

## Alternative Response (AR) Advisory Committee

March 15, 2024  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Nebraska State Office Building  
Lower Level Sarpy Conference Room  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, NE 68509

### I. Call to Order and Welcome

Co-Chair, Monika Gross, called the meeting of the Alternative Response (AR) Advisory Committee to order at 10:14 AM, and asked Adam Anderson to call roll.

### II. Roll Call and Introductions

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

Jacie Boelts	Jennifer Carter	Ivy Svoboda
Jarren Breeling	Monika Gross	
Patrick Carragher	Heather Sikyta	

#### *Committee Members absent (5):*

Alise Baker	Bri McLarty	Susan Thomas
Sarah Helvey	Michelle Paxton	

**A quorum was established.**

#### *Guests In Attendance (4):*

Adam Anderson	Corrie Kielty
Amanda Adams	Julie Kindler

#### *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 agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Jacie Boelts.** There was no discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

#### **FOR (7):**

Jacie Boelts	Jennifer Carter	Ivy Svoboda
Jarren Breeling	Monika Gross	
Patrick Carragher	Heather Sikyta	

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

**ABSTAINED (0):**

**ABSENT (5):**

Alisa Baker  
Sarah Helvey

Bri McLarty  
Michelle Paxton

Susan Thomas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IV. Approval of December 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**A motion was made by Ivy Svoboda to approve the December 15, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jarren Breeling.** There was no discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

**FOR (7):**

Jacie Boelts  
Jarren Breeling  
Patrick Carraher

Jennifer Carter  
Monika Gross  
Heather Sikyta

Ivy Svoboda

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (0):**

**ABSENT (5):**

Alisa Baker  
Sarah Helvey

Bri McLarty  
Michelle Paxton

Susan Thomas

**MOTION CARRIED**

**V. Co-Chair Update**

Co-Chair Monika Gross gave an overview of LB 1417 which would end the AR Committee, and it would be absorbed under the Children's Commission. Gross added that the bill also changes duties of the Commission as related to the Foster Care Review Office (FCRO). She noted that she testified in opposition to the bill as a part of her position with the FCRO. Gross stated that she will continue to monitor.

Amanda Adams added that the B2i and FCRRRC would also be eliminated. She noted that there has been work to amend the bill to enshrine committee work under the Children's Commission statute. Adams noted that the Committees under the Legislative Committees are reviewed every four years.

Members discussed the apparent shift to move oversight under the Executive Branch

**VI. Strategic Planning**

Policy Analyst Amanda Adams shared that the Commission will be adjusting the strategic planning to allow for each committee to determine their own strategic planning for the future. She noted at the next meeting the AR Committee will focus on planning.

## **VII. DHHS Update**

Jacie Boelts provided an overview of a data collected from December 2023 until January 2024 which shows the numbers and reasons for cases switching from AR to traditional response (TR). She provided breakdowns of the number of cases that switched from AR to TR as well as the number of removals from cases that were switched.

Boelts answered questions regarding specific situations regarding informal living arrangements (ILA) and payment for those arrangements. Members discussed POAs and guardianship for certain situations. Boelts note that ILAs cannot be an AR because and ILA is considered an out-of-home placement.

## **VIII. CASA Presentation**

Director Corrie Kielty from Nebraska Court Appointed Special Advocates joined the meeting and provided a [PowerPoint](#) regarding the history and work of CASA. CASA organizations are located across the US with over 95,000 volunteers. Volunteers receive training prior to volunteering. Volunteers are sworn in as a “friend to the court,” which means they have access to the records and submit reports but can’t file motions. Kielty provided information regarding training and volunteer turnover. She added that there will be an upcoming funding campaign in April. Kielty answered questions and provided information regarding volunteer caseloads, training, satisfaction, and diversifying volunteer population. She continued by answering questions regarding funding and possible AR data and oversight as well as the process of information sharing with members of the court team. Members discussed the AR version of the 1184 case reviews. Ivy Svoboda noted that even with the shift to a warmline and community collaborative prevention, a response system is still needed.

## **IX. Workforce State Review**

Policy Analyst Amanda Adams shared a handout that shows the workforce improvements in the state and in other states. She encouraged members to review and to email any discussion or questions.

## **X. 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 discussed workforce concerns in a previous agenda item.

### **b. Oversight Workgroup**

Workgroup Co-Chair Carter noted continued meetings to discuss recommendations regarding surveying workers regarding specialization and the original pilot finding potential bias towards safety. She added that the group would also like to continue review data. She noted that there will need to be additional discussion regarding 1184 team tie-ins.

### **c. Equitable Provision of Services Workgroup**

Amanda Adams noted future discussions will be announced.

### **d. Legal Resources Workgroup**

Chair Pat Carraher noted the group has been looking at guardianship and educational issues. He added that at the April 1 meeting a guest from the Educational Rights Council will be discussing educational access issues. Monika Gross noted that 90% of referrals for educational services are declined by the families.

**XI. New Business**

There was no new business.

**XII. Public Comment**

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

**XIII. Upcoming Meetings:**

July 12, 2024, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, virtually.

**XIV. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Adam Anderson

DRAFT