

Alternative Response (AR) Advisory Committee

August 25, 2023
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Nebraska State Office Building
Sarpy Conference 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 10:03 AM, and asked members to introduce themselves. Roll call was taken through introductions.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members present (8):

Jarren Breeling	Monika Gross	Ivy Svoboda
Patrick Carraher	Susan Martinez	Susan Thomas
Jennifer Carter	Heather Sikyta	

Committee Members absent (5):

Alise Baker	Alex Hildebrand	Michelle Paxton
Sarah Helvey	Bri McLarty	

A quorum was established.

Guests In Attendance (8):

Adam Anderson	Kathy Dinkel	Jamie Kramer
Amanda Adams	Mikayla Findlay	Amanda Roth
Jacie Boelts	Sara Hoyle	
Doretta Brookins	Emma Johnson	

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 with changes. The motion was seconded by Pat Carraher. There was no discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (8):

Jarren Breeling	Jennifer Carter	Susan Martinez
Patrick Carraher	Monika Gross	Heather Sikyta

Ivy Svoboda

Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Alisa Baker
Sarah Helvey

Alex Hildebrand
Bri McLarty

Michelle Paxton

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of June 29, 2023 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Heather Sikyta to approve the June 29, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jarren Breeling. There was no discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (8):

Jarren Breeling
Patrick Carraher
Jennifer Carter

Monika Gross
Susan Martinez
Heather Sikyta

Ivy Svoboda
Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Alisa Baker
Sarah Helvey

Alex Hildebrand
Bri McLarty

Michelle Paxton

MOTION CARRIED

V. Strategic Planning

Amanda Adams directed the committee's attention to the annual report and noted that the committee is responsible for holding a majority of the recommendations.

VI. DHHS Update

Jamie Kramer updated the committee regarding who will be taking over for Mikayla Wicks. She noted they are in phase I of implementation. They have implemented.... DHHS will be beginning phase II next spring. Will focus on SESA NSA and CSA to expand services.

Pilot with Healthy Families America (HFA) where they are engaged, DHHS is closing their cases. Families are being referred to HFA by themselves, from family, or from DHHS Specialists. HFA is managed through public health. Program case is opened in NFOCUS for prevention and in order to report to federal government. Monika Gross noted that providers are being reimbursed at a lesser amount through DHHS. Kramer noted that the providers are paid a “case rate” rather than the “reimbursement rate” provided through public health.

Pilot in ESA that all intakes 0-5 made by medical professionals that don’t meet criteria, a family engagement specialist will visit. If specialists finds concerns, they will contact the Hotline. Pilot in North Platte for binders from hospitals to families that may need assistance. Steering Committee regarding FFPSA being formed. Needs community partners. Should be determined once the CEO is involved.

VII. Prevention in Lancaster County

Sara Hoyle from Lancaster County shared information regarding the Youth and Family Crisis Response Center. Lancaster has partnered with RFK to do a system analysis. They identified needing a 24/7 crisis center, non-admitted youth center, planning and support for crisis and afterward, and respite services higher than what CEDARS provides but lower than emergency room. Lancaster county and Region V has committed funds. Families will receive crisis response, crisis management, respite facilities, and wraparound services once stabilization has occurred. Mobile crisis response in-home will still be available. Hoyle welcomed members to join the discussion. Hoyle outlined that the hope is to stabilize the youth and then transfer to a place like CEDARS. Families expressed concern that once crises were stabilized there were no community referrals available for up to two weeks. Other things that were discussed regarding the service included community supports such as housing and food, for weeks prior to referrals being made.

VIII. Workgroup Updates

Co-Chair Monika Gross welcomed the workgroup chairs to report out on the work of their workgroups.

- a. **Workforce Stability Workgroup** Amanda Adams

Amanda Adams noted that the workgroup doesn’t have a chair. Members discussed the ongoing use of the workgroup. Members discussed waiting until after the 1173 Workgroup releases their report. Members agree to pause the workgroup until the report is made.
- b. **Oversight Workgroup** Jennifer Carter

Jennifer Carter noted a pause over the summer with the potential to discuss data regarding safety and staffing in October. Next meetings will be schedule per the previous schedule.
- c. **Equitable Provision of Services Workgroup** Amanda Adams (Lana Temple-Plotz)

Amanda Adams noted that Lana Temple-Plotz will be taking over as the chair of the Workgroup. Previous discussion at the workgroup revolved around aftercare, and utilization management. Jamie Kramer asked members to join the Implementation Workgroup. Members agreed to pause until the Stephen Group Report is released.
- d. **Legal Resources Workgroup** Pat Carraher

Pat Carraher noted that the group has paused. He noted that the group could review what services are available statewide and in other states. He would like to push the recommendations forward to get them implemented. Amanda Adams shared that the group would like to pivot to work on new priorities in the future.

IX. Approval of Special Report

Amanda Adams shared the process of creating and approving the report for submission to DHHS, Legislature, and the Governor.

Members discussed any changes for the report prior to submission.

A motion was made by Ivy Svoboda to approve the special annual report with changes as discussed. The motion was seconded by Jarren Breeling. There was no discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (8):

Jarren Breeling
Patrick Carraher
Jennifer Carter

Monika Gross
Susan Martinez
Heather Sikyta

Ivy Svoboda
Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Alisa Baker
Sarah Helvey

Alex Hildebrand
Bri McLarty

Michelle Paxton

MOTION CARRIED

X. New Business

The Committee would like to invite community providers to the future meetings such as the Community Collaborative. CASA, Juvenile Probation, HFA, Parent Leadership

Members would like to have data presented again from DHHS as was presented by Mikayla Wicks

XI. Public Comment

Co-Chair Monika Gross opened the floor to public comment.

Kathy Dinkel asked about how to include more members from the community with lived experience to join the discussion. She would like to be able for community members to be able to join committee meetings online or be able to provide input via a survey. She shared a personal experience with a family she encountered recently. She shared thoughts regarding how families are being offered alternative supports respectfully.

Members discussed how to best compensate families for sharing their stories.

Members discussed community engagement at length.

XII. Upcoming Meetings:

December 15, 2023, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Virtually

XIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson