

Strengthening Families Act Committee Update

The Strengthening Families Act Committee met on January 10, 2019 and reviewed their goals for the first half of 2019. Outlined below are the priorities and action plan of the Committee and its subgroups.

Strengthening Families Act

Priorities

1. Continue beyond sunset
2. For 2019 state fiscal year, the NSFA Committee will pursue the dissemination and promotion of materials referenced herein to ensure everyone involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems has access, knowledge of their existence, and are actively implementing the SFA. Strategies will be specifically formulated to legal parties, out of home placement providers, youth in care and the DHHS-DCFS and Probation workforce.

Action Plan

- Committee plans to support LB330 and communicate to Senators and stakeholders the importance ensuring the continuation of the Commission and subgroups
- Members planned to work within their individual organizations to integrate recommendations of the Committee. Several organizations have agreed to host Commission created documents on their website.
- Suggested the creation of a page on the Commission website to host all Commission created resources as an easy access point for documents

APPLA Subcommittee

Priorities

1. Research potential skill assessment tools as an alternative to the Ansell Casey Life Skills assessment
2. Further implementation of the Advisor role

Action Plan

- Will partner with CASA to investigate their use of the Daniel Kids Independent Living Skills (ILS) assessment
- Will communicate with the University of Oklahoma – Tulsa as they research and create a customized life skill assessment tool
- Will partner with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and the Foster Care Alumni of Nebraska to create educational videos on the role of the SFA Advisor.
 - The video will be made available publicly for stakeholders to use as resources for foster parents, staff, SFA advisors, and youth
 - Dependent on available resources, the Committee may seek out private/grant funding to complete the project

Court Implementation Subcommittee

Priorities

1. Update the Caregiver Information Form and Youth Court Questionnaire
2. Distribution and Communication plan

Action Plan

- Will integrate final language and formatting changes agreed upon at the January SFA Committee meeting
- Once approved, will partner with the Nebraska Court Improvement Project to ensure documents are available to all court stakeholders
- Will work to develop a communication plan with various partners to ensure that all legal parties are aware of and utilize the forms in their work

Trafficking Subcommittee

Priorities

1. Issue brief summarizing funding streams and key issues for minors in Nebraska

Action Plan

- Compile a white paper with policy recommendations, including:
 - How public systems should respond to these cases and the roles of different agencies;
 - Available funding streams; and,
 - Needed services.

Normalcy Subcommittee

Priorities

1. Conduct a look back survey 2019
2. Subcommittee Normalcy Plan and Reporting Findings and Recommendations.

Action Plan

- Conduct a survey to specifically target current and former wards to inquire about their access to normalcy during their time in care
 - In an effort to ensure youth/young adult participation, the Committee hopes to seek out private or grant funding to provide incentives for completed surveys. The hope is to obtain enough funding to allow for three hundred \$10 gift card incentives, totaling \$3,000.
- Will continue to partner with DHHS in reviewing the current plans in order to create recommendations for the Committee's next annual report