

Nebraska Children's Commission

Twelfth Meeting
June 18, 2013
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Country Inn and Suites, Omaha Room
5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

Call to Order

Karen Authier called the meeting to order at 9:03am and noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the room as required by state law.

Introduction of New Members

Legislative Bill 269 (LB269), signed by the Governor on June 4, 2013, added new members to the Commission. Kim Hawekotte, Executive Director of the Foster Care Review Office, joins the Commission as a voting member; Julie Rogers, Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare, as an exofficio member. Karen also noted that LB 269 changed the status of Kerry Winterer and Thomas Pristow from voting to ex officio members.

Roll Call

Commission Members present: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab.

Commission Members absent: Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, and Dale Shotkoski.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Kathy Campbell, Hon. Linda Porter, Thomas Pristow, Julie Rogers, Vicky Weisz, and Kerry Winterer.

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Colby Coash and Senator Jeremy Nordquist.

Also in attendance: Leesa Sorensen from the Nebraska Children's Commission. Sara Goscha, Russ Reno, and Wes Nespore from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to approve the agenda with a modification that Deb Daro's presentation would be delayed until 11:00am after work group meetings. The motion was seconded by Pam Allen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Candy

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

Approval of May 21, 2013, Minutes

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2013, meeting. The motion was seconded by Pam Allen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report

Karen Authier provided the Commission with information on a Joint Commissions group that has been meeting to coordinate child welfare/juvenile justice reform efforts among the three entities. The leadership of the Nebraska Children's Commission, the Governor's Commission for the Protection of Children, and the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts has been meeting to share information regarding the focus and priorities of each entity. There was consensus that the group would meet on a quarterly basis to identify shared priorities and minimize potential duplication of efforts. The consensus of all three groups is that each group has its own focus but that there would be benefit from coordination of efforts. Karen indicated that she will keep Commission members updated on this group.

Karen noted that LB 269 provides for moving the office of the Nebraska Children's Commission from DHHS to the Foster Care Review Office and the move will be effective on July 1. Karen thanked Kerry Winterer and Thomas Pristow for the support from DHHS during the start-up phase of the Commission.

Karen highlighted changes made by LB216 which adds the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee to the Commission. This advisory group will make recommendations related to the implementation of supports and services for youth aging out of the foster care system. Karen noted that the creation of the advisory committee is listed on the agenda as an action item. LB 216 mandates that advisory committee members be appointed by July 1, 2013.

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 sessions provided some very useful insights and recommendations and noted that the Grand Island and Dakota County sessions would take place on June 19.

Karen also highlighted that Deb Daro would be presenting at 11:00am. She thanked the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation for arranging the private funding that made Deb Daro's visit to the Nebraska Children's Commission possible.

Legislative Update

Senator Kathy Campbell provided a brief legislative update. Senator Campbell thanked Commission members for their support and for testifying at public hearings during the legislative session. Senator Campbell also recognized Liz Hruska for her work on fiscal notes and Michelle Chaffee for her work on the various bills related to children's issues.

Senator Campbell noted that it was a good legislative session and that a variety of senators introduced and assisted in passing legislation that will have positive impact on Nebraska children and families. Senator Campbell specifically highlighted:

- LB216 which provides supports and services for youth aging out of the foster care system.
- LB556 which provides better access to telehealth and provides a pilot for mental health services for children.
- LB269 which provides money for a policy analyst for the Nebraska Children's Commission.
- LB530 which implements the work of the Foster Care Rate Committee and extends the Nebraska Children's Commission through 2016.

Senator Campbell also noted that Senator Coash's bill on alternative response was held in committee to allow for some additional work to be done prior to the next session of the legislature. She also noted that there was a lot of work done with appropriations and that the Nebraska Children's Commission strategic plan was very helpful. Senator Campbell concluded her remarks by noting that all in all it was a very good session for kids.

Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee Report

Ellen Brokofsky and Martin Klein provided an update on the Juvenile Services Committee, including a written report. The committee held a full day meeting on June 11 to work on the strategic recommendations of the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee. Ellen and Marty noted that good progress was made on the strategic recommendations and that the committee would be working to incorporate the additional work assignments from LB561.

Marty also reported that the committee had three nominees for the vacancy created by a resignation. The committee has also identified candidates for the three new positions approved by the Commission. Marty noted that there were four nominees listed on the Juvenile Services (OJS) committee report that the committee is submitting for approval by the Commission. A motion was made by Susan Stabb to approve the committee membership nominations of Barbara Fitzgerald, Tina Marroquin, Mark Mason, and Dr. Ken Zoucha. The motion was seconded by Janteice Holston. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Candy Kennedy-

Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

Ellen Brokofsky then provided information on LB561 and shared a summary, written by Corey Steel, which outlined the provisions of the bill. Ellen indicated that the committee will confer with the Community Ownership work group regarding availability of community based juvenile justice services.

New Business – Create Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee

Karen Authier reminded Commission members about the nomination request form that was e-mailed to Commission members on June 6, 2013, for the advisory committee. As noted in the e-mail, Karen asked Beth Baxter and Mary Jo Pankoke to assist her in putting together a slate of nominees from applications/nominations that were received.

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke for the Commission to create the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee. The motion to create the committee was seconded by John Northrop. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Becky Sorensen. Voting no: none. Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab were absent. Motion carried.

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, Mary Jo Pankoke provided a list of nominees for the Commission's consideration to approve as members of the newly created committee and made a motion to accept the list of nominees as members of the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee. The nominees are: Mary Jo Pankoke (Temporary Chair), Janteice Holston, Sarah Helvey, Jennifer Skala, Corrie Edwards, Jill Schubauer, Jan Fitts, Jodie Austin, Brandy Gustoff, Doug Lenz, Lana Verbrigghe, Mary Fraser Meints, Sararose Luichinger, Augusta Kamara, Richard Mazikani, Amy Peters, Nathan Busch, Senator Kate Bolz, Amy Williams, Vicky Weisz, and Judge Douglas F. Johnson. The motion was seconded by John Northrop. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

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

The Commission recessed at 10:18am for work group discussions that included members of the public.

The Commission reconvened at 11:05am.

Commission Members present: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab..

Commission Members absent: Nancy Forney, Gene Klein, and Dale Shotkoski.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Kathy Campbell, Thomas Pristow, Julie Rogers, and Vicky Weisz.

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Colby Coash, Senator Jeremy Nordquist, Hon. Linda Porter, and Kerry Winterer.

Phase II Strategic Plan – Workgroup Reports

Karen Authier requested that the four workgroups (Work Force, Community Ownership, System of Care and Technology) delay reports until the next meeting in order to allow adequate time for Deborah Daro's presentation. There was consensus that there was no need for reports at this meeting.

Deborah Daro Presentation

Mary Jo Pankoke introduced Deborah Daro, Ph. D., Senior Research Fellow at Chapin Hall, who has over twenty years of experience in evaluating child abuse treatment and prevention programs and who has directed some of the largest multi-site program evaluations completed in the field. Currently she is leading the development of the Doris Duke Fellowships for the Promotion of Child Well-Being. In a presentation entitled "Strengthening Community Prevention Services and Policy: The Collective Need for Change," Dr. Daro provided information on prevention services and policy and answered questions from Commission members.

General Discussion no action item

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is July 16, 2013, 9:00am-12:00pm. The place has not yet been determined.

Adjourn

A motion was made by John Northrop to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Pam Allen. The meeting adjourned at 11:55am.