

Welcome to the Nebraska Children's Commission!

8/8/2023





Background

- The Nebraska Children's Commission is a product of the 2011 LR (Campbell); an investigation by the Health and Human Service Committee that identified a number of gaps in the service delivery model for children and families
- In 2012, the Nebraska State Legislature created the Commission to provide a permanent leadership forum for the collaboration of child welfare and juvenile justice, and devise a strategic plan for child welfare and juvenile justice reform



Who are we?

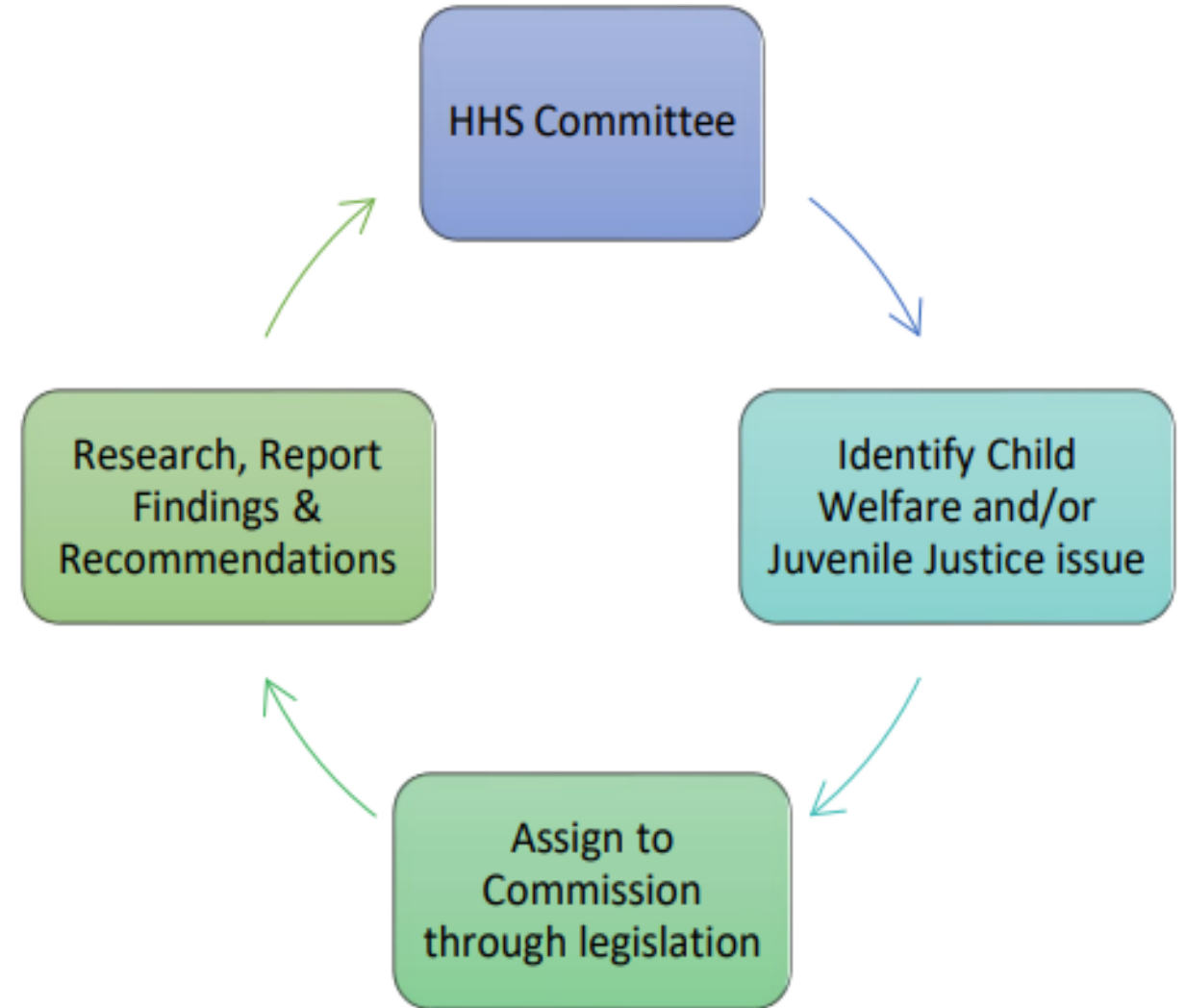
- 26 members appointed by the Governor
- Non-voting, ex-officio representatives from all three branches of government
- Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice state, regional and community representatives
- Private, public and community stakeholders
- Young adults who've aged out of foster care
- Over 250 stakeholders and community members participate in the Commission's initiatives



What we do?

The Commission's work gave roots to major initiatives such as:

- ☑ Alternative Response
- ☑ Foster Care
Reimbursement Rates
- ☑ Bridge to Independence Act
- ☑ Strengthening Families Act





What are we?

- Umbrella Commission which informs, and coordinates the implementation of new state and federal child welfare and juvenile justice legislation;
- Preserves institutional knowledge of child welfare and juvenile justice which is important for term limits and executive and judicial branch turnover;
- Collaborative expert resource for the HHS Committee and Legislature; and
- Legitimate forum for community involvement and representation



Key Deliverables

1. Annual report and hearing before the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature
2. Education for stakeholders and testimony for proposed legislation;
3. Coordination and collaboration amongst related child welfare and juvenile justice parent groups, commissions and statutory groups

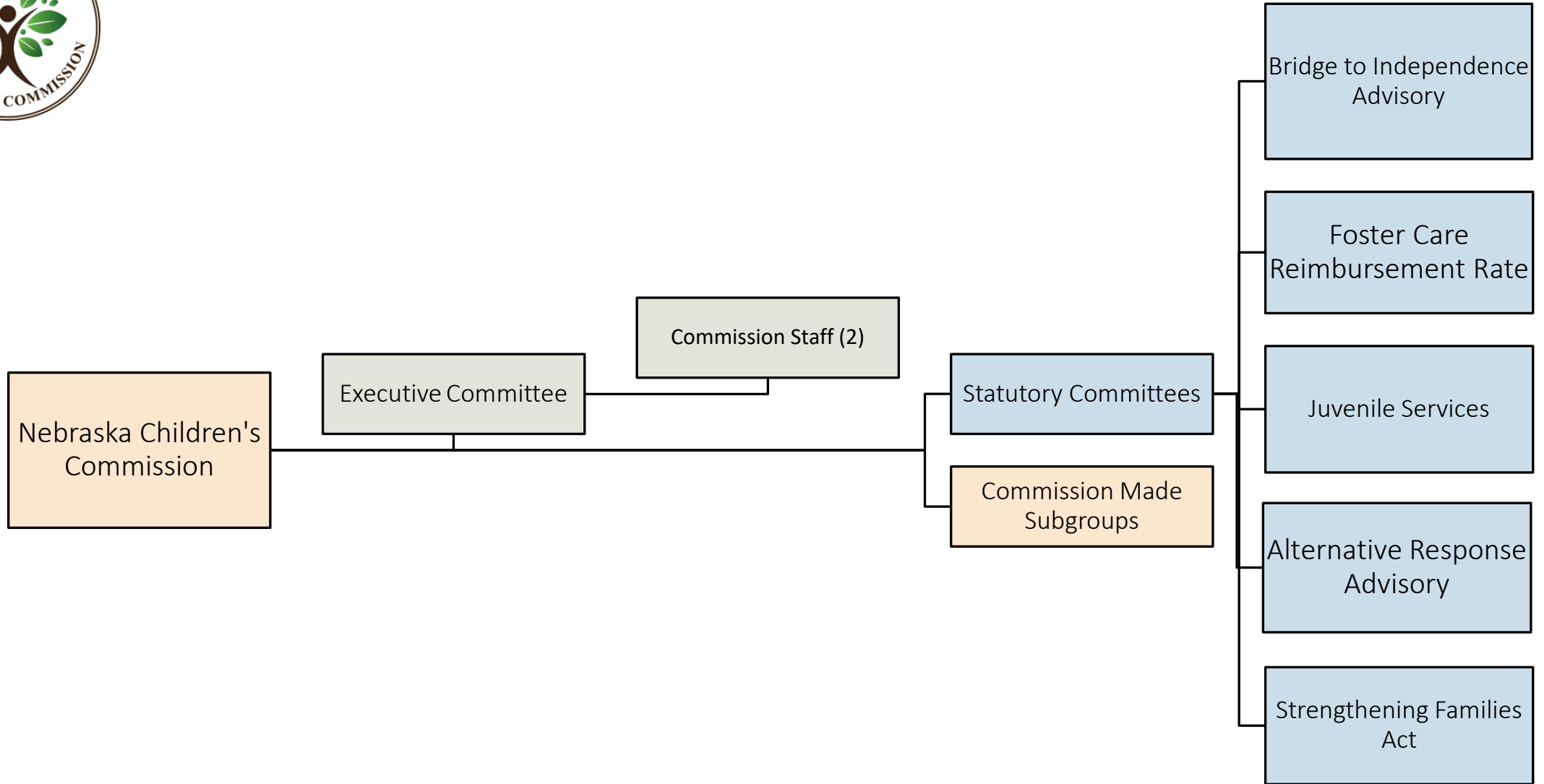


Legislative Testimony

As bills are introduced during legislative session, the policy analyst tracks and creates a summary for those relevant to the Commission's work. The Executive Committee reviews this list and indicates which ones the Commission should testify at.

Preference for in person testimony is as follows:

- 1. Executive Committee Members
- 2. Commission member chairperson of the relevant Committee or Workgroup
- 3. Non-Commission Chairperson of the relevant Committee or Workgroup
- 4. Commission member with relevant experience or expertise
- 5. Staff- Policy Analyst





Commission Subgroup Structure

- Nebraska Children's Commission_06/30/2023 (end of fiscal biennium)
 - Bridge to Independence (B2I) Advisory Committee_- 2-year terms
 - Juvenile Services Committee (JSC)-_ 2-year terms
 - Alternative Response (AR) Advisory Committee- 2-year terms
 - Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC)-_ 4-year terms
 - Strengthening Families Act (SFA) Committee_- 2-year terms
 - Executive Committee- 2-year terms
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- Additional tasks are assigned to subgroups to allow for in depth discussion and research
 - Non-committee members may participate in subgroups
 - Subgroups cannot have a quorum of members unless it is a public meeting



Executive Committee

- Chair, Vice Chair and 3 at-large members
- Election of Executive Committee shall occur in odd-number years following gubernatorial member appointments through secret ballot
 - Total # of votes for each nominee must be recorded in the meeting minutes
- One member must have served a prior term on the Commission
- One member must be reflective of a minority disproportionately represented in foster care
- Nonvoting and Voting members may serve
 - Executive Director of FCRO functions as an advisory capacity and resource to the Exec. Committee
 - Administratively responsible for Commission staff



Member Expectations

- Regular Attendance
 - If two or more consecutive meetings are missed, the Chair will contact member to discuss attendance and come up with a resolution which may include resignation
- Involvement in Subgroups
 - Voluntary
 - Commission members have direct insight to Commission goals
- Engaged Participation
 - This includes reviewing meeting materials in advance and participating in discussion
- Conflict of Interest Statements
 - Prohibited from benefiting from the work of the Commission or any Committee
- Leadership Opportunities
 - Executive Team
 - Co-Chair a committee/workgroup
- Acting as a representative of the Commission within the Community



Strategic Priorities

NCC is required to determine 3-5 strategic child welfare priorities for research or policy development for each biennium.

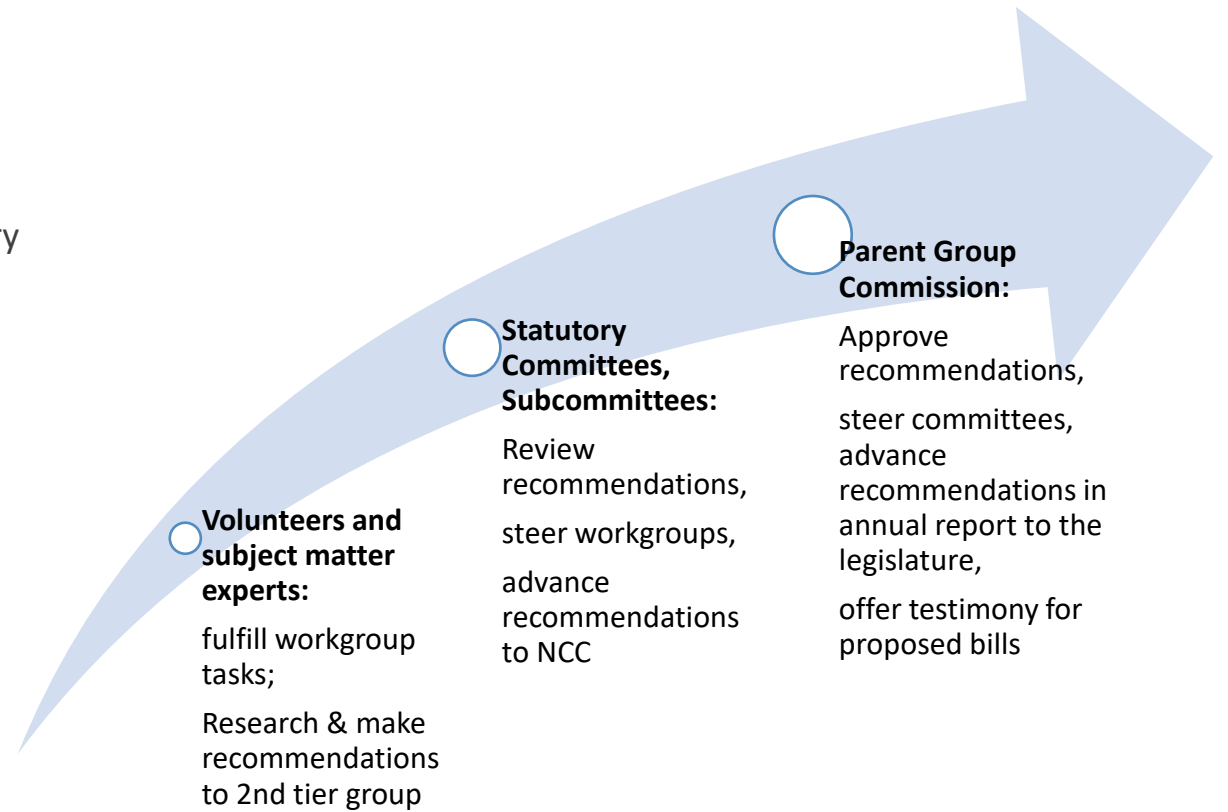
2023-2024 Strategic Priorities:

1. Provide recommendations to increase the level of support available to relative and kinship placements.
2. Identify what new or innovative evidenced based practices and services could be implemented in the State of Nebraska to improve placement stability.
3. Create recommendations on how to better educate the people of Nebraska about services available for families and children.



Operations

- Approval Process
- Annual Reports
 - Due September 1st annually
 - Includes Commission, Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee, Juvenile Services Committee, and Strengthening Families Act Committee
 - FCRRC is due every 4 years, next report will be in 2024





Meeting Procedures

- ❖ Only applies to the Commission and Statutory subgroups
 - A majority of members, or quorum, is required to hold an official meeting and for any action to be taken, a quorum of voting members
 - Able to conduct no more than 50% of our meetings virtually (new in 2021)
 - Any changes to the agenda must happen no later than 24 hours in advance of a meeting
 - Any action item requires a motion, second, and roll call vote
 - Use of consent agendas
 - Use of video conferencing can be arranged, so long as very particular criteria is met



Voting!

Examples of reasons to take a vote:

- Official business (approving the minutes, appointing members to statutory committees, approving the agenda)
- Taking a position (proposed regulations, legislative hearings, issuing a stance in a public forum)
- Approving any final report of the Commission or a statutory committee
- Approving the recommendations by statutory committees



How to Vote!

1. A voting member makes a **MOTION**.
2. A voting member **SECONDS THE MOTION**.
3. **DISCUSSION** ensues.
4. Members **VOTE:** **FOR;** **AGAINST;** **ABSTAIN**

Example: The vote will carry if the majority of the votes are FOR, even if the majority of the votes are ABSTAIN.

4- FOR 3- AGAINST 8- ABSTAIN



NCC Statutory Committees

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

Co-Chair:
Felicia Nelsen

Co-Chair:
Michelle Moline

Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee

Co-Chair:
Brandy Gustoff

Co-Chair:
Richard Hasty

Juvenile Services Committee

Co-Chair:
Deb VanDyke-Ries

Co-Chair:
Nick Juliano

Strengthening Families Act Committee

Co-Chair: Ron Giesselmann

Co-Chair:
Payne Ackerman

Alternative Response Advisory Committee

Co-Chair:
Monika Gross

Co-Chair:
Susan Thomas