

**Bridge to Independence (B2i) Advisory Committee**

July 28, 2023

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

Co-Chair Brandy Gustoff called the meeting of the Bridge to Independence (B2i) Advisory Committee to order at 9:45 a.m. Interim Co-Chair Richard Hasty asked Adam Anderson to call roll.

**II. Roll Call and Introductions**

***Committee Members present (7):***

Richard Hasty

Proxy for Michaela Hirschman, Angela Miles

Proxy for Jill Holt, Kitty Washburn

Jovan Johnson

Felipe Longoria-Shinn

Keenan Page

Bailey Perry

***Committee Members absent (6):***

Douglas Beck

Sarah Helvey

Christina Lloyd

Mia Pokorny

Susan Thomas

Haylee Wing

***Ex-Officio Members present (3):***

Brandy Gustoff

Maghan Madsen

Lindsay Meyer

***Ex-Officio Members absent (2):***

Jennifer Skala

Theresa Cusic

**A quorum was present.**

***Guests In Attendance (9):***

Amanda Adams

Adam Anderson

KeAyra Braithwait

Deanna Brakhage

Shayne Schiermeister

Lana Verbrigghe

Heather Wood

***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.

\*Minutes do not follow the order of the agenda.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

**It was moved by Bailey Perry and seconded by Keenan Page to approve the agenda with amendment to move up Data & Evaluation Workgroup agenda item.** There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

**FOR (7):**

Richard Hasty

Proxy for Michaela Hirschmann, Angela Miles

Proxy for Jill Holt, Kitty Washburn

Jovan Johnson

Felipe Longori-Shinn

Keenan Page

Bailey Perry

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (0):**

**ABSENT (6):**

Douglas Beck

Sarah Helvey

Christina Lloyd

Mia Pokorny

Susan Thomas

Haylee Wing

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

**It was moved by Bailey Perry to approve the May 4, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Keenan Page.** There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

**FOR (7):**

Richard Hasty

Proxy for Michaela Hirschmann, Angela Miles

Proxy for Jill Holt, Kitty Washburn

Jovan Johnson

Felipe Longori-Shinn

Keenan Page

Bailey Perry

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (0):**

**ABSENT (6):**

Douglas Beck

Sarah Helvey

Christina Lloyd

Mia Pokorny

Susan Thomas

Haylee Wing

**MOTION CARRIED**

**V. Co-Chair Report**

Co-Chair Hasty noted that the Committee will be voting on annual recommendations at this meeting. He thanked Amanda Adams for updating the report and creating a very professional looking document that has the same theme as the Children's Commission Report.

## **VI. Membership Update**

Adam Anderson shared a membership update. Members noted that efforts should be made to reach out to the Behavioral Health Regions and the Legislature for membership.

## **VII. Strategic Priorities**

Amanda Adams reminded the Committee of the Commission's Strategic Priority. She shared that the Committee is assigned to review current supports offered to families through systems that are involved in and identify gaps. She noted that the Sustainability and the Data Workgroups are looking at what is working and not and trying to determine the in-between. Adams has identified in the report what the group is working on.

## **VIII. B2i Recommendations Approval**

Amanda Adams discussed the annual report and the changes that have been made. She noted that the recommendation regarding immigration status has been an ongoing effort of the Committee that is still relevant, but she thought that presenting the same language each year may seem as though the group is not actively communicating or working towards this goal. Members discussed the first recommendation at length. Amanda Adams will edit the first recommendation and include language regarding creating a workgroup regarding immigration status.

Members discussed youth engagement strategies.

**It was moved by Felipe Longoria-Shinn to approve the annual report with edits as discussed. The motion was seconded by Keenan Page.** There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

### **FOR (6):**

Richard Hasty  
Proxy for Jill Holt, Kitty Washburn  
Jovan Johnson

Felipe Longoria-Shinn  
Keenan Page  
Bailey Perry

### **AGAINST (0):**

### **ABSTAINED (1):**

Michaela Hirschman

### **ABSENT (6):**

Douglas Beck  
Sarah Helvey  
Christina Lloyd

Mia Pokorny  
Susan Thomas  
Haylee Wing

## **MOTION CARRIED**

## **IX. Workgroup Updates**

### **a. Sustainability Workgroup**

Keenan Page shared information regarding the group and the recent work. He noted the group has begun working on goals through the VMOSA framework. He noted two very rich discussions have occurred. He shared that the group is using a Jam Board to keep track of the discussions and will be willing to share it with the group. He continued, noting that the group is looking at financial, education, employment pieces, as well as hope outlook and resiliency. He noted that goals and action steps will be determined at future meetings.

**b. Data & Evaluation Workgroup**

Heather Wood joined via Webex Wood shared that the FCRO continues to review data for B2i youth outcomes. She noted that they are unable to determine GED vs. high school diploma from the data provided. If the committee would be interested the recommendation would be to work with the B2i staff about how to best filter out post-secondary education as opposed to GED, so it could be shared with

**X. DHHS Update**

**a. Youth Thrive Roll Out**

Shayne Schiermeister shared that staff have been trained in Youth Thrive. He noted additional training on the Youth Thrive Survey will take place in August.

**b. Probation Update**

Deanna Brakhage shared information regarding the inclusion of probation youth starting in 2025. She noted that the first meeting with Probations has occurred to discuss the transition and map out priorities.

**c. CQI**

Deanna Brakhage shared a CQI packet with data from the previous quarter and reviewed specific data points. Members discussed

**XI. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**XII. New Business**

Amanda Adams noted reaching out to additional resource members.

Members discussed the length of the meetings in order to have enough time to not cut off discussion.

**XIII. Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. Tentatively 10/31/2023, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM in person

**XIV. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM