

## **Nebraska Children's Commission**

Second Meeting

July 16, 2012

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Country Inn and Suites, Lighthouse Room  
5353 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE

### **Call to Order**

Karen Authier called the meeting to order at 9:05am. The Open Meetings Act information is posted as required by state law.

### **Roll Call**

Commission Members present: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab and Kerry Winterer.

Commission Members absent: Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Lavon Heidemann, Hon. Linda Porter, and Vicky Weisz.

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Colby Coash.

Also in attendance: Governor Dave Heineman; Vicki Maca, Sara Goscha, Terri Nutzman, Chris Hanus, Wes Nespor, Russ Reno, and Bonnie Engel from the Department of Health and Human Services; Jeremiah Blake from the Governor's Policy Research Office; and Elton Larson from the Department of Administrative Services Budget Division.

### **Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Gene Klein. A unanimous voice vote of voting members present was received. Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

### **Approval of June 7, 2012, Minutes**

A motion was made by Kerry Winterer to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2012 meeting, seconded by Thomas Pristow. A unanimous voice vote of voting members present was received. Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

## **Chairperson's Report**

### **Progress on hiring staff**

An Administrative Assistant III position to support the Nebraska Children's Commission was posted on Friday, July 13, with a closing date of July 23, 2012. This position will report directly to Kerry Winterer. Karen Authier and Beth Baxter will work with Kerry to interview and hire.

### **Website**

The Nebraska Children's Commission website is up and is a good reference – <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/childrenscommission.aspx>.

Dale Shotkoski arrived.

### **Status of RFP's**

The RFP for Strategic Planning will be released on July 23. The RFP for Cross Divisional Analysis will be released on July 26. The Children's Commission will be involved in the evaluation of proposals received.

### **Opportunity for public comment**

Opportunity for public comment will be as set forth in future agendas. The total amount of time allowed for public comment and time limits for individuals will be announced at the appropriate time. Written comments may be accepted at the Commission's discretion.

### **Committee structure**

A motion was by Mary Jo Pankoke to create an Executive Committee to include the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson (if one) of each of the committees – Psychotropic Medicaid Committee, Juvenile Services Committee, Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee, and the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee for coordination and better communication purposes, seconded by Gene Klein. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Lisa Lechowicz and John Northrop. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke, to create a Strategic Planning Committee to guide the strategic planning process, seconded by Gene Klein. A motion was made by Susan Staab to amend the previous motion to narrow the motion to facilitation of the

selection of the consultant, seconded by Jennifer Nelson. Mary Jo Pankoke withdrew her motion.

### **Review of Commission Meeting Schedule**

The Commission plans to adhere to the original schedule of meeting dates and times at a location in Lincoln. At some point, statewide listening sessions may be included with dates, locations, and focus to be posted on the Commission's website in advance.

### **Review of Commission Responsibilities**

Karen Authier provided a handout titled, *Nebraska Children's Commission Review of Responsibilities Work Plan*.

### **Approval of Committee Membership**

Committee meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act. Decisions/recommendations made by the committees will be brought back to the Commission for discussion and final approval.

### **Psychotropic Medication Committee**

A handout of the proposed membership to the Committee to Examine Prescription of Psychotropic Drugs was distributed. Jennifer Nelson provided background on the individuals who have agreed to serve on the committee.

A motion was made by Jennifer Nelson to increase the size of both committees (Psychotropic Medication and Juvenile Services) to no more than 15 members including Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, seconded by Beth Baxter. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Lisa Lechowicz and John Northrop. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jennifer Nelson to approve the individuals listed to be on the Psychotropic Medication Committee, seconded by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Lisa Lechowicz and John Northrop. Motion carried.

### **Juvenile Services Committee**

A handout of the proposed membership to the Juvenile Services Committee was distributed. Martin Klein and Ellen Brokofsky provided background on the individuals who have agreed to serve on the committee.

A motion was made by Martin Klein to accept the individuals who have agreed to be members of Juvenile Services Committee, seconded by Janteice Holston. A motion was made by Thomas Pristow to amend the previous motion to have Terri Nutzman be a member of the committee, seconded by Gene Klein. Thomas Pristow withdrew his motion. A motion was made by Kerry Winterer to reserve an open slot for the Director of the Children and Family Services Division to appoint a member of his staff to the committee with the name of the staff person provided at the August meeting, seconded by Dale Shotkoski. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Lisa Lechowicz and John Northrop. Motion carried.

The Commission then voted on the main motion as follows: Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Lisa Lechowicz and John Northrop. Motion carried.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee**

Thomas Pristow provided an update on the Foster Care Reimbursement Committee. The Committee has met twice, two sub-committees have been established (Level of Care Assessment Sub-Committee and Rate Structure Sub-Committee), and they have submitted their first progress report to the Health and Human Services Committee. Their next meeting is August 6.

### **IV-E Demonstration Project Committee**

Sara Goscha provided an update on the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee. The Committee met on June 21 and July 31, two sub-committees have been established (IV-E Penetration Rate Sub-Committee and IV-E Waiver Implementation Plan Sub-Committee), and they have submitted their first progress report to the Health and Human Services Committee. Their next meeting is August 8.

## **Organizational History of Child Welfare in Nebraska**

Chris Hanus gave an overview of the organizational history of child welfare in Nebraska and provided a handout titled, *The History of Protection and Safety in Nebraska*. Vicki Weisz recommended the website, [partnering4students.org](http://partnering4students.org), as a resource for information developed to assist the primary systems involved in the education of children and youth in out-of-home care.

## **Child Welfare System Overview**

The following Commission members provided a brief summary from their respective area of expertise:

Law Enforcement/County Attorney – Martin Klein  
Child Advocacy Centers – Gene Klein  
NDHHS Children and Family Services – Vicki Maca, Deputy Director, DHHS CFS  
Lead Agency (Eastern Service Area) – David Newell  
Court System – Judge Porter and Vicki Weisz  
Guardian ad Litem – Norman Langemach  
Court Appointed Special Advocates – Nancy Forney  
Mediation Centers – Debora Brownyard, Director, Office of Dispute Resolution  
Juvenile Probation – Ellen Brokofsky  
Foster Parent – Leigh Esau, Foster Care Closet  
Parent – Candy Kennedy-Goergen  
Behavioral Health – Beth Baxter  
Schools – Jennifer Nelson  
Provider Agency – Karen Authier  
Youth – Janteice Holston  
Role of Legislature – Senator Campbell – postponed to next meeting

Senator Campbell provided the following handouts: *2012 Session, Summaries of LR 37 Child Welfare Bills 2012 Legislative Session, 2012 Interim Studies Regarding Child Welfare in HHS Committee, and 2012 Interim Studies HHS Committee regarding Children (not including Child Welfare).*

### **New Business**

### **General Discussion no action item**

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is August 14, 9:00-12:00pm, location to be determined.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Janteice Holston. The meeting adjourned at 12:25pm.