

Nebraska Children's Commission

Seventh Meeting
December 11, 2012
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Country Inn and Suites, Lighthouse Room
5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

Call to Order

Karen Authier called the meeting to order at 9:07am and noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the room as required by state law.

Roll Call

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

Commission Members absent: Janteice Holston, and John Northrop.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Senator Lavon Heidemann, and Vicky Weisz.

Ex Officio Members absent: Hon. Linda Porter

Also in attendance: Sara Goscha, Wes Nespor, and Leesa Sorensen from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Gene Klein to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. A voice vote of the members present was taken. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of November 20, 2012, Minutes

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2012, meeting, seconded by Kerry Winterer. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report

Karen Authier thanked the Commission members, leadership of the committees, and the public for all of their work and input on the strategic plan. Karen noted that the strategic plan that would be reviewed during the meeting did not contain original content other than the introductory sections, the Commitment to Action section, and transitional paragraphs. The content on the strategic plan was taken from the facilitation process and the recommendations of the four committees, as approved at the November meeting. It was noted that the plan is Phase I of a process that will continue in 2013, and that the work of the Commission continues through June 30, 2014.

Karen handed out a list of DHHS evaluation reports by outside evaluators that will need to be considered in 2013. She noted that some Commission responsibilities contained in LB 821 were not addressed in the strategic plan but that work will be completed at a later date. It was also noted that the Psychotropic Medication Committee and the Juvenile Services Committee have additional work to do in 2013 as well.

Senator Kathy Campbell informed the Commission members that the legislature was planning a briefing on all areas outlined in the DHHS reports. The briefing will also cover an update from Julie Rogers, the Foster Care Review office, and the Nebraska Children's Commission. Senator Campbell noted that the date of the briefing had not been set, but more information would be provided to the Commission members as soon as plans are finalized.

Karen's remarks concluded with instructions on the process that would be used for the review and revision of the strategic plan.

Strategic Planning General Discussion

A draft of the strategic plan was presented entitled "Nebraska Children's Commission Phase 1 Strategic Plan for Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Reform". The Commission members were asked to provide comments on the plan as a whole, including the content, format, and relevance to the requirements of LB 821. Commission members affirmed that the cover page reference to both child welfare and juvenile justice reform reflected decisions made at the November meeting. A question was raised about the requirements list related to LB 821 and if the list was

complete. There was discussion regarding the future work of the Commission and the need to indicate in the plan that additional phases were coming in the future.

A motion to recess was made by Marty Klein, and seconded by Thomas Pristow. A voice vote of the members present was taken. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Janteice Holston, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

The committee recessed at 10:28am.

Jennifer Nelson left at 10:45am.

The committee reconvened at 10:52am with a roll call.

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

Commission Members absent: Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Senator Lavon Heidemann, and Vicky Weisz.

Ex Officio Members absent: Hon. Linda Porter

Motions Related to Strategic Plan

Beth Baxter moved to make the following changes to the strategic plan (as noted below):

Cover page: change “Phase 1” to “Phase I”

Page 1, heading line 2: change “Phase 1” to “Phase I”

Page 1, paragraph 2, line 2, after “Nebraska’s children”: insert “of all ages”

Page 1, paragraph 2, line 3: change “Phase 1” to “Phase I”

Page 1, paragraph 4, line 8, after “by the Commission”: insert “as Phase I of a multi-phase reform initiative”

Page 1, paragraph 4, line 10, after “that is responsive to needs”: insert “,dynamic in nature,”

Page 3, paragraph 1 after the bullets, line 1, after “child welfare”: insert “and juvenile justice”

Page 3, Leadership section, bulleted text: strike “Measured results across systems of care”

Page 5, Goal Statements section: place the four bulleted goal statements in the same order as the goal statements appear in the Strategic Recommendations section appearing on pages 5 through

Page 5, Strategic Recommendations section, Goal: Encourage timely . . .well-being: strike the period after “well-being”

Page 8, bullet 1: change “litem” to “litem” in both the bulleted text and line 1 under the bullet
Page 8, paragraph under bullet 2: insert the word “who” after “professionals”; strike “that are”; change “investigating” to “investigate”; change “formulating” to “formulate”; change “monitoring” to “monitor”; and change “recommending” to “recommend”

Page 9, text line 11, word 2: replace “formulary” with “review”

Page 12, Strategic Recommendations – Foster Care Committee Recommendations: heading: insert “Reimbursement Rates” after “Foster Care”

Page 13, Commitment to Action section, end of paragraph 1: add a colon after the phrase “not limited to”

Page 13, Commitment to Action section, paragraph 3, line 3: change “invested” to “invest”

Appendix A, Commission Membership listing, David Newell: change “Executive Director” to “President and CEO”

Appendix A, Commission Membership listing, Susan Staab: strike the “a” after “of Lincoln,” and insert “former” before “member of the State”; and insert “and member of local Foster Care Review Board” after “State Foster Care Review Board”

Appendix A, Commission Membership listing, Dr. Vicky Weisz: strike “Dr.”

Appendix D: add the amended Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee report, which was updated to include committee member titles, after the cover page and before the recommendation page in Appendix D

Appendix F, cover page: add an “S” to “RATE”

The motion was seconded by Dale Shotkoski. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Mary Jo Pankoke moved that a change be made to the language in the Strategic Recommendations section in the first bullet paragraph under the goal “Encourage timely access to effective services. . .” by:

- 1) adding the phrase “across the childhood lifespan” at the end of the existing second sentence; and
- 2) adding the sentence “Identify the supports and essential services older youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems need to transition to adulthood.” after the first sentence in the paragraph.

The motion was seconded by Pam Allen.

Gene Klein moved to amend the original motion by adding “/adolescent” onto “childhood” in the phrase “childhood lifespan”. The motion was seconded by Marty Klein. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Thomas Pristow and Kerry Winterer abstained. Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

The Commission members then voted on the main motion as follows: Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Thomas Pristow and Kerry Winterer abstained. Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Marty Klein moved that a change be made to the recommendation language under the goal “Foster a consistent, stable, skilled workforce. . .” by:

- 1) adding the phrase “, the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, and NFC” after “Ask CFS” in the bullet 2 paragraph and “Ask DHHS” in bullet 5 paragraph;
- 2) inserting “each” between “to” and “develop” in the bullet 2 paragraph; and
- 3) inserting “their respective” after “retention of” in bullet 2 paragraph.

The motion was seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke.

Susan Staab moved to amend the original motion by striking the word “NFC” and replacing it with the phrase “any contracting entity”. The motion was seconded by Gene Klein. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

The Commission then voted on the main motion as follows: Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Marty Klein moved to add “Caseworker” to the glossary of terms in Appendix B as follows:

“Caseworker is any person who has been hired by the child welfare or juvenile justice systems in the State of Nebraska, to include, but not be limited to, a CFS worker, Probation officer, or the worker, by title, of any contracting entity.”

The motion was seconded by David Newell. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Gene Klein moved to add the phrase “and acknowledging that the strategic plan may be amended” after the phrase “as a starting point” in the second sentence of the first paragraph of the Commitment to Action section on page 13. The motion was seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

David Newell made a motion to add a bullet to the end of the bulleted list, on page 13, in the Commitment to Action section that states:

“The Commission may study and engage stakeholders to make recommendations to actively reduce the disproportionality of children of color in Nebraska’s child welfare and juvenile justice systems.”

The motion was seconded by Nancy Forney.

Kerry Winterer moved to amend the original motion by moving the language to the end of the first paragraph after the bulleted list. The motion was seconded by Gene Klein. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: Candy Kennedy-Goergen. Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

The Commission then voted on the main motion as follows: Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Gene Klein moved to add a new paragraph above the last paragraph, on page 13, of the Commitment to Action section as follows:

“The second phase of the planning process will begin in January 2013, and will include developing a work plan that addresses and prioritizes the strategic components identified above and may include other items referenced in LB 821. This process may involve establishing workgroups, reviewing external evaluations, and providing recommendations to the Supreme Court, DHHS and the legislature for implementation.”

The motion was seconded by Susan Staab.

Thomas Pristow moved to amend the original motion by adding the phrase “fiscal impacts and financial implications” to the paragraph. The motion was seconded by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale

Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Gene Klein then restated the amended motion as follows:

“The second phase of the planning process will begin in January 2013 and will include developing a work plan that addresses and prioritizes the strategic components identified above and may include other items referenced in LB 821. This process may involve establishing workgroups, reviewing external evaluations, and providing recommendations with fiscal impacts and funding implications to the Supreme Court, DHHS and the legislature for implementation.”

Marty Klein then moved to amend the restated motion by deleting the phrase “with fiscal impacts and funding implications” after the word “recommendations:” and inserting the phrase “considering fiscal impacts and funding implications,” after the words “external evaluations.” The motion was seconded by David Newell. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: Thomas Pristow and Kerry Winterer. Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

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

After all changes were brought forward by the Commission members, Gene Klein moved to approve the strategic plan with all approved amendments. The motion was seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke.

During discussion, Kerry Winterer and Thomas Pristow indicated that they would be abstaining from the upcoming vote. Kerry and Thomas raised concerns that the plan was not specific especially as to funding requirements and that in their positions with DHHS there may come a time in the future when they would have to take actions based on availability of funding or other considerations that might be inconsistent with the plan.

After discussion, the Commission members voted on the motion. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Thomas Pristow and Kerry Winterer abstained. Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

Beth Baxter moved to send the amended strategic plan to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature and to the Governor on or before December 15, 2012. The motion was seconded by Becky Sorensen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy

Forney, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

New Business

General Discussion no action item

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date and time will be determined in the near future. Karen indicated that a suggestion had been made to select a set day of the month and time for all meetings. Karen stated that input was also needed to determine what other committees and actions were needed and that the Executive Committee would discuss a committee structure that would facilitate the next phase of the Commission's work. It is anticipated that the January meeting will focus on development of a work plan. Leesa will be surveying Commission members in the near future to determine the best day of the month to establish for Commission meetings.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Susan Staab to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Becky Sorensen. The meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.