

## **Nebraska Children's Commission**

Eleventh Meeting  
May 21, 2013  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Country Inn and Suites, Omaha Room  
5353 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE

### **Call to Order**

Karen Authier called the meeting to order at 9:05am 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, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer.

Commission Members absent: Janteice Holston, Norman Langemach, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky and Hon. Linda Porter.

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Senator Jeremy Nordquist, and Vicky Weisz.

Also in attendance: Sara Goscha, Tony Green, Vicki Maca, and Leesa Sorensen from the Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Approval of April 16, 2013, Minutes**

A motion was made by Candy Kennedy-Goergen to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2013, meeting with amendments. The minutes were amended on page 3 to change the word

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

### **Public Comment**

Carolyn Rooker, Executive Director of Voices for Children in Nebraska provided information on the Race Matters Institute and a statewide initiative that is being undertaken to address racial equity issues in Nebraska.

### **Chairperson’s Report**

Karen Authier provided the committee with information on legislation related to the work of the Commission. Karen highlighted:

- LB216 which adds the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory committee to the work of the Commission. This advisory group will make recommendations related to the implementation of supports and services for kids aging out of the foster care system.
- LB269 which will move the office of the Nebraska Children’s Commission from DHHS to the Foster Care Review Office.
- LB503 which will put alternative response in place.
- LB561 which will make significant changes to the juvenile justice system and impact the work of the Commission’s Juvenile Service (OJS) committee.
- LB507 which impacts child care.
- LB530 which implements the work of the Foster Care Rate Committee and extends the Nebraska Children’s Commission through 2016.
- LB556 which provides better access to telehealth services for children.

Karen reported that the Juvenile Services (OJS) committee has been moving forward with their strategic planning process and will give an update later in the agenda. Karen also reported on the community listening sessions that were being conducted by the Community Ownership workgroup. Karen noted that the Panhandle partnership session was completed and had provided some very useful insights and recommendations for the group to consider. Karen noted that the North Platte , Fremont, Grand Island, and Dakota County sessions would take place in June.

Karen also highlighted that Deb Daro would be presenting at the June Commission meeting; that Commission meetings would continue to involve time for work group meetings, and that the Commission may consider bringing back Deb Burnight to facilitate discussions for the Commission’s Phase II work.

## **Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee Report**

Ellen Brokofsky and Martin Klein provided an update on the Juvenile Services Committee, including a written report. The committee has completed the initial review of the LR196 (*Nebraska Juvenile Services Master Plan*) document. Copies of the draft LR196 manual were made available for Commission members to review. The committee held a full day meeting in May and will hold another one in June to work on the strategic recommendations of the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee. Ellen and Marty noted that good progress was made on gathering strategic recommendations, but that the committee had discussed the need to delay providing recommendations to the Commission until after July 1 so that the work assignment from LB561 could be included in the committee recommendations.

Marty also reported that the committee has had a membership change and was beginning discussion on replacements for that one open position and the possibility of adding new members at a future date. Ellen and Marty requested that the committee membership be expanded to sixteen members so that additional members could be added to address the work required by LB561. A motion was made by Marty Klein to expand the OJS committee to sixteen members. The motion was seconded by Dave Newell. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Janteice Holston, Norman Langemach, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab were absent. Motion carried.

## **DHHS Update**

Thomas Pristow provided an update on the initiatives that DHHS has taken that support the Phase I strategic recommendations of the Commission. Thomas provided a handout, *Division of Children and Family Services (CFS) Key Initiatives Supporting the Nebraska Children's Commission Strategic Plan*, that was organized around the Commission's goals to detail the CFS work. Thomas noted that the plan will be updated and that he will provide those updates to the Commission.

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

The Commission recessed at 10:17am for workgroup discussions.

The Commission reconvened at 11:35am.

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

Commission Members absent: Janteice Holston, Norman Langemach, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky.

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Senator Jeremy Nordquist, Hon. Linda Porter, and Vicky Weisz.

## **Phase II Strategic Planning General Discussion**

Commission members met within assigned workgroups to continue discussions on the four main goal areas. At the end of their discussion time each workgroup reported on the work they are currently doing:

### Workforce

The Workforce workgroup is continuing researching other surrounding state models related to professional workforce development. The Committee is researching information from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Vermont, Kansas, and Arizona to collect information on best practices. The workgroup is focusing on worker education and training, as well as pay rate structures.

### Community Ownership

The Community Ownership workgroup looked at the specific issue of youth aging out of the foster care system. The group also discussed plans for upcoming listening sessions that the workgroup will host with various community leaders across the state.

### System of Care

The System of Care workgroup discussed the Nebraska DHHS System of Care Planning Project grant proposal. The committee recommended using the plan with or without the grant funding. The group will be working to assess the components of the grant proposal. The group also discussed the process of supporting the development of the alternative response plan..

### Technology

The Technology workgroup worked on finalizing the work group charter to define the scope of the work and role that the workgroup will have. The workgroup also reported on the work that is being done to coordinate data systems including a Proof of Concept proposal that was created by the Foster Care Review office. On behalf of the technology solutions and information exchange workgroup, Marty Klein made a motion that the full Commission recommend the proof of concept proposal as drafted by the Foster Care Review Office. The motion was seconded by John Northrop. During the discussion of the motion, a motion was made by Kerry Winterer to table the motion. The motion was tabled.

## **New Business**

**General Discussion no action item**

## **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is June 18, 2013, 9:00am-12:00pm. The place has not yet been determined.

## **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kerry Winterer. The meeting adjourned at 12:05pm.