

Strengthening Families Act (SFA) Committee

February 8, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Webex

And

Foster Care Review Office, Conference Room

1225 L Street, Suite 401

Lincoln, NE 68508

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Co-Chair, Misty Flowers, called the meeting of the Strengthening Families Act (SFA) Committee to order at 1:03 p.m., and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Roll call was taken through introductions.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members present (8):

Payne Ackerman
Crystal Aldmeyer
Stephanie Bizzarri

Deanna Brakhage
Misty Flowers
Ron Giesselmann

Proxy for Brandy Gustoff,
Bailey Perry
Terri Knutson

Committee Members absent (3):

Heather Colton

Vernon Davis

Deb Shuck

Ex-Officio Members present (1):

Bailey Perry

Ex-Officio Members absent (3):

Jeremy Behrends
Monika Gross
Deb VanDyke-Ries

A quorum was established.

Guests In Attendance (6):

Amanda Adams
Adam Anderson
Amanda Grell
Denisha Seals
Felicia Nelsen
Kitty Washburn

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

It was moved by Payne Ackerman and seconded by Stephanie Bizzarri to approve the agenda as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (8):

Payne Ackerman	Deanna Brakhage	Proxy for Brandy Gustoff,
Crystal Aldmeyer	Misty Flowers	Bailey Perry
Stephanie Bizzarri	Ron Giesselmann	Terri Knutson

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (3):

Heather Colton	Vernon Davis	Deb Shuck
----------------	--------------	-----------

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Payne Ackerman to approve the February 15, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ron Giesselmann. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (8):

Payne Ackerman	Deanna Brakhage	Proxy for Brandy Gustoff,
Crystal Aldmeyer	Misty Flowers	Bailey Perry
Stephanie Bizzarri	Ron Giesselmann	Terri Knutson

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (3):

Heather Colton	Vernon Davis	Deb Shuck
----------------	--------------	-----------

MOTION CARRIED

V. Co-Chair Report

Co-Chair Flowers shared that Payne Ackerman has agreed to Co-Chair the SFA Committee and the Nebraska Children's Commission will vote to approve him as Co-Chair at their next meeting. Flowers noted that she is looking to step down as Co-Chair, and that if anyone is interested in the position to reach out to herself or Adam Anderson. Flowers noted some items that are to be discussed during the meeting.

VI. Membership Update

Adam Anderson shared membership openings and noted reaching out to members that will have reappointments necessary at the next Children's Commission meeting. He shared information regarding the

terms of the Commission members will be expiring at the end of June 2023. He shared the process for applying to the Children's Commission. He also reiterated that the SFA Committee is looking for a Co-Chair, and if you are interested to reach out to him.

VII. Legislative Update

Amanda Adams provided an update regarding introduced legislation. She provided details for multiple bills. Adam Anderson provided a link to the Commission [Bill Tracker](#) in the chat. Misty Flowers provided information regarding LB 328, which would focus on the trafficking of indigenous persons. Members discussed the specific details of multiple bills being introduced.

Members noted that the Youth in Care Bill of Rights legislation was extensively worked on by members of this Committee. Payne Ackerman noted that he will be testifying in support of this legislation at the upcoming hearing.

VIII. Normalcy Subcommittee

Felicia Nelsen noted that the Normalcy Subcommittee has not had a chance to meet due to some hiccups in the process. Amanda Adams provided an update regarding the process of receiving Normalcy Plans and Reports for review. She noted that DHHS will be reviewing this process. She noted that she will be meeting with DHHS to discuss moving forward. Adams shared some potential changes to the plans and reports such as separating the plan from the report on separate forms and updating the due dates.

IX. APPLA Subcommittee

APPLA Chair Crystal Aldmeyer shared an update regarding the Subcommittee. Deanna Brakhage shared an update regarding the Transition Aged Youth Specialists position. She noted that the Southeast Service Area has been identified as a pilot program and youth engagement training has been put on hold while they are working on the pilot.

X. Trafficking Subcommittee

Co-Chair Misty Flowers shared information regarding LB 328 as it relates to the Trafficking Subcommittee. She noted that LB 328 will create the position of a specialist who shall serve as the liaison among local, state, tribal and federal entities involved in reporting or investigating missing and murdered indigenous person cases in Nebraska. She also noted that NICWC has hired Kirby Williams to work on trafficking. Flowers shared that she would invite Williams to the meetings for updates on the project. She shared information regarding the grant and task force with the NCFE. The task force is working on a trafficking manual for Nebraska based on the Safe Harbor Protocol. Flowers continued, noting that once the task force completes this work, the manual will be rolled out to stakeholders. Misty Flowers hoped that someone would like to take a leadership position for the Trafficking Subcommittee.

Members discussed what next steps could be done for this work. Amanda Adams will reach out to NCFE and the CAC.

XI. Strategic Priorities Discussion

Co-Chair Flowers shared information regarding the strategic priorities. Members discussed the [handout](#). Stephanie Bizzarri would like to take the handout back to the subcommittees to develop goals moving forward. Flowers and Ackerman agreed that they would like the subcommittees to review and provide two or three items to work on in the upcoming months.

XII. New Business

Co-Chair Flowers open the floor to new business. There was none.

XIII. Public Comment

Co-Chair Flowers opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment.

XIV. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. May 17, 2023

XV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

DRAFT