

**Nebraska Children’s Commission
Psychotropic Medications Committee**
Sixth Meeting
May 5, 2016
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
The Executive Building,
Lower Level Conference Room
521 S. 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68504

I. Call to Order

Paula Wells and Gregg Wright, Co-Chairs of the Psychotropic Medications Committee, called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Committee Members present (10):

Beth Baxter	Alyson Goedken	Paula Wells
Mandy Blankenship (3:07)	Kim Hawekotte	Gregg Wright
Dr. Beth Ann Brooks	Hailey Kimball	
Dr. Janine Fromm	Gary Rihaneck	

Committee Members absent (4):

Carla Lasley	Kayla Pope
Margo Lorimer	Kristi Webber

Committee Resource Members present (2):

Vicki Maca	Carol Tucker
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Committee Resource Members absent (2):

Ashley Harlow	Julie Rogers
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A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (4):

Lisa Casullo.....	Magellan Behavioral Health of Nebraska
Bethany Connor Allen.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Amanda Felton.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Cheryl Turner.....	UNL, Center for Children, Family, and the Law

a. Notice of Publication

Recorder for the meeting, Amanda Felton, indicated that the notice of publication for this meeting was posted on the Nebraska Public Meetings Calendar website in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

b. Announcement of the placement of Open Meetings Act information

A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for public inspection and was located on the sign-in table at the rear of the room.

III. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by **Beth Baxter** to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by **Paula Wells**. No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (9):

Beth Baxter
Dr. Beth Ann Brooks
Dr. Janine Fromm

Alyson Goedken
Kim Hawekotte
Hailey Kimball

Gary Rihanek
Paula Wells
Gregg Wright

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Mandy Blankenship
Carla Lasley

Margo Lorimer
Kayla Pope

Kristi Webber

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Beth Baxter moved to approve the minutes of the **June 4, 2015** minutes as presented. **Dr. Janine Fromm** seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (8):

Beth Baxter
Dr. Beth Ann Brooks
Dr. Janine Fromm

Alyson Goedken
Hailey Kimball
Gary Rihanek

Paula Wells
Gregg Wright

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1):

Kim Hawekotte

ABSENT (5):

Mandy Blankenship
Carla Lasley

Margo Lorimer
Kayla Pope

Kristi Webber

MOTION CARRIED

V. Welcome & Introductions

Co-Chair Wright encouraged members and guests to introduce themselves and to give a priority that each member hoped to accomplish through the work of the group. Some of the priorities mentioned included:

- Ensuring that youth had informed experts to support them.
- Addressing the trauma that comes from multiple placements and inconsistent medical attention.
- Identifying best practices to help youth become self-advocates and give informed consent.
- Working to ensure that system wide training was current and complete.
 - This would include training for foster parents, bio parents, pharmacists, and many others.
- Encouraging the alignment of therapeutic treatment with medication.
- Looking for increased use of medical homes.

- A medical home was described as a medical group or medical supervisor that oversees the physical and mental health of a youth.
- Promoting proper diagnostic testing to help identify mental health issues vs. behavioral health issues.
- Helping involved parties recognize substance abuse and know who to identify those situations.

VI. Co-Chair Report

a. Recognition of Norm Langemach

Co-Chair Wright recognized Norman Langemach, who recently passed away, noting that it was the first meeting of the group without his membership. He remarked on Mr. Langemach's efforts and his role as a force for good for youth in out-of-home care.

b. Review of Committee Goals and Purpose

The Committee members were directed to the checklist handout summarizing the principles and recommendations of the previous report of the group. It was noted that significant changes had occurred since its original completion in 2012. A specific area of focus in the Committees goals was the addition of juvenile justice youth into recommendations.

VII. Discussion of Membership Composition and Nominating Committee

The group discussed membership and listed any potential gaps that may need to be filled. They compiled the following list of positions:

- A representative from the Administrative Office of Probation.
 - John Danforth was given as a suggestion to fill the position. Kim Hawkotte offered to reach out to the department.
- A representative of the youth voice.
 - This position was proposed to be either a rotating youth member or a youth liaison who could bring back youth input. Project Everlast was agreed upon as a source for suggested name(s)
- A representative from Medicaid Pharmacy, to help track trends in Medicaid data trends
 - Marcia Mueeting was suggested to as a potential representative. Dr. Brooks indicated that she could reach out to the Director of the Division of Medicaid and Long Term Care, Calder Lynch to see who would recommend as a representative.

VIII. Update from the Division of Children and Family Services

a. Update on Department Status on 2012 Recommendations

Gregg Wright distributed a worksheet that he had developed

Alyson Goedken, Administrator with the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and Vicki Maca, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations with DCFS, gave an update for the Committee. The duo discussed the creation of the federally mandated Healthcare Oversight Committee and their strategic plan., and provided copies to the attendees. The purpose of the Oversight Committee was to look at the coordination and continuity of behavioral and mental healthcare.

Lengthy discussion occurred regarding the work of the DCFS. A potential recommendation that arose from the dialogue was to have a flowchart or decision tree for emergency use as to who should be contacted when a foster youth comes into their care. Vicki Maca offered to create this flowchart and bring to the next meeting.

Another suggestion included utilizing the family organizations as navigators for youth and families wanting education and assistance with psychotropic medication questions and needs.

The Committee conversed on the policies surrounding Medicaid funding. It was pointed out that a large majority of youth in the child welfare system qualified for Medicaid. For the remaining youth

and families, DCFS is working to find sustainable funding through community resources. It became more complicated when the group took into consideration the juvenile justice population. That population was still under the care of their parents that may not have the resources to cover the necessary costs of psychotropic medication and accompanying care. The System of Care Initiative was mentioned as potential assistance in addressing medication costs.

With reference to the Worksheet Item 1)b, Establishing a mechanism to obtain assent when possible, the question was raised as to when can an adolescent object. It was determined that policy and procedures surrounding this issue would need to be created by both DHHS and Probation. A question was also raised with regard to Item 1)d , as to who should establish the type of training for (a) child welfare and (2) foster parents.

Item 2b), Establish an advisory committee to oversee medication review and provide medication monitoring et al was a topic on lengthy discussion. Ms. Goedken and Ms. Maca indicated that many of the subcomponents of that particular recommendation were being fulfilled by the Strategic Plan efforts and collaborations with the Quality Assurance Team to compile and monitor data. With those processes in place, they felt that a committee would be unnecessary and duplicative. Ms. Goedken indicated that information and trends could be gathered on the psychotropic medication data entered into NFOCUS to be presented at the next meeting.

Item 1c) Making available simply written psycho-educational and medical information sheets to facilitate the consent and assent was discussed in detail. Ms. Maca noted that DCFS would have the capacity to distribute materials, but may not have the necessary resources to create them. Dr. Beth Ann Brooks noted that a book was available online that outlined a majority of relevant topics that could be distributed to caseworkers to assist in the education of foster youth and families. Dr. Brooks noted that she would forward the link to the Co-Chairs.

As the meeting neared its end, the group touched on the issue of the creation of a website. Currently, the DCFS did not have the resources needed to create and maintain a website of this scale. A vendor would need to be contracted in order for this recommendation to be implemented. It was also mentioned that the due to the difference in population being served by DCFS and Probation, the guidelines and protocols would look very different and may need to be separated out.

b. Update on Status of DHHS Medical Position Hiring

No individuals had been hired in the position of Medical Director, but in-house Department resources were used for consultation.

IX. Next Steps

Next steps for the Committee included:

- Outreach to individuals suggested as potential Committee members
 - Kim Hawkotte volunteered to contact the Administrative Office of Probation for a recommended representative.
 - Gregg Wright indicated he would reach out to Marsha Meuting to identify a representative from Medicaid Pharmacy.
 - Co-Chairs and Commission Staff would correspond with Dr. Fromm and Lisa Casullo in identifying either a youth from Project Everlast or a liaison to represent the youth voice.
- Vicki Maca was to look into the creation of a flow chart showing the process for determining emergency contact when a youth comes into care. She would also gather NFOCUS data trends surrounding psychotropic medications for review by the members at the next Committee meeting.
- Continued review of progress by DHHS related to the original Committee report to the Children's Commission

X. Public Comment

Co-Chair Wright invited any members of the public forward. No public comment was offered.

XI. New Business

There was no New Business to discuss.

XII. Upcoming Meeting Planning

An attendance survey would be distributed to determine a date for the next meeting in early August.

XIV. Adjourn

Paula Wells moved to adjourn. Beth Baxter seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

5/19/2016

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DRAFT