

Alternative Response (AR) Advisory Committee

September 23, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Nebraska State Office Building
Lower Level Sarpy Room
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68508

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Co-Chair, Susan Thomas, called the meeting of the Alternative Response (AR) Advisory Committee to order at 10:12 a.m., and asked members to introduce themselves. After introductions Thomas asked Adam Anderson to call roll.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members present (9):

Jarren Breeling *(10:31 a.m.)*
Pat Carraher
Jennifer Carter
Monika Gross

Alex Hildebrand
Bri McLarty
*Proxy for Ivy Svoboda, Kristin
Chandler*

Susan Thomas
*Proxy for Mikayla Wicks, Jamie
Kramer*

Committee Members absent (5):

Alisa Baker
Sarah Helvey

Michelle Paxton
Carey Potter

Reggie Young

A quorum was established.

Guests In Attendance (1):

Adam Anderson

a. Notice of Publication

Recorder for the meeting, Adam Anderson, indicated that the notice of publication for this meeting was posted on the Nebraska Public Meeting and Nebraska Children’s Commission website in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. The publication would be kept as a permanent attachment with the meeting minutes.

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 at the sign in table and on the Nebraska Children’s Commission website.

III. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Jennifer Carter to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Bri McLarty. There was no discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (9):

Jarren Breeling
Pat Carraher
Jennifer Carter

Monika Gross
Alex Hildebrand
Bri McLarty

*Proxy for Ivy Svoboda, Kristin
Chandler*
Susan Thomas

Proxy for Mikayla Wicks, *Jamie Kramer*

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Alisa Baker
Sarah Helvey

Michelle Paxton
Carey Potter

Reggie Young

MOTION CARRIED

**Minutes do not follow the order of discussion.*

IV. Approval of July 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Bri McLarty to approve the July 22, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Alex Hildebrand. There was no discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (9):

Jarren Breeling
Pat Carraher
Jennifer Carter
Monika Gross

Alex Hildebrand
Bri McLarty
Proxy for Ivy Svoboda, Kristin Chandler

Susan Thomas
Proxy for Mikayla Wicks, Jamie Kramer

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Alisa Baker
Sarah Helvey

Michelle Paxton
Carey Potter

Reggie Young
Reggie Young

MOTION CARRIED.

V. Workgroup Planning Discussion

Co-Chair Monika Gross reminded the Committee about the approval to form Access to Legal Resources, Equitable Provision of Services, Oversight Mechanisms for AR and Non-Court Cases, and Workforce Stabilization workgroups. She noted that the Committee will have to find a chair for each of the group, who would then report back to the Committee.

Co-Chair Gross asked Pat Carraher to Chair the Legal Resources Workgroup. Carraher accepted. Gross asked Jennifer Carter and Ivy Svoboda to Chair the Oversight Mechanisms. Carter accepted.

Jamie Kramer suggested reaching out to Suzanna Borowski for the Workforce Stabilization Workgroup, as Borowski is focused on the resiliency and retention of DHHS staff. Kramer also recommended reaching out to Alger Studstill for other options.

Jennifer Carter suggested that the Equitable Provision of the Services Workgroup could be led by Mikayla Wicks or someone from NCCFF. Bri McLarty suggested reaching out to Julie Kindler from Pathfinders for the perspective of service providers. Jamie Kramer suggested reaching out to the various service provider associations such as CAFCON or NABHO. Members discussed some of the gaps with community-based services.

Adam Anderson shared the Charter Template. Co-Chair Gross noted that the group will have to narrow the focus of the groups. She noted the groups make use of Google Docs and the Google Drive for each of the workgroups. Members discussed a timeline for group creating and meeting, noting finding chairs and meeting by the end of October. Gross noted that she has additional names for the Legal Services workgroup. Pat Carraher shared that there is a legal resources JamBoard already put together to take a look at. Adam Anderson will create a spreadsheet for sign up and put it on the Google Drive. He will also send out an interest list for the workgroups to the NCC email lists.

Jamie Kramer also suggested Camas Holder. Jarren Breeling suggested Veronica and Claudia, and Sandy Thompson from Families Inspiring Families.

Members also discussed inviting people in education to join.

Co-Chair Gross noted that the Committee is planning on having Chairs identified by the end of October and for each of the groups to meet before the end of 2022. She added that each workgroup will provide an update at the February AR Committee meeting.

VI. OIG Annual Report

Jennifer Carter shared information from the [OIG Annual Report](#). She highlighted that the ESA transfer of cases was deliberate and thoughtful and noted that the complaints heard were not generally about the transfer of cases but rather about the handling of cases by Saint Francis. She noted some of the concerns with the case management provided by Saint Francis. In general, she felt that the transition went well. Carter also noted stability with the YRTC's and improvement on their focus on treatment and rehabilitation.

Carter shared that their office has seen an increase of serious injuries. Reports increased from eight to thirteen, and investigations of those reports has increased from one to ten. Carter noted the definition of reports they are to investigate are those that did not occur by chance. She gave specific examples. Members discussed the serious injury definition and the process.

Carter shared information from the report regarding placement concerns, such as youth in hotels, youth moving between shelters, and respite being used inappropriately as an in-between placement. She shared specific examples of the misuse of respite and the concerns found. Members discussed the respite process. Members noted the different processes for respite across agencies and kinship/relative care.

Carter talked about the continuing examining of Covid-19 related effects on families on top of the normal family stressors. She noted preparation for long-term effects of the pandemic.

Carter discussed the increase of summaries from families involved in Alternative Response. She noted that their office is not required to investigate all reports but must summarize them in their annual report. She also explained the nature of some of the AR-related reports.

Carter discussed definition of serious injury and the collaboration with DHHS on cases that don't rise to the level of investigation by the OIG. She also shared other upcoming projects not related to investigations.

VII. DHHS Update

DHHS Administrator, Jamie Kramer noted that the RFP went out and there are providers ready for the expanded NCR tiers.

Kramer noted that efforts are being made to find another Qualified Residential Treatment Program to fill the gap left by Omni's closing, to address the needs over older youth. She provided an explanation of QRTPs.

Kramer provided an update regarding the implementation of evidence-based programs through FFPSA. She shared that Chapin Hall has identified service array gaps. She shared that services being addressed are in-home parenting, mental health and substance abuse. She noted that nine programs will be rolled out through three phases. Healthy Families America, Trauma Focused CBT, Family Centered Treatment and Familias Unidas will be rolled out in phase one. She provided an overview of Familias Unidas, which is a new program. Parents as Teachers, Family Spirit, Multi Systemic Therapy will be rolled out in phase two in April of 2023. Phase three will roll out October 2023 and will have PCIT. She noted that PCIT will only have one type of training approved that many of the providers do not currently have. Kramer added that Chapin Hall has also worked on a business process map for CFS including AR. It will be presented to the DHHS leadership team in approximately one month.

Kramer discussed the critical incident process. Kramer shared that Nebraska working with the Safety Collaborative to implement SSIT. She noted that the tool is through the University of Kentucky and will outline a very specific process that uses evidence-informed tools to understand everything that led up to that critical incident and to identify systematic issues and issues from the perspective of the caseworker. She will be leading the process. Members discussed the SSIT

Kramer shared additional specifics regarding services for greater Nebraska. Members discussed the needs. Healthy Families America completed a needs analysis in Hastings in 2019 and identified areas of need. She noted some disputes in that area.

Kramer shared that Lancaster County is looking to set up a community resource center focused on older youth. Workgroup meetings will be starting soon. She noted that Lynn Ayres has been working on this project.

Kramer shared the website with public information about the programs: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/CFS-Announces-New-Preventative-Programs-Authorized-by-the-Families-First-Prevention-Services-Act.aspx>

VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Public Comment

Co-Chair Monika Gross opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

X. Upcoming Meetings:

February 24, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson