

Member Nomination Report

Report to the Nebraska Children's Commission
February 14, 2023

The following individuals have been nominated for membership on identified Committees as noted below.

Alternative Response Committee

- A representative of county attorneys or other prosecutors
 - **Heather Sikyta, New Appointment (Voting)** – Sherman County Attorney
- A representative of the Foster Care Review Office
 - **Monika Gross, Reappointment (Voting)** – Foster Care Review Office
- A representative of the Department of Health and Human Services
 - **Mikayla Wicks, Reappointment (Voting)** – Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- A representative of a child welfare advocacy organization
 - **Sarah Helvey, Reappointment (Voting)** – Nebraska Appleseed
- A representative of the state chapter of child advocacy centers
 - **Ivy Svoboda, Reappointment (Voting)** – Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers
- A representative of a child welfare advocacy organization
 - **Susan Thomas, Reappointment (Voting)** – Nebraska CASA Association
- A representative of families with experience in the child welfare system
 - **Jarren Breeling, Reappointment (Voting)** – Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- A representative of county attorneys or other prosecutors
 - **Brianna McLarty, Reappointment (Voting)** – Dodge County Attorney's Office
- A representative of attorneys for parents
 - **Patrick Carraher, Reappointment (Voting)** – Legal Aid of Nebraska
- A representative of law enforcement agencies
 - **Alex Hildebrand, Reappointment (Voting)** – York County Sheriff's Office
- A representative of the Office of the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare
 - **Jennifer Carter, Reappointment (Voting)** – Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare
- A representative of guardians ad litem
 - **Michelle Paxton, Reappointment (Voting)** – University of Nebraska College of Law

Bridge to Independence Committee

- A representative of a child welfare service agency
 - **Keenan Page, Replacing Sara Riffel (Voting)** – Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- A young adult currently or previously in foster care
 - **Haylee Wing, New Appointment (Voting)** – Brookstone Gardens

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

- A child welfare agency that contracts directly with foster parents from the Central Service Area.
 - **Doug Kreifels, New Appointment (Voting)** – Saint Francis Ministries
- A child welfare agency that contracts directly with foster parents from the Southeastern Service Area.
 - **Theresa Goley, New Appointment (Voting)** – KVC

Juvenile Services Committee

- A Nebraska Crime Commission Representative

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- **Amy Hoffman, Reappointment (Voting)** – Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice
- A representative of the Court Improvement Project
 - **Deb VanDyke-Ries, Reappointment (Voting)** – Court Improvement Project
- A representative of the Office of Juvenile Services
 - **Mark LaBouchardiere, Reappointment (Voting)** – Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Juvenile Services
- A county attorney representative
 - **Nicole Brundo, Reappointment (Voting)** – Douglas County Attorney’s Office, Juvenile Division
- A data expert representative
 - **Dr. Richard Wiener, reappointment (Voting)** – University of Nebraska - Lincoln
- A representative of Juvenile Probation
 - **Julie Smith, reappointment (Resource)** – Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, Juvenile Services Division

Strengthening Families Act Committee

- Young Adult currently or previously in foster care
 - **Denisha Seals, New Appointment (Voting)** – Young Adult
- Representative from a child welfare service agency
 - **Sarah Nixon, Replacing Halle Stuart (Voting)** – KVC
- Young Adult currently or previously in foster care
 - **Payne Ackerman, Reappointment (Voting)** – Young Adult
- Representative from a child welfare advocacy organization
 - **Misty Flowers, Reappointment (Voting)** – Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition
- Representative of an independent living services agency
 - **Brandy Gustoff, Reappointment (Voting)** – Omaha Home for Boys
- Young adult currently or previously in foster care
 - **Vernon Davis, Reappointment (Voting)** – Former Foster Youth
- Parent who has experience in the foster care system
 - **Terri Knutson, Reappointment (Voting)** - Parent
- Representative of the Executive Branch of Government
 - **Deanna Brakhage, Reappointment (Voting)** – Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
- Representative from a child welfare advocacy organization
 - **Stephanie Bizarri, Reappointment (Voting)** – Heartland Family Services
- Representative of a child care institution
 - **Ron Giesselmann, Reappointment (Voting)** – Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children
- Representative from the Juvenile Probation System
 - **Jeremy Behrends, Reappointment (Ex-Officio)** – Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation
- Executive Director of the Foster Care Review Office
 - **Monika Gross, Reappointment (Ex-Officio)** – Foster Care Review Office
- Representative of an independent living services agency
 - **Bailey Perry, Reappointment (Resource)** – Omaha Home for Boys