

Structure Taskforce Notes

November 9, 2016

- Members present: Julie, Dave, Deb, Doug
- **Do we want to recruit an individual to replace Paula since she is no longer able to participate?**

Accountability of Subgroups

- The members of all of these groups are spread thin as it is. With so much going on, there is a goal to narrow focus to the core issues
- The practicality of attending the large number of meetings is impossible for much of the membership
- **We may want to look at limiting the number of subgroups that convene over a period of time**
 - Rather than 20 subgroups meeting over a year look at 10 subgroups over a 6 month period
- Depending on the focus of the commission, it may be appropriate to take the view of less is more
 - A lot of the Commission members work in areas and positions that connects directly with the work of the Commission, but for those that don't it can be a difficult task to work it into their schedules.
- Duplicative Efforts
 - There are subcommittees working on similar issues out of different commissions
 - May need to do a crosswalk or matrix of the various state commissions, committees, boards, and organizations to see where efforts are duplicative that could be reduced
 - Julie gave examples of three or four different groups that focus on Juvenile Justice issues alone
 - **Bethany and Amanda will work to create a document outlining information on the various groups**
 - **Document would include names of the different groups, their charters, their structure, membership, frequency of meetings, location of meetings, and which are mandated by statute**
 - Deb can provide information on the Supreme Court Commission
- We need to clarify the roles for the various entities and have clear start and end dates for the projects/work
 - If it's not working we can sunset those groups and focus efforts elsewhere
- **Do we need to create a workgroup/steering committee with representatives from each of the identified groups?**
 - Chairs of each group could be pulled together to delegate issues to the most appropriate group
 - Julie and Deb would both be interested in involvement
 - Other people to pull in:
 - Judge Johnson and Judge Inbody - Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts
 - Gene Klein and Mary Jo Pankoke - Commission for the Protection of Children

Testimony

- In the past it was decided to hold neutral positions on provided testimony
- It has been the practice to obtain Commission approval before any testimony was given by a Commission representative
- The group was not sure if the neutral stance was appropriate for the charge given to the group
- Need to ensure in situations of a split in consensus on issues, that there is a way to acknowledgement of both perspectives
 - Could be done through a White Paper or similar avenue
- **Agreement that since our charge is to provide insight and education, we should not be limited to neutral testimony**
- **Any testimony provided under the name of the Commission is required to obtain the approval of the Commission members.**
- It is often the hard and controversial issues that the senators need education and guidance on

Presence in the Community

- Before we start doing outreach, the role of the Commission needs to be clarified

Communication between Commission and Subgroups

- Identify the existing groups through the matrix, and see where tasks can be delegated or are already being addressed elsewhere

Addressing legislative

- If it's determined that some groups are no longer needed or should change focus, we can make recommendations to change statute to reflect such

Attendance

- We are stretching our members too thin
- **May need to look at having shorter meetings**
 - Reducing the number of subgroups will reduce the number of necessary meetings
- **Ask Beth to be present at the next Structure meeting**
- Noted that much of the meetings are communication based
 - Creates the situations where if the meeting is too long, people won't be able to attend and communication won't happen if members don't come
- **Recommend that the Commission move to a quarterly meeting format**

Vice Chair

- **Dave Newell expressed willingness to fill the role of Vice Chair**

Nebraska Children's Commission and Subgroup Structure

