Nebraska Children's Commission Survey Results

NCC Retreat

10/19/2017

The following is a detailed analysis of the survey distributed in September to NCC Members. 25 of 27 members participated in the survey, providing a 92% response rate! The first three questions asked respondents to rank items. The scoring for these items is derived by assigning a point value based on the position of rank and then combining the total score.
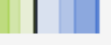
- Ex. For Question 1 there are 7 items. If a respondent ranks an item 1st, it will be assigned a score of 7. If ranked 3rd, it will be assigned a score of 5.
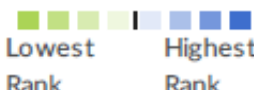
Q1. Given your understanding of the creation of the Nebraska Children's Commission, as well as your role on the NCC, please rank each of the following objectives with regard to how critical each is with respect to the statutory mandate.

Respondents were asked to rank 7-items. On this question, the highest scoring item was "*Identify priorities and goals to inform the Legislature*." However, the majority of respondents did not rank this item as 1 or 2, but due to disparity in other items, it received the highest overall score.

The second highest scoring item was "*Provide oversight for Nebraska's Child Welfare system*." It should be noted that approximately 50% of survey participants responded this would be the highest ranking priority for the NCC.

There was a major divide in ranking regarding the item "*Identify the data elements the NCC should be advocating for*" with many respondents either ranking this item as either least important or most important. Due to this split the item scored 6th overall. The lowest ranked item was "*Provide recommendations to the leaders of the Office of Probation*." It should be noted that items related to child welfare ranked higher than items related to the juvenile justice system.

Item	Overall Rank	Rank Distribution	Score
Identify priorities and goals to inform the Legislature	1		124
Provide oversight for Nebraska's Child Welfare system	2		115
Provide recommendations to the leadership of DHHS	3		108
Provide oversight for Nebraska's Juvenile Justice system	4		101
Create a strategic plan for systems reform	5		96
Identify the data elements the NCC should be advocating for	6		85
Provide recommendations to the leadership of the Office of Probation	7		60

Lowest Rank   Highest Rank

Q2. With respect to the Juvenile Justice system, what are the areas the NCC should focus on?

Respondents were asked to rank 12-items. Two of the three highest scored items, "*juvenile justice out of home continuum of care*" and "*funding for juvenile programs and services*" were ranked fairly evenly by respondents with many of the respondents ranking these two items fairly high.

The number two response, "*mental health and suicide in the juvenile justice system*", however, received an even split—with approximately half of respondents ranking it 7 or below. This same pattern was also observed in the rankings for "*racial disproportionality*" and "*education.*" The three lowest scoring measures, "*use of evidenced based practices,*", "*use of appropriate assessment tools*" and "*workforce issues*" all had at least one respondent rank it as the number one issue.

Item	Overall Rank	Rank Distribution	Score
Juvenile justice out-of-home continuum of care	1		193
Mental Health and Suicide	2		177
Funding for juvenile justice programs and services	3		176
Racial disproportionality	4		156
Youth with complex needs including developmental disabilities and competency issues	5		156
Recidivism	6		156
Youth exiting the juvenile justice system	7		154
Education	8		146
Missing and trafficked youth and youth at risk of being trafficked	9		139
Use of Evidence Based Practices	10		136
Use of appropriate assessment tools	11		128
Workforce Issues	12		106

Lowest Rank   Highest Rank

Q3. With respect to the Child Welfare system, what are the areas the NCC should focus on?

Respondents were asked to rank order 14-items. Scoring was based on overall score. "*Placement stability and length of stay*" and "*availability/funding of needed services*" scored in the top two for this question. Although there appears to be strong consensus on these items in terms of ranking, there was more variability with the "*placement stability and length of stay item*" than with the funding item. "*Licensing, training, and retention for foster homes*" tied for third with "*prevention and alternative response.* " However, approximately one-third of respondents ranked the "*Licensing, training, and retention for foster homes*" item an 8 or below. "*Education*"," *racial disproportionality*", and" *sexual abuse of youth in care*" scored among the bottom three; however just under 50% of respondents ranked those items in the top half of the scale.

| Item	Overall Rank	Rank Distribution	Score
Placement stability and length of stay	1		252
Availability of and funding for needed services	2		251
Licensing, training, and retention for foster parents and relative/kinship homes	3		204
Prevention and Alternative Response	4		204
Workforce Issues	5		199
Mental health and suicide of youth in care	6		181
Adherence to Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) timelines	7		148
Missing and trafficked youth and youth at risk of being trafficked	8		147
Use of appropriate assessment tools	9		146
Use of Evidenced Based Practices	10		145
Normalcy	11		137
Education	12		137
Racial disproportionality and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)	13		132
Sexual abuse of youth in care	14		130

Lowest Rank   Highest Rank

The following questions used a Likert scale with the five anchors in the text box below:

| No value | Limited value | |
| Average value | Valuable | Very valuable |

Responde**nts were asked to rank value of information received at** Nebraska Children's Commission (NCC) meetings. For these purposes, items are considered valuable if they were rated as valuable or very valuable. Of the 25 completed surveys, 64% of respondents thought presentations and discussions at meetings were valuable. 68% felt materials provided at meetings were valuable and 72% felt data provided at meetings was valuable. The next four (4) graphs provide the data from the survey.

Q4. How much value do you place on the data provided to you at the NCC meetings?

Nearly two third of respondents indicated they felt data provided at Commission meetings was valuable or very valuable.
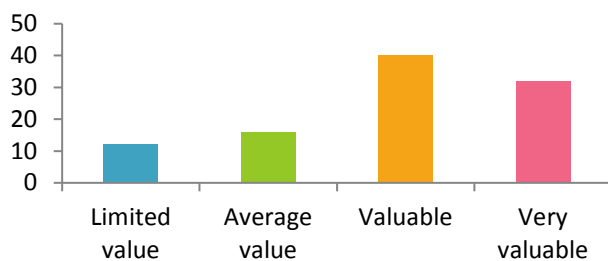
Value	Percent	Count
Limited value	12.0%	3
Average value	16.0%	4
Valuable	40.0%	10
Very valuable	32.0%	8
	Totals	25

Q5. How much value do you place on the presentations provided at the meetings?

All respondents indicated the presentations provided at meetings were at least of average value.
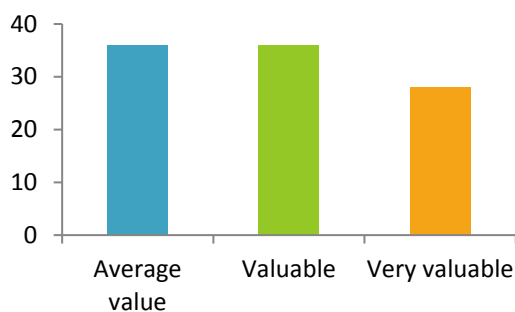
Value	Percent	Count
Average value	36.0%	9
Valuable	36.0%	9
Very valuable	28.0%	7
	Totals	25

Q6. How much value do you place on the materials provided at or prior to the meetings?

The majority of respondents indicated materials provided at or prior to meetings was valuable or very valuable. Only one member indicated the materials were of limited value.
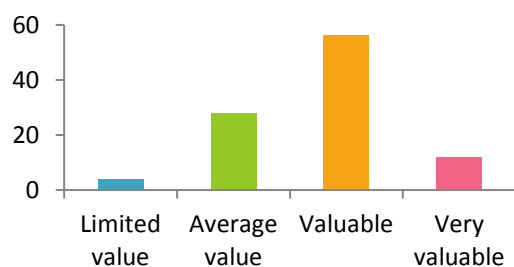
Value	Percent	Count
Limited value	4.0%	1
Average value	28.0%	7
Valuable	56.0%	14
Very valuable	12.0%	3
	Totals	25

Q7. How much value do you place on the discussion at the meetings?

More than 75% of Commission members felt the discussion at meetings was very valuable or valuable.
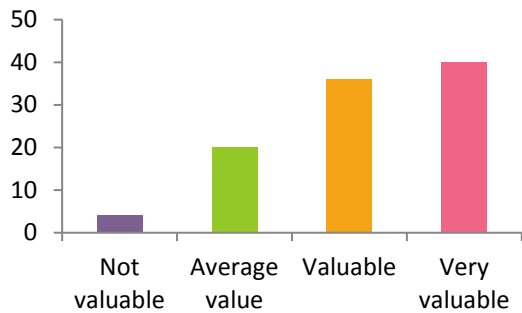
Value	Percent	Count
Not valuable	4.0%	1
Average value	20.0%	5
Valuable	36.0%	9
Very valuable	40.0%	10
	Totals	25

The following four survey items pertain to the information provided at *NCC Subcommittee meetings*. Presentations and materials provided ranked the lowest in value, at 64% and 72% respectively. Seventy-six percent of respondents felt data provided at subcommittee meetings was valuable while 92% felt the discussion was valuable at subcommittee meetings. The following four (4) graphs provide the detail for these items.

Q8. How much value do you place on the data provided to you at the subcommittee meetings?
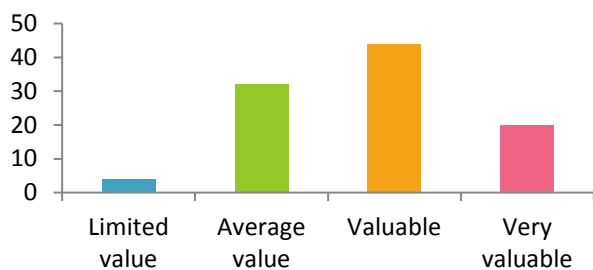
76% of commission members indicated the data provided at subcommittee meetings was valuable or very valuable.
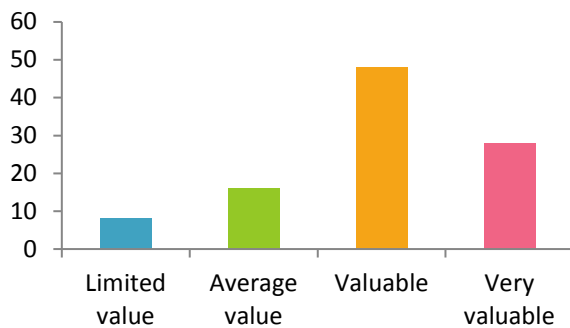
Value	Percent	Count
Limited value	8.0%	2
Average value	16.0%	4
Valuable	48.0%	12
Very valuable	28.0%	7
	Totals	25

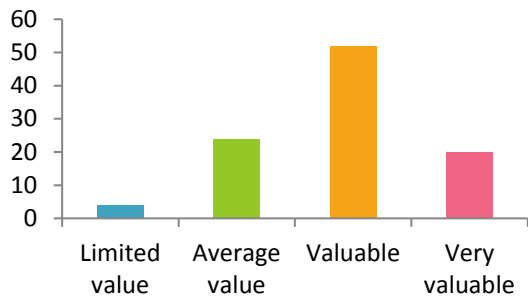**Q9. How much value do you place on the presentations provided at the subcommittee meetings?**

Approximately 64% of respondents indicated presentations provided at subcommittee meetings were valuable.

Value	Percent	Count
Limited value	4.0%	1
Average value	32.0%	8
Valuable	44.0%	11
Very valuable	20.0%	5
	Totals	25

**Q10. How much value do you place on the materials provided at or prior to the subcommittee meetings?**

72% of Commission members indicated materials provided at or prior to subcommittee meetings were valuable.

Value	Percent	Count
Limited value	4.0%	1
Average value	24.0%	6
Valuable	52.0%	13
Very valuable	20.0%	5
	Totals	25

Q11. How much value do you place on the discussion at the subcommittee meetings?

Discussion at subcommittee meetings was rated the most valuable, with 92% of respondents finding this valuable or very valuable.
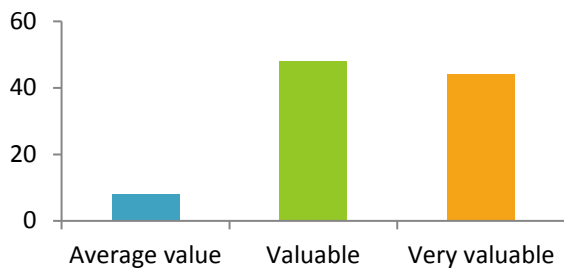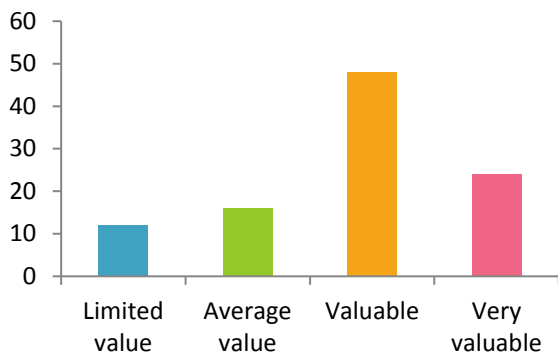

Value	Percent	Count
Average value	8.0%	2
Valuable	48.0%	12
Very valuable	44.0%	11
	Totals	25

Respondents were asked to rate the value of information provided by **outside sources**. 64% rated presentations from outside sources as being valuable, while 72% felt presentations from outside sources were valuable. 96% of the surveyed Commission members felt discussions with outside sources were valuable, with one member responding that it was not valuable.

Q12. How much value do you place on the data provided from outside sources?

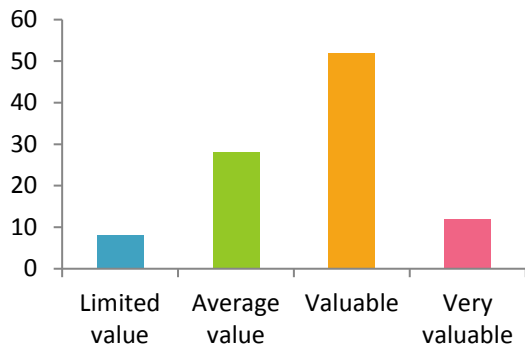Overall, 72% of respondents indicated data provided from outside sources was valuable.

Value	Percent	Count
Limited value	12.0%	3
Average value	16.0%	4
Valuable	48.0%	12
Very valuable	24.0%	6
	Totals	25

**Q13. How much value do you place on the presentations through other sources?**

64% of respondents felt presentations from outside sources was of value.

Value	Percent	Count
Limited value	8.0%	2
Average value	28.0%	7
Valuable	52.0%	13
Very valuable	12.0%	3
	Totals	25

Q14. How much value do you place on discussions with other industry professionals?

This question ranked the highest of all the value questions, as 96% of respondents felt discussion with industry professionals was valuable.
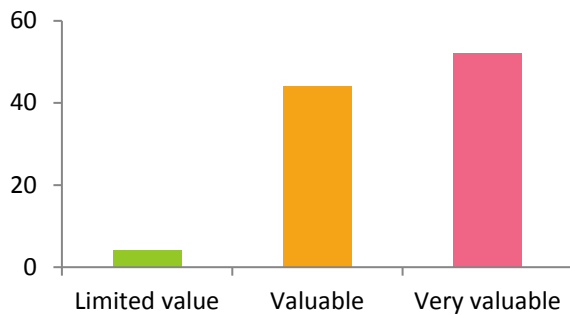
Value	Percent	Count
Limited value	4.0%	1
Valuable	44.0%	11
Very valuable	52.0%	13
	Totals	25

Comments on Sources of information obtained outside of the NCC:

While at least one respondent indicated they did not receive information from outside sources, others gave several examples of outside sources of information including, but not limited to:

- Federal, State, and Local Governmental Agencies
- Nebraska ICWA Coalition
- Private Foundations and Organizations
- Other Ongoing Discussions and/or Meetings regarding Child Welfare
- Juvenile Justice
- Through the Eyes of a Child Conferences
- Behavioral Health
- National ICWA Association
- Courts
- Schools
- National Resource Centers
- Various Trainings
- Personal experience with different children coming from different scenarios within the systems
- Personal experience interacting with the systems

Q15. How much value do you place in your personal experience?

76% of respondents indicated personal experience was valuable as a Commission member.
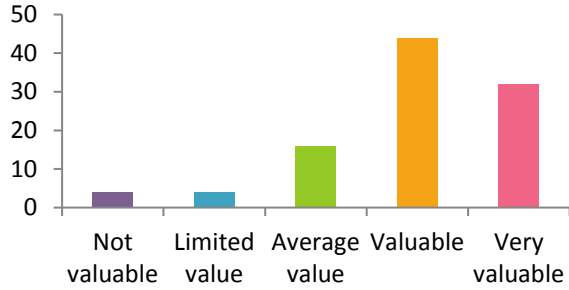
Value	Percent	Count
Not valuable	4.0%	1
Limited value	4.0%	1
Average value	16.0%	4
Valuable	44.0%	11
Very valuable	32.0%	8
	Totals	25

Q16. How much value do you place in your professional experience?

Of the 25 respondents, 80% indicated professional experience was valuable.
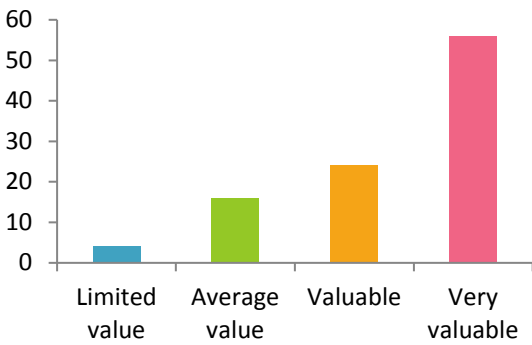
Value	Percent	Count
Limited value	4.0%	1
Average value	16.0%	4
Valuable	24.0%	6
Very valuable	56.0%	14
	Totals	25

From your perspective as a NCC member, are there any gaps in data you would like to see filled?

There were 17 responses to this question out of 25 total survey results. Of these, four respondents stated there were no gaps in data and two indicated they did not have enough information to make a determination. Another respondent suggested the Commission should focus less on data and more on completing its legislatively assigned duties. Two respondents each reported data gaps in the following areas: juvenile justice and longitudinal data. Beyond this, there was no consensus regarding where the gaps in data were. Below are other areas respondents identified as missing data:

- Systemic indicators for improvement in the Child Welfare system
- Presence of school counselors and impact on outcomes for system-involved youth
- Comparisons of state data to nationwide measures
- Comparative issues between other child welfare Commissions
- Number of children in care due to parental substance abuse
- Data on psychotropic medication
- Workforce retention

It was also suggested that it may be helpful to have a monthly data report. Areas of information that were thought to be beneficial included the following:

- Accepted hotline intakes
- Number of Alternative Response cases
- Number of voluntary cases
- Number of court-involved cases
- Number of state wards
- Number of out-of-home placements
- Number of foster placements
- Number of residential placements
- Number of out-of-state placements
- Number of placement changes
- Number of returning wards to their family/parental homes
- Number of Termination of Parental Rights
- Number of case closings before aging out
- Number that ages out
- Number of juvenile arrests
- Number of juveniles on diversion
- Number completing diversion successfully
- Number in detention — pre and post adjudication
- Number having probation revoked
- Number successfully completing term of probation
- Number turning 19 while on probation

If you could identify one area you want the Commission to focus on, what would that be?

This question was required to be answered by all respondents. Three indicated they had no opinion regarding which area the Commission should focus on. One person indicated it is important the Commission identify a single area of impact in order to have the greatest chance of achieving success in development. Three respondents indicated prevention as the priority for the Commission and six members indicated the strongest area of focus should be workforce retention. It should be noted workforce issues were ranked lowest in areas of focus in Juvenile Justice and was ranked fifth in child welfare issues to focus on. The following other areas were identified by members:

- Juvenile justice
- Reduce number of duplicative committees, commissions, subcommittees, workgroups, and task forces in child welfare and juvenile justice
- Emphasize the threshold of evidentiary standards for legal professionals
- Availability of services outside the Lincoln and Omaha metros
- Collaboration with the Systems of Care Initiative
- Develop monthly data indicators through which to measure process improvement
- Analysis of the legal system and prosecutorial model
- Drug use
- Integration of child-centered thinking and accountability for system-involved youth
- Well-being of children and families in child welfare and juvenile justice systems
- Well-being of children of color
- Timely permanency
- Increased funding for Children and Family Services and prevention services
- Inform legislature regarding child welfare