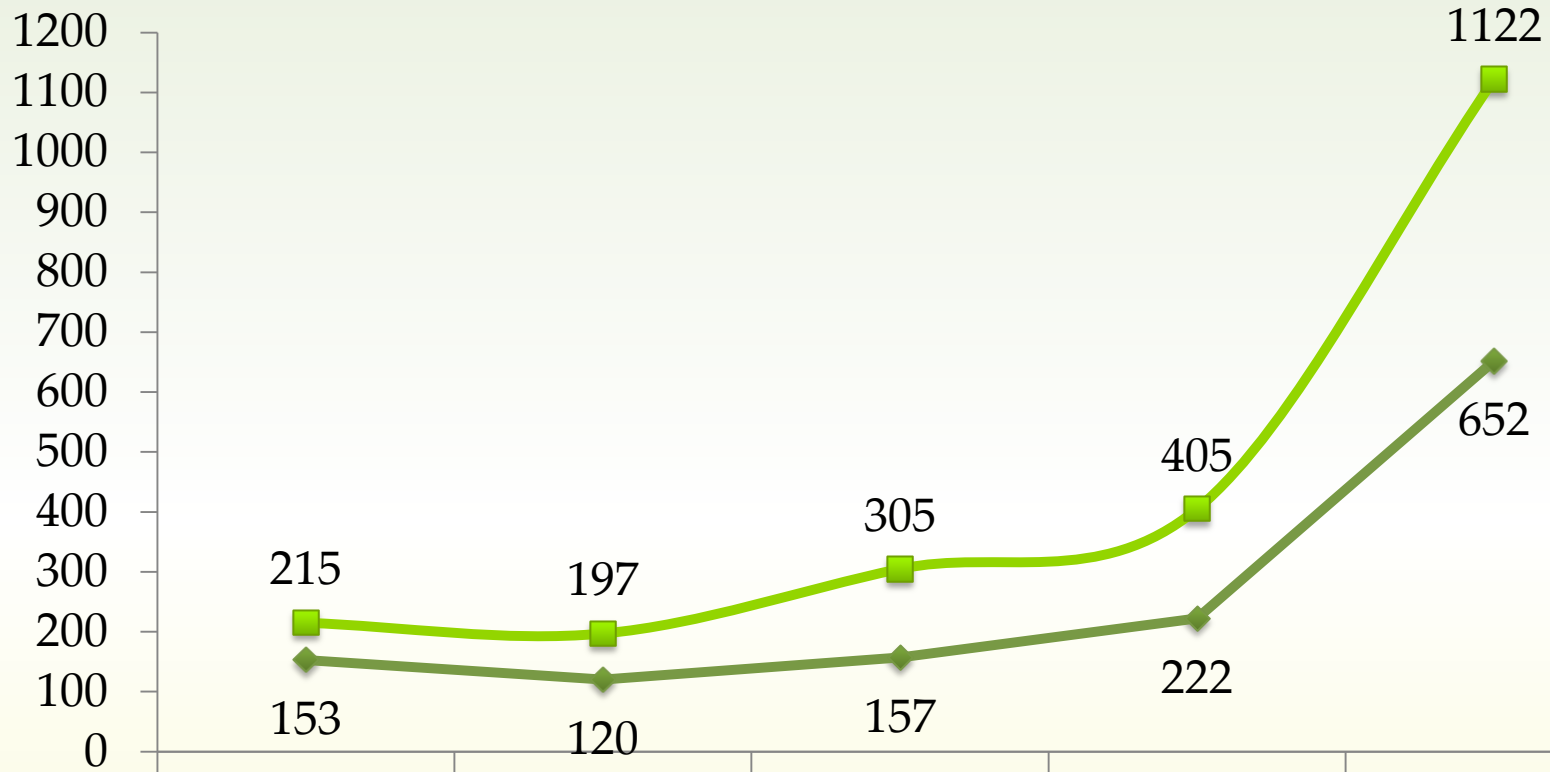
1 = Fail

Total Completed Surveys in 2012 compared to 2015

Since 2012 NFC has nearly doubled our responses



Annual Survey Responses



	Parent	Youth	Foster Parent	Stakeholder	Totals
◆ 2014	153	120	157	222	652
■ 2015	215	197	305	405	1122



**survey
says**

Parent Surveys

- Average rating **4.1/5**
- 215 Parents responded
- 33% provided written comments
- Highest Rated Items:
 - *I see my FPS Every month* **4.3**
 - *The FPS treats me and my family with respect* **4.3**
 - *My FPS schedules meetings that are convenient for my schedule* **4.3**

Parent Ratings: Historical Perspective



Respondents:

2012: n=201

2013: n=134

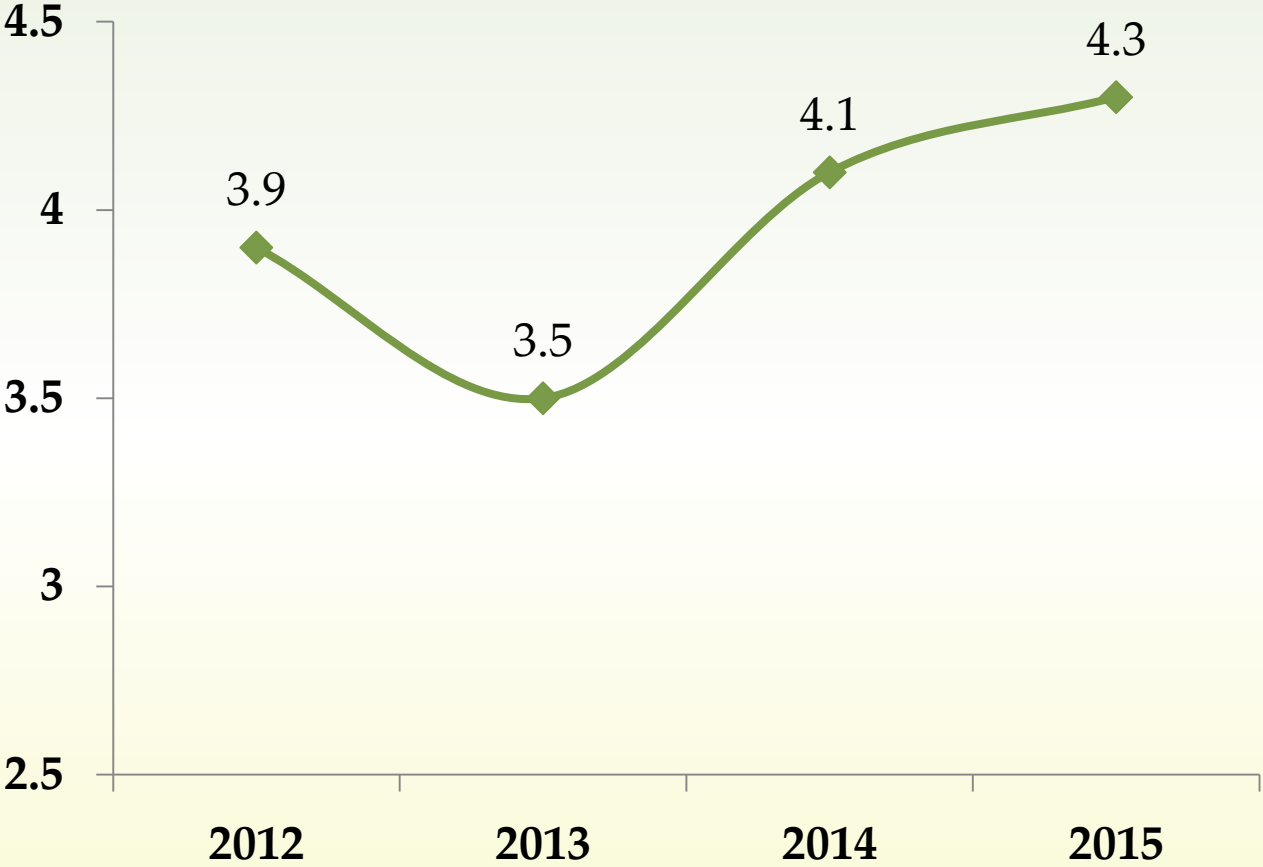
2014: n=153

2015: n=215

Youth Surveys

- Average rating **4.3/5**
- 197 Youth responded
- 22% provided written comments
- Highest Rated Items:
 - The FPS treats me respect **4.6**
 - My FPS explains things to me in a way I can understand **4.4**
 - MY FPS responds to my requests and/or concerns **4.4**

Youth Ratings: Historical Perspective

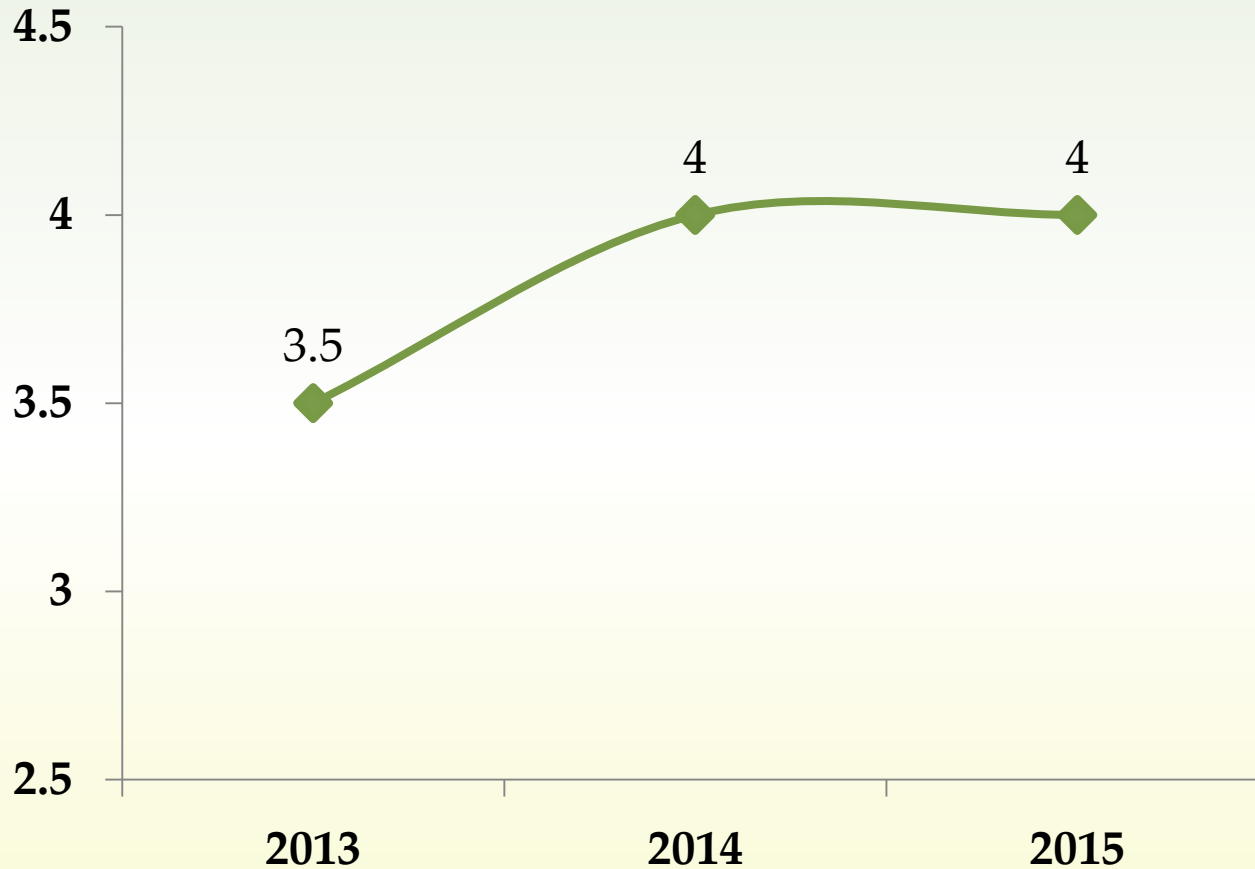


Respondents:
2012: n=235
2013: n=30
2014: n=120
2015: n=197

Foster Parent Surveys

- Average rating **4/5**
- 305 Foster Parents responded
- 42% provided written comments
- Highest Rated Items:
 - NFC Staff schedule home visits at times that are convenient for me and my family. **4.4**
 - The FPS visits with me monthly, in the home. **4.4**
 - The FPS visits with the foster youth monthly, in the home. **4.4**

Foster Parent Ratings: Historical Perspective

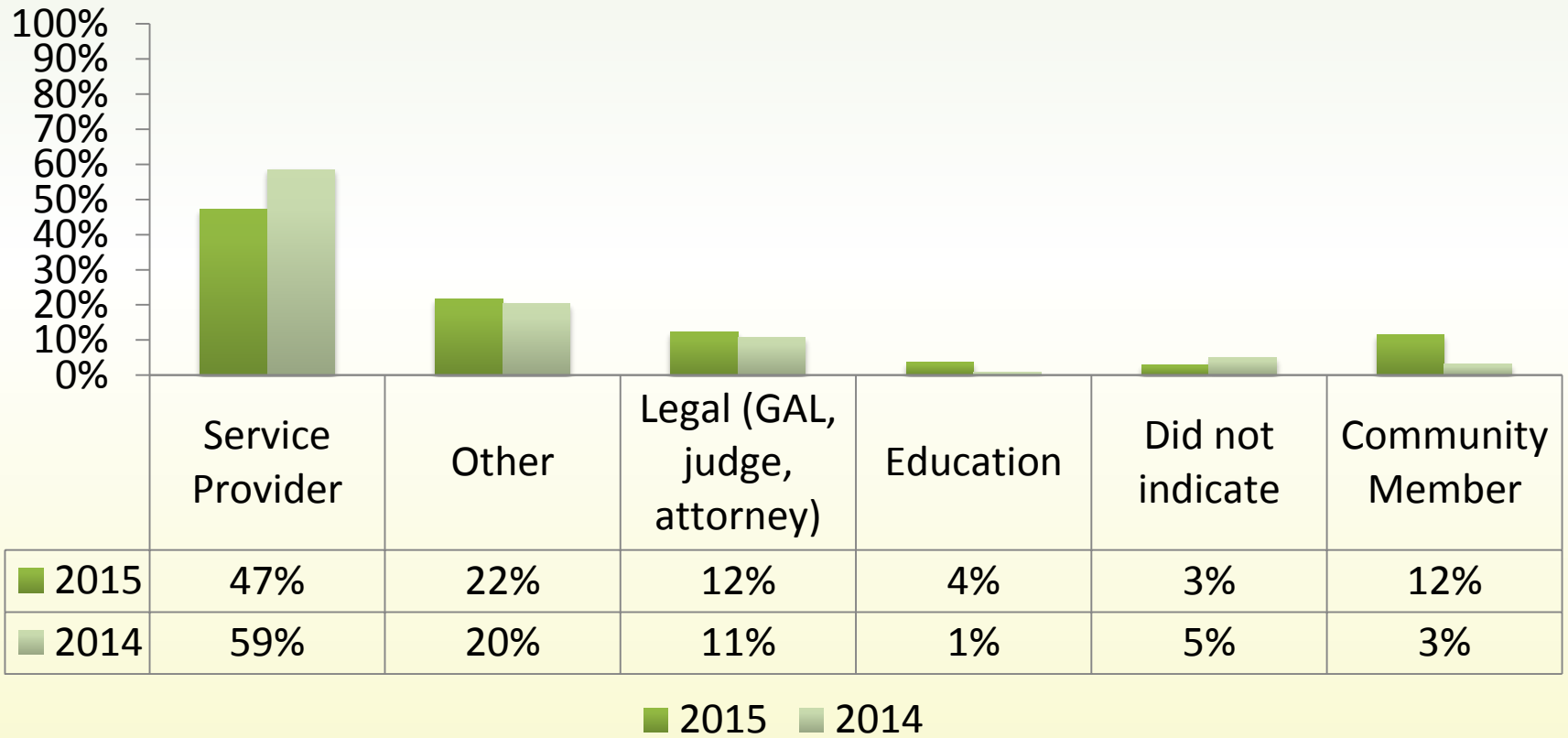


Respondents:
2012: n/a (with stakeholders)
2013: n=44
2014: n=144
2015: n=305

Stakeholder Surveys

- Average rating **3.3/5**
- 405 Stakeholders responded
- 28% provided written comments
- Highest Rated Items:
 - NFC works with local providers that offer high quality programs and services for children and families. **3.6**
 - NFC collaborates with others **3.5**
 - Overall, NFC staff members demonstrate professional skills in the fulfillment of his/her responsibilities. **3.4**

Stakeholder Comparison by Year



Stakeholder Ratings: Historical Perspective



Respondents:

2012: n=210

2013: 144

2014: n=222

2015: n=405



Next Steps

Advisory Groups

- Community Advisory Board
- Kinship Advisory Board
- Parent Advisory Board
- Foster Parent Advisory Board

Presentations

- NFC Board
- External Parties

NFC

- Use NFC internal Quality Assurance structure to assign tasks

How are we doing?



annual survey

2015

Your feedback matters!

parent survey

PARENT AVERAGE RATINGS

2014 = 4.4 | 2015 = 4.1

I have learned things in so many ways and resources that have been a great help for myself and family.

At my initial meeting I received the new family packet.	4.1
I had involvement in the development of my case plan and goals.	4.1
I have been offered choices about the services my family receives.	4.1
My FPS returns my call within 24-hours, excluding weekends and holidays.	4.0
We have monthly discussions regarding my family's strengths and needs.	4.0
My FPS assists my family in locating people who help support me.	4.1
The FPS adequately communicates with me.	4.1
The FPS demonstrates excellent professional skills in the fulfillment of his/her responsibilities.	4.2
My FPS does what s/he says they will do.	4.1
I see my FPS every month.	4.3
The NFC FPS treats me and my family with respect.	4.3
My FPS schedules meetings that are convenient for my schedule.	4.3
The FPS advocates for me and my family.	4.2
Overall, things are going better at home.	4.2
Overall, I feel the services provided to me and my family has been helpful.	4.1
NFC responds to my requests and concerns.	4.1

154 Parent Participants in 2014
215
 Parent Participants in 2015

YOUTH AVERAGE RATINGS

2014 = 4.1 | 2015 = 4.3

4.3	My FPS asked for my ideas and opinions.
4.0	I am getting along better with my family than I did before.
4.2	My FPS talks with me about my strengths and needs.
4.0	My FPS returns my call.
4.6	My FPS treats me with respect.
4.2	My FPS does what s/he says they will do.
4.2	My FPS keeps me connected with my brothers and sisters
4.4	My FPS explains things to me in a way I can understand.
4.4	My FPS responds to my requests and/or concerns.

120 Youth Participants in 2014
197
 Youth Participants in 2015

youth survey

My FPS treats me with dignity and respect. She asks for my opinions and includes me in matters that concerns my case. She has a kind and gentle heart with a loving personality.

stakeholder survey

I respect the way management addresses issues in a timely manner when brought to their attention. The response is not just a token response, but you can see the change in subsequent interactions.

STAKEHOLDER AVERAGE RATINGS

2014 = 3.4 | 2015 = 3.3



Overall, NFC staff members demonstrate professional skills in the fulfillment of his/her responsibilities.

3.4

NFC collaborates with others.

3.5

NFC works with local providers that offer high quality programs and services for children and families.

3.6

NFC families are linked to informal supports and formal services that best meet the family's needs.

3.4

The NFC Family Permanency Specialist adequately communicates with me (as applicable).

3.1

NFC provides adequate information about foster children prior to placement.

3.0

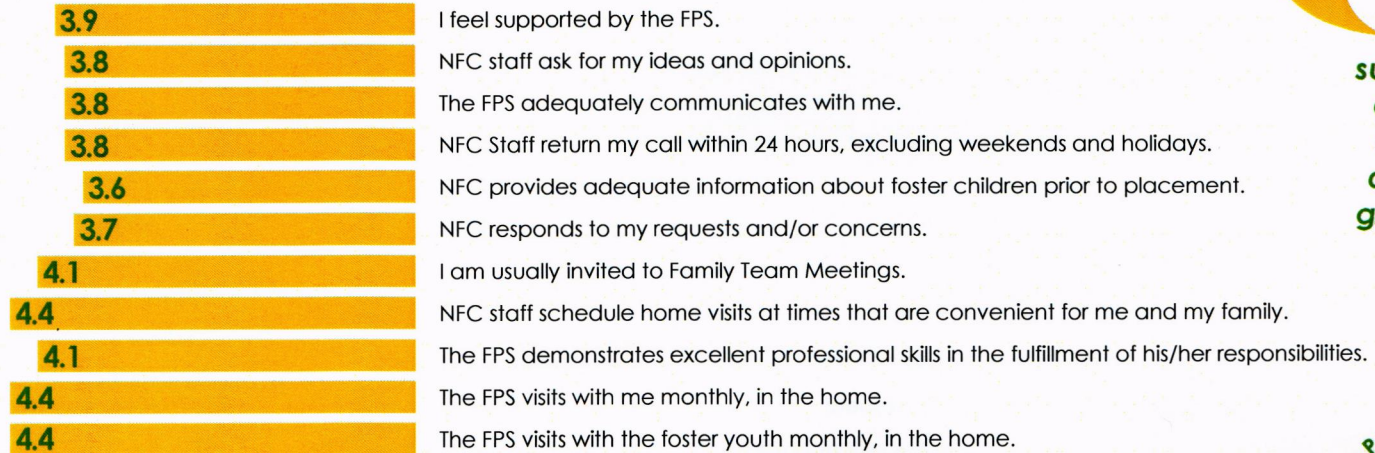
NFC responds to my requests and/or concerns.

3.3

222 Stakeholder Participants in 2014
405 Stakeholder Participants in 2015

FOSTER PARENT AVERAGE RATINGS

2014 = 4.0 | 2015 = 4.0



foster parent survey

"A great superb system available to answer any questions. A great group to work with."

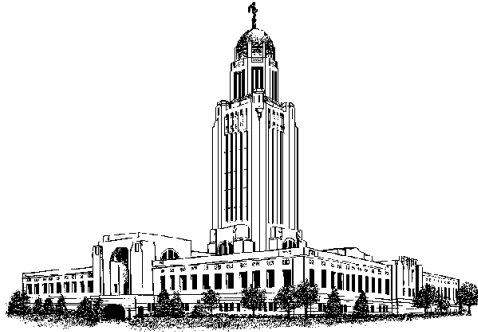
144 Foster Parent Participants in 2014
305 Foster Parent Participants in 2015

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR KATHY CAMPBELL

District 25
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(402) 423-3311

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PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
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COMMITTEES

Chairperson - Health and Human Services
Banking, Commerce and Insurance
Committee on Committees
Executive Board
Reference
Legislature's Planning

September 15, 2015

To the members of the Nebraska Children's Commission:

In order to gauge the effectiveness of this Commission, please provide your point of view by answering this short questionnaire. I have included a brief history and mission statement of the Commission as a framework for your thoughts.

Please respond by September 30, 2015 either by email, kcampbell@leg.ne.gov or mail to Sen. Campbell, district 25, State Capitol, P.O. Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509-4604.

Mission Statement:

The Nebraska Children's Commission is dedicated to working collaboratively with the three branches of government and among state, local, community, public and private stakeholders to enhance practices and programs to improve the safety and well-being of children and families in Nebraska.

LB 821, passed during the 2012 Legislative Session and created the Nebraska Children's Commission. Responsibilities include to:

- Create a statewide strategic plan for reform of the child welfare system programs and services,
- Review the operations of DHHS regarding child welfare programs and services,
- Recommend, either by the establishment of a new division within DHHS or establishment of a new state agency, options for attaining the intent of this act, and
- Provide a permanent forum for collaboration among state, local, community, public and private stakeholders in child welfare programs and services.

Legislative authorization for the establishment of the Children's Commission will sunset June 30, 2016.

Thank you for taking the time to include your input. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Campbell".

Kathy Campbell

Regarding the Nebraska Children's Commission:

1. Please evaluate the Commission's progress. Has the Commission successfully addressed the statutory responsibilities and mission statement? How or how not?

2. Should the Legislature re-authorize the Nebraska Children's Commission? Please explain.

3. What responsibilities or tasks should be included in the new legislation to re-authorize?



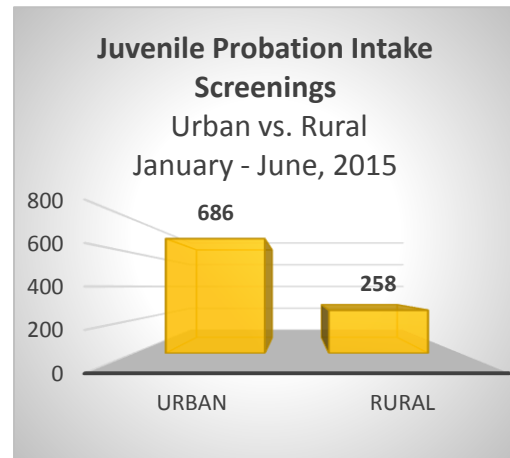
Probation Juvenile Justice Reform Efforts

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF PROBATION

July 2015 Report

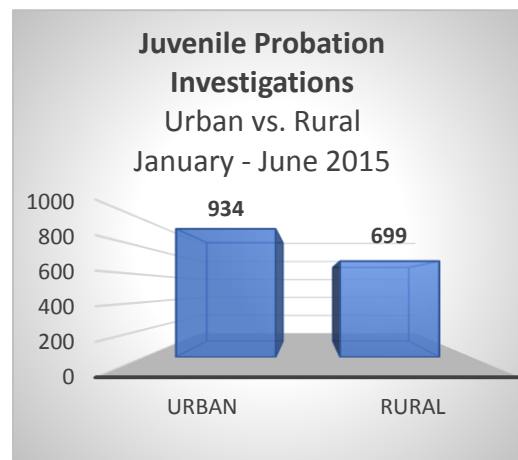
Intake and Detention Alternatives

- The University of Nebraska Omaha RAI evaluation report is being presented to stakeholders.
- Intake statewide assessment meetings are occurring to determine steps to increase reliance on the RAI tool. Discussions include:
 - Challenges regarding intake in each probation district, and
 - Updating of district-specific detention alternative continuums statewide.
- Probation facilitated a judicial web-series presentation “To Detain or Not Detain: What are the options?”
- Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) collaborative meeting and data workgroups continue to work, including creation of common definitions.



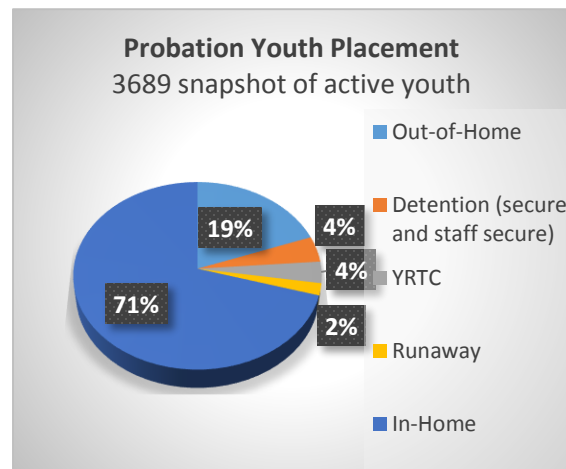
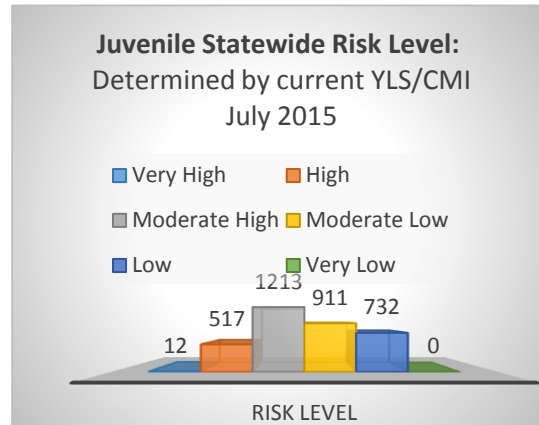
Pre-adjudication and Investigations

- Development of evaluation pilot project with Behavioral Health Regions V and VI for youth on probation in districts 2, 3J and 4J.
 - Sought input from judiciary regarding evaluation components.
 - Independent evaluations will be completed by a “network” of providers, specifically trained to incorporate criminogenic risk into the recommendations.
- Family financial self-sufficiency enhancements continue as districts create processes ensuring assessment of financial needs is completed for youth receiving services.
- Youth Behavioral Health Services Stakeholder Collaboration continues work on creation of a standardized evaluation tool.
- Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) introductory call with Sarpy County to begin their set-up as a new site.
- Probation facilitated a judicial web series presentation “Assessments and Evaluations that assist in Dispositional Decisions.”



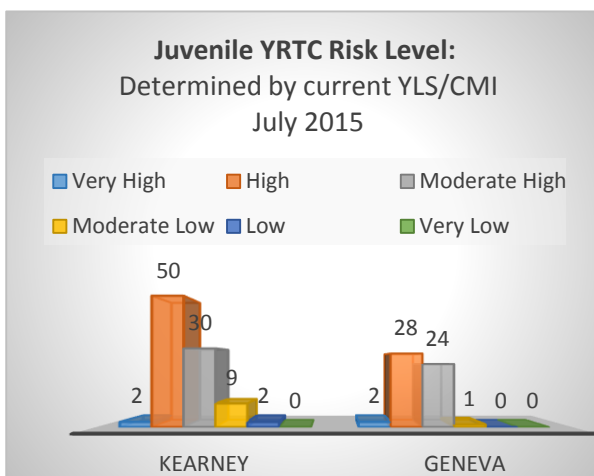
Case Management and Services

- The Probation Administrative Office will be touring each probation district over the next few months, training on:
 - Juvenile focused Evidence-based Practices; and
 - Juvenile client outcome expectations for probation officers.
- Development of Justice-focused Wraparound pilot project with Behavioral Health Regions V and VI for youth in probation districts 2, 3J and 4J.
 - Enhancement of community-based services for mental, behavioral, emotional and/or substance use disorders.
 - Increase of family involvement in the decision making.
- The Assessment Services Engagement (ASE) Team has now assisted two districts with youth cases and continues as a resource for the judiciary and probation to assist in development of a supervision / placement plan for youth at risk of out-of-home placement.
- Probation facilitated a judicial web-series presentation “Juvenile Justice System Process and Service Responsibilities” and “National and Local Practices Regarding Non-delinquent Status Youth.”



Reentry

- Development of a *shadow experience* at the YRTC’s which will assist probation officers with an increased understanding of youth daily activities and interactions.



- Collaborating with Magellan’s “My Life” youth group to support youth upon reentry from the YRTC and all out-of-home placements.
- Probation facilitated a judicial web series presentation “The Status of Out-of-Home Placement.”

JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION

521 South 14th Street, Fifth Floor Lincoln, NE 68508

Tel 402.471.4816 Main Line / Fax 402.471.4891

<https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/10824/juvenile-services>