# Nebraska Children's Commission

Twelfth Meeting June 18, 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 9:03am 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 Nespor 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 emailed to Commission members on June 6, 2013, for the advisory committee. As noted in the email, 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.

# Nebraska Children's Commission

Selected interim studies that relate to the work of the Commission.

Document	<u>Primary</u> Introducer	<b>Committee</b>	Description
<u>LR143</u>	<u>Krist</u>	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine children's day health services
<u>LR182</u>	Education Committee	Education	Interim study to examine alternatives for the financing and delivery of public early childhood, elementary, and secondary education in Nebraska
<u>LR184</u>	Larson	Judiciary	Interim study to examine the costs and benefits associated with lowering the age of majority to eighteen years of age
LR206	Avery	Education	Interim study to examine the school breakfast program
<u>LR209</u>	<u>Dubas</u>	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine the contracts between the Dept. of Health and Human Services and provider agencies for foster care services
<u>LR211</u>	<u>Kolowski</u>	Education	Interim study to examine and define the need for increased access to, and the costs of, quality expanded learning opportunities for K-12 children, focusing on at-risk children
<u>LR218</u>	Campbell	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine fetal alcohol spectrum disorders
<u>LR222</u>	<u>Howard</u>	Health and Human Services	Interim study to gather information and make recommendations necessary for the Legislature to craft a comprehensive early learning strategy for the State of Nebraska
LR223	Mello	Government, Military and Veterans Affairs	Interim study to examine issues surrounding open data policies
LR235	<u>Harms</u>	Judiciary	Interim study to examine the adoption process under the current safe haven law
<u>LR237</u>	Campbell	Health and Human Services	Interim study to assess the extent to which Nebraska has implemented key provisions of the federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008
LR238	<u>Dubas</u>	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine the Access Nebraska system, as well as the separation of the economic assistance programs from the medicaid program
LR239	Howard	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
<u>LR256</u>	Christensen	Health and Human Services	Interim study to reexamine the consolidation of the Dept. of Health and Human Services that occurred in 1996 with the enactment of LB1044
<u>LR257</u>	<u>Nordquist</u>	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine the early childhood learning and development system across the state to determine how to make the current system more effective
<u>LR259</u>	<u>Nordquist</u>	Health and Human Services	

Last Revised: July 11, 2013

Documen	t Introducer	<b>Committee</b>	Description
<u>LR260</u>	Nordquist	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine existing barriers to the delivery of health care services through telehealth technologies in Nebraska
<u>LR261</u>	<u>Coash</u>	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine barriers to permanent placements for Nebraska children who have been placed out of the home and are wards of the state
<u>LR262</u>	<u>Coash</u>	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine the high rate of placement of Nebraska's Native American children involved in the foster care system
<u>LR274</u>	<u>Bolz</u>	Appropriations	Interim study to maximize opportunities to leverage the new opportunity to build a medicaid management information system that meets the needs of Nebraska
<u>LR275</u>	<u>Bolz</u>	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine issues relating to the behavioral and mental health needs of children in educational settings
<u>LR277</u>	<u>Ashford</u>	Judiciary	Interim study to review the current costs associated with correctional and detention facilities in Nebraska
<u>LR279</u>	<u>Ashford</u>	Judiciary	Interim study to examine the use of social impact bonds to develop programming for juveniles and adults reentering the community after involvement with the juvenile justice system or the criminal justice system
<u>LR285</u>	Lathrop	Education	Interim study to examine career education program in Nebraska's public schools
<u>LR297</u>	<u>McGill</u>	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine the effectiveness of telehealth technology used for behavioral health services in Nebraska
<u>LR298</u>	Mello	Appropriations	Interim study to examine issues surrounding the efficiency of state programs
<u>LR300</u>	<u>Campbell</u>	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine the treatment and services for people dually diagnosed with intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental illness, or behavioral health problems
<u>LR312</u>	<u>Coash</u>	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine issues relating to the child protective services system within the Dept. of Health and Human Services
<u>LR313</u>	<u>McGill</u>	Judiciary	Interim study to examine comprehensive models of response and treatment for victims of human trafficking
<u>LR314</u>	<u>McGill</u>	Education	Interim study to examine the use of parent education available within the public schools
LR331	<u>Pirsch</u>	Judiciary	Interim study to examine stronger penalties for offenders convicted of the crime of sexual assault of a child as well as related deterrents and victim remedies
LR336	Pirsch	Judiciary	Interim study to investigate methods to reduce gang violence
<u>LR387</u>	Health and Human Services Committee	Health and Human Services	Interim study to examine how Nebraska is utilizing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds

# Young Adult Voluntary Services and Supports Advisory Committee Agenda July 31, 2013 9 am – 1 pm

### **Desired Results:**

- To ensure all members understand the role and purpose of the Advisory Committee
- To review and agree to a timeline, workplan and deliverables for the Committee
- To receive an update from DHHS on current planning and Former Ward transition efforts
- To create workgroups charged with developing recommendations to bring back to the full Committee
- To agree on next steps

#### 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome and Introductions

- Review agenda and desired results for the meeting
- 9:15 9:30 Review role and purpose of the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Supports Advisory Committee
  - Review history of the legislation
  - Review charge of the Advisory Committee
  - Review timeline for our work
- 9:30 10:00 Update from DHHS on Implementation Planning
  - Share information on current planning efforts, including steps to transition existing supports and services

#### 10:00 – 12:00 Create Workgroups to Advance the Committee's Efforts

- Consider (and refine as needed) proposed workgroup structure
- Review, discuss and finalize charge for each workgroup
- Review template for creating recommendations
- Solicit members for each workgroup
- Proposed workgroups include:
  - o Eligibility and Transition from Current Service Array
  - Case Management and Supportive Services
  - Placement Options
  - Case Oversight
  - o State Extended Guardianship Assistance Program
  - Communication and Marketing

#### 12:00-12:30 Lunch

12:30 – 1:00 Next Steps and Timeline

# The Young Adult Voluntary Services and Supports Advisory Committee: Guiding Questions for Workgroups (DRAFT)

- **1.** Eligibility and Transition from Current Service Array: to develop recommendations related to eligibility processes and transitioning from current to new programs
  - How will young people currently receiving former ward be transitioned into the Voluntary Services program?
    - How will the services and requirements change for these young people? When and how will they be notified of changes to the program?
  - Who will determine whether young people are eligible for voluntary services and when?
  - What services will be available to young people who are not eligible for Voluntary Services and how will young people be notified of these services?
- 2. Case Management and Supportive Services: to develop recommendations related to the design of case management and additional supportive services
  - Who will be responsible for providing case management for youth age 18 21?
    - Public or privately-contracted workers?
  - Will young adults who want to maintain their current worker have the opportunity to?
  - Will case workers be dedicated to young adults or have a variety of ages on their caseload?
  - What are critical elements of the practice model for case management of young adults? How will the case management approach reflect the unique developmental stage of emerging adulthood?
  - How will workers be trained and equipped to address the needs of young adults?
    - Helping young people to successfully enter and complete postsecondary education?
    - Helping young people to find and retain employment?
      - Helping young people to find and maintain stable and safe housing?
      - Helping young people address physical and mental health needs?
- 3. Placement: to develop recommendations related to placement decisions and options.
  - How will placement decisions be made for young adults in the voluntary program?
    - How will young people's preferences be taken into consideration?
    - What placement options will be part of the array of placements for older youth?
      - Will scattered site, supportive housing, or host homes be part of the service array?
  - How will direct subsidies be administered to young people?
    - Will they be administered directly to young people and/or will they be administered through a third party who is responsible for ongoing support and contact with young person?
  - What training is needed for kin, foster parents, and other caregivers regarding appropriate guidance and supervision of young adults?

- Are new or adapted policy/regulations needed for placement settings for youth aged 18 - 21?
- **4.** Case Oversight: to develop recommendations related to the review of cases of young adults, including policy and practices to support case oversight.
  - Who will be responsible for periodic reviews? Courts? Foster Care Review Board? Mediation Centers?
  - How will reviews be structured to ensure young people are full partners in the process?
    - How can you ensure the venue is youth-friendly?
    - How will youth be prepared for meaningful participation?
    - What training is needed for judges and others directed with oversight functions?
  - Depending on the design of case oversight, will young adults need and be granted legal representation?
- **5. Communication/Marketing:** to develop recommendations related to communication and marketing strategies and materials to encourage and engage young adults in the program.
  - How will young people be made aware of new program requirements and benefits?
  - What communication strategies are needed to effectively market this program to young people?
  - What outreach activities are needed to reach young people who have left foster care (but are still eligible to return)?
  - What communication materials and tool are needed?
- **6. State Extended Guardianship Assistance Program:** *to develop recommendations related to the design creation of the extending guardianship program* 
  - What training is need for case workers and potential guardians to implement this program?
  - What are the barriers to ensuring guardianships are eligible for federal subsidies and the strategies for addressing them and potential strategies for overcoming them?
    - What timeframe will it take to address barriers and begin claiming federal IV-E for guardianships?
  - What funding streams can potentially be leveraged to expand the reach of the legislated funds for state extended guardianship?
  - How will the state extended guardianship subsidies be allocated?
    - If subsidies are available to youth on a first come, first serve basis, will this be based on when guardianships are finalized or when young people reach age 19?

# Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Nomination Form

The Nebraska Children's Commission is seeking nominations for the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee. This committee will be working to review and make recommendations to the Nebraska Children's Commission in the following areas: foster care reimbursement rates, the statewide standardized level of care assessment, and adoption assistance payments. The committee will analyze consumer expenditure data reflecting the costs of caring for a child in Nebraska; identify and account for additional costs specific to children in foster care; and apply a geographic cost-of-living adjustment for Nebraska.

The Nebraska Children's Commission is seeking the following representatives:

- 1. Representatives from a child welfare agency that contracts directly with foster parents, from each of the service areas;
- 2. A representative from an advocacy organization which deals with legal and policy issues that include child welfare;
- 3. A representative from an advocacy organization, the singular focus of which is issues impacting children;
- 4. A representative from a foster and adoptive parent association;
- 5. A representative from a lead agency
- 6. A representative from a child advocacy organization that supports young adults who were in foster care as children;
- 7. A foster parent who contracts directly with the Department of Health and Human Services; and
- 8. A foster parent who contracts with a child welfare agency.

Members of the committee will be asked to serve for terms of four years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

If you would like to be considered for this committee, please complete the attached 2-page form. The completed form must be returned to Leesa Sorensen at the Nebraska Children's Commission by close of business on August 9, 2013. The completed form may be e-mailed to Leesa.Sorensen@Nebraska.gov or mailed to:

Leesa Sorensen FCRO/Nebraska Children's Commission 521 S. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 401 Lincoln, NE 68508

	Nebraska Children		
Name:	oster Care Reimbursem	ient Rate Commi	ttee
Address:			
/ ddi C55.			
City:		State:	Zip:
Home Phone: ( )		Business Phor	
Cell Phone: ( )		Business Fax:	and the second
E-mail Address:			
Occupation:			
Gender:		Race:	
Employment:			
Education:			ne or an and a second sec
Other Committees			
or Boards:			
	1		
	1.		£
	1.		
	1.		
	1.		
	1.		
	1.		
	1. 2.		
References (Name/Address/Phone):			

Representative of: (check all that apply)

A child welfare agency that contracts directly with foster parents, from each of the service areas. My service area: \_\_\_\_\_

6.1

- **O** An advocacy organization which deals with legal and policy issues that include child welfare
- An advocacy organization, the singular focus of which is issues impacting children
- **O** A foster and adoptive parent association
- ♦ A lead agency
- **O** A child advocacy organization that supports young adults who were in foster care as children
- **◊** A foster parent who contracts directly with the Department of Health and Human Services
- **O** A foster parent who contracts with a child welfare agency

Reason for Seeking this Appointment: