

Nebraska Children's Commission

Thirteenth Meeting
July 16, 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 9:05am 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, Janteice Holston, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab.

Commission Members absent: Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski.

Ex Officio Members present: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Hon. Linda Porter, Thomas Pristow, Julie Rogers, and Kerry Winterer.

Ex Officio Members absent: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Jeremy Nordquist, and Vicky Weisz.

Also in attendance: Leesa Sorensen from the Nebraska Children's Commission.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of June 18, 2013, Minutes

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2013, meeting. The motion was seconded by Pam Allen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin

Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report

Karen Authier provided the Commission with a list on interim studies that relate to the work of the Children's Commission. Karen also indicated that Senator Campbell, Senator Coash, and Anna Eickholt from Senator Dubas's office will be providing additional information during the legislative update.

Karen noted that the Nebraska Children's Commission has certain requirements related to the foster care rates and assessments that were outlined in LB530. These requirements include reporting that is due on October 1, 2013; December 1, 2013; and February 1, 2014; and appointment of a Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee by January 1, 2016. Karen suggested that the Commission consider creating the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee earlier than 2016 so that the committee can provide input for the required reports. Karen noted that a panel will be providing information to the Commission during the meeting to update Commission members regarding progress toward implementation of the recommendations developed by the Foster Care Rate Committee in 2012 and approved by the Commission for inclusion in the Phase 1 Strategic Plan.

Karen requested that Beth Baxter report on the System of Care grant that had been awarded to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Beth provided the Commission with information on the planning grant that has been awarded to DHHS Division of Behavioral Health. Beth informed the Commission that the grant is to be used for planning and expanding the current initiatives for children/youth with Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED) and their families. Beth noted that there are several references to the Nebraska Children's Commission in the grant and that the System of Care workgroup will be working to help identify how the Commission will be involved with the grant process. The project is specifically designed to help children with SED through integration of behavioral health, the child welfare, school, and juvenile justice systems. A small workgroup, led by Sheri Dawson from DHHS Behavioral Health, that includes Vicki Maca and Candy Kennedy-Goergen will be meeting to begin to figure out how the group will expand on current initiatives and build on the foundation that has already been created. Beth noted that she will be working with Sheri Dawson and Vicki Maca to set up a panel discussion for the August or September Nebraska Children's Commission meeting.

Legislative Update

Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Coash, and Anna Eickholt from Senator Dubas's office provided a brief update on legislative issues.

Senator Campbell noted that the Health and Human Services Committee has twenty six interim studies for consideration. She noted that many of the legislative resolutions relate to bills that are already drafted and have had public hearings. Some of the interim studies may also be handled in other manners including through the use of workgroups that will help discuss and develop ideas further. Senator Campbell did note that she anticipates that there will be a public hearing on LR387 which examines how Nebraska is utilizing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds.

Senator Coash noted that the Judiciary Committee also has approximately twenty six interim studies that are being reviewed and prioritized for the committee and the committee staff. Senator Coash informed the Commission members that he anticipates that some interim study work will be done to examine additional issues related to juvenile justice reform included in LB561. Specifically, additional work is anticipated to identify issues related to detention needs and the need for additional juvenile justice resources.

Anna Eickholt from Senator Dubas's office noted that there will not be a public hearing on LR209 because of all the work that was done on LB530. Instead, Senator Dubas will be working with a smaller workgroup to determine what other legislation may be needed related to foster care rate and assessment issues. Anna indicated that she anticipates that this workgroup will meet throughout the fall to identify any additional legislative needs. She also noted that LR238 on Access Nebraska was being looked at by the Health and Human Services Committee.

Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Advisory Committee Report

Mary Jo Pankoke gave a report on the Young Adult Voluntary Services and Supports Advisory Committee. She provided Commission members an agenda for the next meeting that will be held on July 31, 2013. The handout included a summary of the six proposed workgroups that will be formed to develop recommendations related to the work required by LB216. The proposed workgroups are: 1) Eligibility and Transition from Current Service Array; 2) Case Management and Supportive Services; 3) Placement; 4) Case Oversight; 5) Communication/Marketing; and 6) State Extended Guardianship Assistance Program. Mary Jo indicated that the advisory committee will also be meeting a second time on September 3, 2013.

Foster Care Rate and Assessment Status Report

Lana Temple-Plotz and Theresa Webster on behalf of the Foster Family-Based Treatment Association (FFTA); Barb Nissen on behalf of Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (NFAPA); and Sara Goscha and Director Thomas Pristow on behalf of DHHS provided an update on the status of implementation of the foster care rate and assessment process outlined in LB530.

Thomas reported that DHHS has begun training on the use of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment and that DHHS will be administering the assessments in all cases. Sara indicated that DHHS has selected four counties for the pilot CANS assessment implementation. The pilot program will include Lancaster, Adams, Lincoln, and Platte counties

and will provide a good representation of the youth in out of home care for both urban and rural populations. Thomas noted that data will be collected and evaluated during the pilot process and will be made available to the Commission for the reports that are required by LB530.

Lana, Theresa, and Barb provided information on the need to educate foster families on the changes made by LB530. It was noted that families may not be aware of the pilot process and that the families will need to understand the assessment tool and the benefit that it will provide in having a more complete picture of children's needs. FFTA and NFAPA will be collaborating with DHHS on the process of implementing the assessments and the foster care rate process that will follow. It was also noted that it will be important to develop a collaborative process with probation for the population of youth in the juvenile justice system that are placed in foster homes.

The panel reminded Commission members that the research on the foster care rate and assessment evaluation process was completed in 2012. This research was used by the legislature in crafting LB530. The reports from the original committees' research were included in appendix F of the Nebraska Children's Commission Phase I Strategic Plan.

Following the panel presentation, Karen Authier provided Commission members with a copy of LB530 which includes information regarding reporting requirements on the CANS pilot and rate recommendations and provision for the Commission to appoint the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee. Karen advised that although LB530 required that the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee be created by January 1, 2016, it will be helpful to have this committee in place to help with the reports and evaluations that are required by LB530 within the next 6 months.

Beth Baxter made a motion that the Nebraska Children's Commission create the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee and begin taking nominations for the committee. The motion was seconded by Pam Allen. During discussion of the motion, Commission members discussed how this committee will relate to the previous committees that were created in 2012 by LB820. Thomas Pristow indicated that the LB820 foster care rate committee had completed its work. Karen indicated that the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee that was the subject of the motion will be building upon the work that was completed by the previous committee. In the absence of further discussion on the motion, the Commission members voted. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

Karen provided the group with a Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Nomination Form that can be completed by individuals who have interest in serving on the newly created rate committee. Completed nomination forms are due to Leesa Sorensen by August 9, 2013, so that a slate of nominees can be considered at the Nebraska Children's Commission meeting in August.

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to recess the Commission meeting for work group meetings. The motion was seconded by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier,

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

The Commission recessed at 10:20am for work group discussions that included members of the public.

The Commission reconvened at 11:15am.

Commission Members present: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab.

Commission Members absent: Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski.

Ex Officio Members present: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Hon. Linda Porter, Thomas Pristow, Julie Rogers, and Kerry Winterer.

Ex Officio Members absent: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Jeremy Nordquist, and Vicky Weisz.

Phase II Strategic Plan – Workgroup Reports

Each workgroup reported on the work they are currently doing related to the four goals included in the Phase 1 Strategic Plan:

System of Care

The System of Care workgroup discussed the Nebraska DHHS System of Care Planning Project grant. The committee specifically talked about how the workgroup can develop and determine strategies to integrate the Commission's role in the planning grant and support the Department of Health and Human Services' efforts of furthering system of care principles throughout the child and family-serving systems as the workgroup moves forward with Phase II strategic plan recommendations. The group discussed the need to collaborate with probation and the foster care rate committee. The group also noted that they need to address funding issues and the need for consistency of implementation across the state.

Technology

The Technology workgroup finalized the work group charter to define the scope of the work and role that the workgroup will have. The workgroup meet on July 12 at the Executive building in Lincoln. The workgroup received an update on the Georgetown Project and discussed information exchange. The workgroup also received an update from the Foster Care Review Office (FCRO) on their data needs, which was included in the June 2013 FCRO report. The workgroup decided that future meetings of the workgroup will be held on the first Friday of each month with the next meeting being scheduled for August 2. Dave Newell also reported that

the workgroup needed input from the Commission on the whole population measures that will shape the focus of the Commission's work going forward. This whole population measure will be consistent with the guidance that was given by Dr. Deb Daro in the presentation the Commission received in June. Karen indicated that the Commission will plan for a facilitated discussion on whole population outcomes at the September Commission meeting.

Community Ownership

The Community Ownership workgroup held listening sessions in May and June with five communities. The workgroup is currently putting together a summary of the recommendations and information that was collected from these sessions. The workgroup specifically highlighted the Panhandle Community group that has 15 years of experience working together. The Community Ownership group is exploring the possibility of creating a Handbook for Communities that will help share lessons learned and items to consider for newer community groups.

Workforce

The Workforce workgroup has been researching other surrounding state models related to professional workforce development and found that information is lacking. Because information is lacking, the workgroup has decided to develop workforce recommendations in the areas of staff recruitment, training/development, retention, salary and compensation, and career trajectories. The workgroup is continuing to research tuition reimbursement and student loan forgiveness possibilities.

General Discussion no action item

After the workgroup reports, the Commission members had a brief discussion on timelines and priorities for the Phase II recommendations and the format for upcoming Commission meetings. It was indicated that some of the workgroups need clarification of the focus of the Commission's work. The September meeting will be used to discuss whole population measure recommendations. Senator Campbell and Senator Coash recommended that the Commission consider doing an update on the Strategic Plan and any additional recommendations by December 1 to provide time for briefings to be scheduled for state senators before the start of the new legislative season. The briefings will be important if there is additional legislation needed.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is August 20, 2013, 9:00am-12:00pm at the Country Inns and Suites, 5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting will be held in the Omaha room.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Janteice Holston to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Candy Kennedy-Goergen. The meeting adjourned at 11:57am.

Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee

Report to the Nebraska Children's Commission August 20, 2013

Co-Chairperson: Ellen Brokofsky, Nebraska Children's Commission, State Probation Administrator
– Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation

Co-Chairperson: Martin Klein, Nebraska Children's Commission, Deputy Hall County Attorney

Committee members:

- Kim Culp, Director -Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center
- Barbara Fitzgerald, Coordinator - Yankee Hill Programs – Lincoln Public Schools
- Sarah Forrest, Policy Coordinator – Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice – Voices for Children
- Judge Larry Gendler, Separate Juvenile Court Judge for Sarpy County, NE
- Kim Hawekotte, Director – Foster Care Review Office (former CEO – KVC Nebraska)
- Dr. Anne Hobbs, Director – Juvenile Justice Institute, University of Nebraska, Omaha
- Ron Johns, Administrator – Scotts Bluff County Detention Center
- Nick Juliano, Senior Director of Business Development – Boys Town
- Tina Marroquin, Lancaster County Attorney
- Mark Mason, Program Director - Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation
- Jana Peterson, Facility Administrator – YRTC, Kearney
- Corey Steel, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Juvenile Services, Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation
- Monica Miles-Steffens, Executive Director – Nebraska Juvenile Justice association & Nebraska JDAI Statewide Coordinator
- Pastor Tony Sanders, CEO – Family First: A Call to Action
- Dalene Walker, Parent
- Dr. Ken Zoucha, Program Medical Director - Hastings Juvenile Chemical Dependency

Resources to the Committee:

- Sen. Kathy Campbell
- Sen. Colby Coash
- Doug Koebernick, Legislative Assistant for Senator Steve Lathrop
- Jerall Moreland, Assistant Ombudsman - Nebraska Ombudsman's Office
- Dr. Liz Neeley, Nebraska Bar Association, Supreme Court Minority Justice Committee
- Dr. Hank Robinson, Director of Research, Nebraska Department of Corrections
- Dan Scarborough, Facility Administrator – YRTC, Geneva
- Amy Williams, Legislative Assistant for Senator Amanda McGill

Recent Meeting Dates:

January 9, 2013
February 12, 2013
March 12, 2013
April 9, 2013
May 14, 2013
June 11, 2013
August 13, 2013

Activities:

Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility Visit:

On July 19, 2013, members of the Juvenile Services (OJS) committee and the Nebraska Children's Commission toured the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility. Warden Ryan Mahr arranged for the group to speak with three youth who are currently being held in that facility. The youth answered questions from the committee about what led to each of the youth being involved in the juvenile justice system.

Dr. Terry Lee Report Discussion:

On May 3, 2013, Dr. Terry Lee delivered the *Nebraska Juvenile Justice System Evaluation* report to the Nebraska Administration of Probation. The report evaluates the Nebraska juvenile justice system and makes recommendations to improve the system of care. On August 13, 2013, the committee had an open discussion on the recommendations made by Dr. Lee. The key points highlighted by committee members included legal representation for youth; enhanced family engagement in the juvenile justice process; evidence-based practices; and proper youth assessment. The committee will be utilizing this report as it continues the strategic planning process.

Committee Membership Changes:

On August 13, 2013, the committee had a potential new member attend the committee meeting and introduce herself. The Juvenile Services (OJS) committee then voted to recommend to the Nebraska Children's Commission the following person for membership:

- Cindy Gans, Director of Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid – Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Additionally, Stacey Conroy has accepted a new position and will no longer be available to function as a resource to the committee. Stacey was legal counsel for Senator Brad Ashford.

Technical Consultant/Facilitator/Writer – Solicitation of Proposals:

On August 13, 2013, the committee approved the August 9, 2013 draft of the Solicitation of Proposals. The committee voted to recommend to the Nebraska Children's Commission that the Solicitation of Proposals be approved as written. If approved at the August 20, 2013, Children's Commission meeting, the proposal will then be immediately distributed to the community in order to hire a technical consultant/facilitator/writer as a contractor by no later than September 3, 2013. The contractor will be working with the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee to facilitate the remaining strategic planning efforts and write a report that will fulfill the requirements as outlined in LB 561. It is the intention of the committee that the finalized draft Juvenile Services (OJS) committee report will be delivered to the Nebraska Children's Commission for consideration at its November 19, 2013 meeting.

Nebraska Children's Commission – Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee
Technical Consultant/Facilitator/Writer
Solicitation of Proposals
August 9, 2013 - DRAFT

Overview:

The Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee was created as a subcommittee of the Nebraska Children's Commission by passage of LB821 on April 11, 2012. The committee responsibilities were then updated by passage of LB561 on May 29, 2013. This committee is responsible for:

- Examining the structure and responsibilities of the Office of Juvenile Services as they exist on April 12, 2012.
- Reviewing the role and effectiveness of the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers in the juvenile justice system and making recommendations to the Nebraska Children's Commission on the future role of the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers in the juvenile justice continuum of care, including what populations they should serve and what treatment services should be provided at the centers in order to appropriately serve those populations.
- Reviewing how mental and behavioral health services are provided to juveniles in secure residential placements and the need for such services throughout Nebraska and making recommendations to the Nebraska Children's Commission relating to those systems of care in the juvenile justice system.
- Collaborating with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Center for Health Policy, the behavioral health regions, and state and national juvenile justice experts to develop recommendations.
- Making recommendations that include a plan to implement a rehabilitation and treatment model by upgrading the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center's physical structure, staff, and staff training and the incorporation of evidence-based treatments and programs, if the committee's recommendations include maintaining the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers.

The Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee must submit recommendations to the Nebraska Children's Commission and to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature by December 1, 2013.

Scope of Work:

The Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee is seeking to engage a contractor to provide independent assistance to the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee to: 1) lead facilitated discussions; 2) assist the committee in continued development of strategic recommendations for juvenile justice reform; and 3) write the report that will be submitted by the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee to the Nebraska Children's Commission and the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature by December 1, 2013.

The contractor will be expected to:

1. Review LB821 and LB561 to structure the strategic planning process to meet the requirements of that legislation;
2. Review the Nebraska Children's Commission Phase I Strategic Plan, the LR196 Report Manual, the Juvenile Services Continuum of Care matrix, and other work products of the committee to enhance the strategic planning process;

3. Meet and facilitate discussion with the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee to obtain input for the strategic recommendations.
4. Provide a professional report that is congruent with the work of the Nebraska Children's Commission Phase I Strategic Plan.
5. Provide neutral and independent assistance with the development of the strategic recommendations for juvenile justice reform.

Contractor Requirements:

1. An independent entity with experience in facilitating strategic planning efforts and writing professional reports;
2. Availability to attend and facilitate at committee meetings in Lincoln, Nebraska on September 10 and October 8 and other committee or designated group meetings as scheduled;
3. Ability to begin work on the contract by September 3, 2013.
4. Ability to deliver a final written draft report by November 5, 2013.
5. Ability to deliver a presentation on the report at the November 19, 2013, Nebraska Children's Commission meeting.
6. Three references familiar with the consultant's work.

Selection Process:

Interested individuals should submit a resume and a 2 page summary providing:

1. A brief summary of a work plan
2. 3 references
3. Cost proposal

Submit the required materials electronically to Leesa Sorensen at the following email address: Leesa.Sorensen@nebraska.gov by 5:00 P.M., August 30, 2013.

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Nominees

Last Revised: August 19, 2013

Chair:

Peg Harriott – President/CEO, Child Saving Institute (ESA)

Representative of:

◇ A child welfare agency that contracts directly with foster parents, from each of the service areas. (Service area designation)

Susan Henrie* – CEO of South Central Behavioral Services (WSA)

Jackie Meyer* – Executive Director, Building Blocks Agency Supported Foster Care (NSA)

Katie McLeese Stephenson – COO, Cedars (SESA)

Ryan Alan Suhr – Statewide Administrator of Children Services, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska (ESA)

Corrie Edwards – CEO, Mid-Plains Center for Behavioral Health Services (CSA)

◇ An advocacy organization which deals with legal and policy issues that include child welfare

Lana Temple-Plotz* – President, FFTA; Chief Program Officer, Nebraska Children's Home Society

◇ An advocacy organization, the singular focus of which is issues impacting children

Shannon-Jo Hamilton - Child Welfare Policy Associate – Voice for Children in Nebraska

◇ A foster and adoptive parent association

Barb Nissen* – Program Coordinator, NE Foster & Adoptive Parent Association

◇ A lead agency

David Newell* – President/CEO Nebraska Families Collaborative

◇ A child advocacy organization that supports young adults who were in foster care as children

Alana Pearson – Project Everlast Youth Advisor

◇ A foster parent who contracts directly with the Department of Health and Human Services

Bev Stutzman*

◇ A foster parent who contracts with a child welfare agency

Jena Davenport – KVC Foster Parent

Sherry Moore – Lutheran Family Services Foster Parent

Bobby Loud – Boystown Foster Parent

◇ At Large:

Leigh Esau* – Executive Director, Foster CARE Closet

*Indicates member of 2012 LB820 Foster Care Reimbursement Rate committee

◇ DHHS

Thomas Pristow* – Director, Division of Children and Family Services

Sara Goscha* – Administrator I, Division of Children and Family Services

Lindy Bryceson – Children and Family Services Administrator, Division of Children and Family Services (SESA)

Debbie Silverman* – Service Area Administrator, Division of Children and Family Services (WSA)

Michele Anderson – Children and Family Services Specialist, Division of Children and Family Services (CSA)

Karen Knapp* – Children and Family Services Specialist, Division of Children and Family Services (NSA)

Substance Abuse – Mental Health Service
Administration
(SAMHSA)

System of Care
Expansion Planning Grant
Overview

Nebraska Children's Commission Meeting
August 20, 2013

Vicki Maca

Sheri Dawson

Award Period: July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

- \$504,500 Federal Award
- \$311,654 State and Local Match

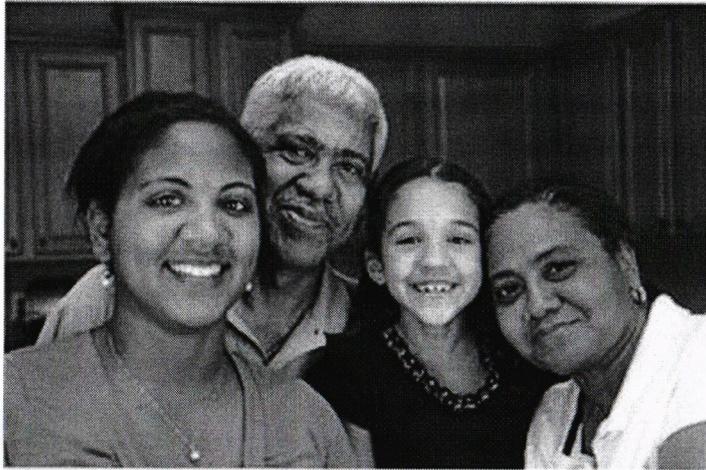
System of Care Planning Grant

Planning a “framework” to infuse SOC through the system, not a single program, but rather coordination and integration across partnerships.

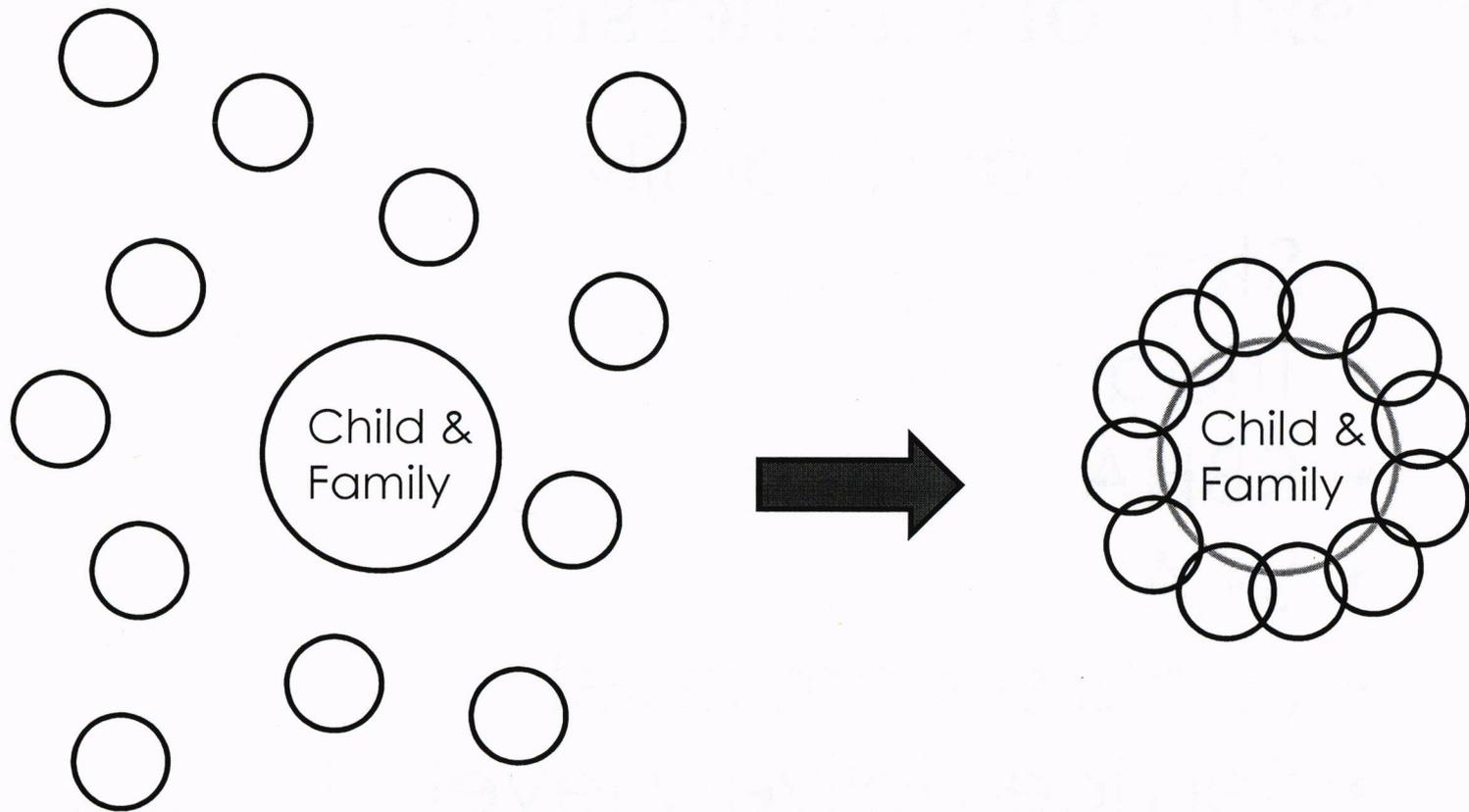


- Individualized care
- Community Coordination and Integration
- Service accessibility
- Family and youth partnership - system, program and practice levels
- Cultural competence - system, program and practice levels

SOC Core Values



- Family Driven and Youth Guided
- Community based and Partnership based Processes and Relationships
- Culturally and linguistically competent



How do we get there?

Complexity of Partnerships

- Youth and Family
- State
- Tribal
- RBHA
- SAA
- Local system level
- Service delivery level
- And.....

-- ALL

Planning Grant

GOALS:

1) Develop a plan to infuse the system of care framework and philosophy to improve the lives of children experiencing serious mental health challenges (SED) and their families.

2) Develop a logic model describing inputs, approaches, outputs and outcomes to support infusion of SOC approach statewide.

3) Develop a culturally and linguistically competent social marketing/strategic communication plan

What Have We Done To Date?

- Organizing
- Sharing the news
- Developing contacts
- Talking with Project Manager, TriWest
- Taking grant words to the real world
- Engaging key grant partners
- Introduced to Tribal Society of Care
- Developing language/definitions/education

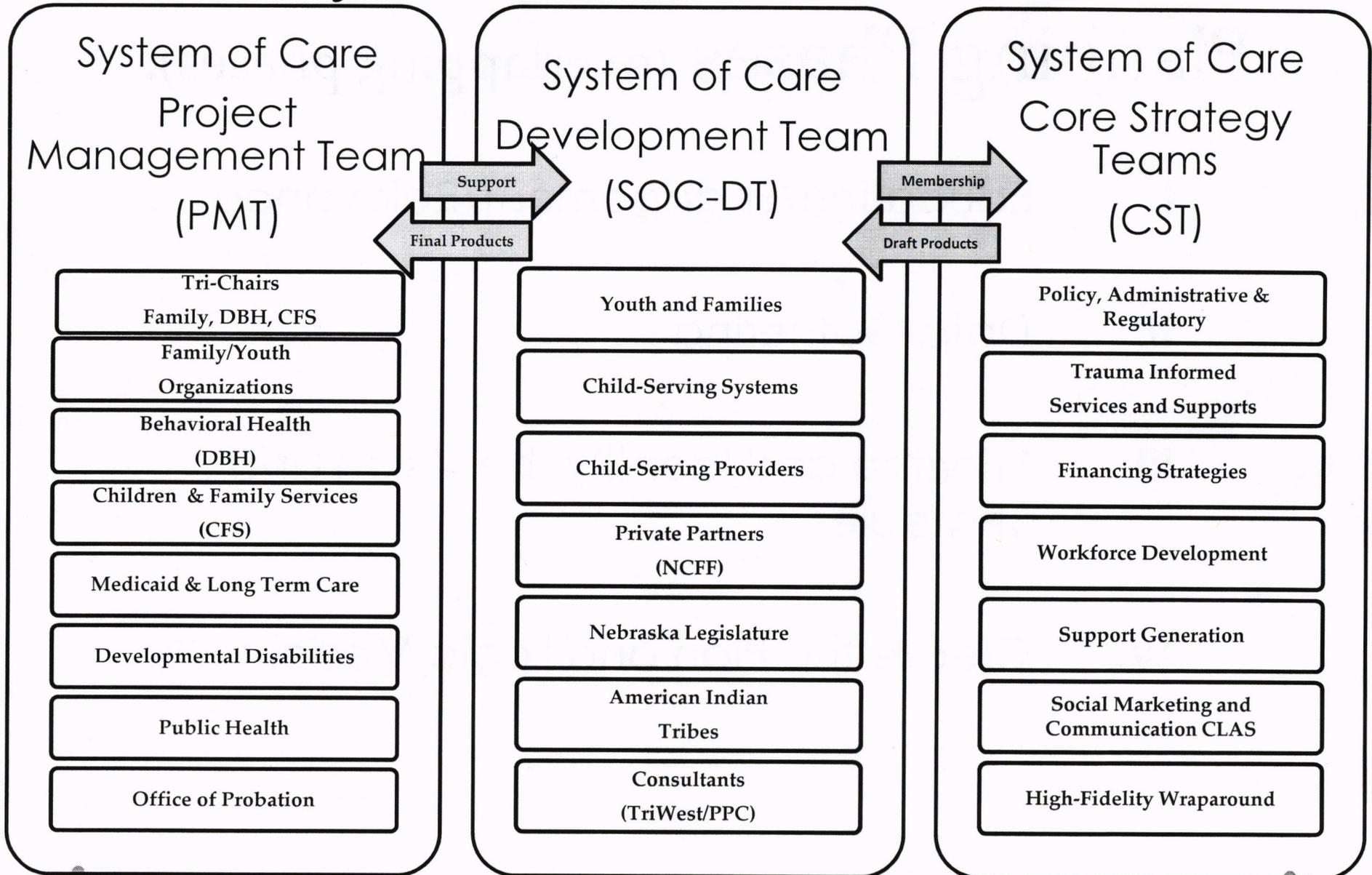
SOC Planning Partner Roles

- Family Organizations (NE Federation of Families, 6 Family Organizations)
- Nebraska Children and Families Foundation – Youth Partners and Communication Plan
- 16 Youth/Family Partners
- Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHA)
- Children & Family Services – Service Area Administrators (SAA)
- TriWest Group – Peter Selby, PhD; Andrew Keller, PhD; Suki Martinez-Parham, M Ed
- University of Nebraska – Public Policy Center

SOC 3 Key Operational Teams

1. The Systems of Care Project Management Team (PMT)
2. The Systems of Care Development Team (SOC-DT)
3. The Systems of Care Core Strategy Team (CST)

System of Care Structure



Planning Phases (overlapping phases):

- I. Education/Engagement/Relevance
- II. Data Gathering
- III. Prioritize and Identify the Vision and Strategies
- IV. Create the Plan and Logic Model

Key Planning Processes

- SOC Kickoff – October(ish)
 - Engage, vision, partner
- Statewide Readiness Assessment
- Core Strategy Teams
- Statewide Forums and Interviews
- Planning the plan

SOC Workgroup List of Stakeholders

Identified in Grant Application:

Not All Inclusive....Yet

TriWest Consultants
Nebraska Federation of Families
DHHS Office of Consumer Affairs
Behavioral Health Education Center of NE
Magellan Behavioral Health of Nebraska
Kim Foundation
Nebraska Alliance for Mentally Ill
Mental Health Association
Nebraska Recovery Network
Suicide Survivors Support Groups
Nebraska Foster & Adoptive Parent Assoc.
Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHA)
Nebraska's Court Improvement Project
CFS Five Service Area Administrators
Childcare providers
University of Nebraska – Public Policy Center
Trauma Informed Nebraska
Veterans Groups
Tribal Representatives

Regional Prevention Leadership Groups
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
Voices for Children
RBHA Consumer Liaisons
Children's Commission
DHHS - Division of Children & Family Services
DHHS – Division of Medicaid & Long Term Care
DHHS – Division of Developmental Disabilities
DHHS – Division of Public Health
DHHS – Division of Behavioral Health
Nebraska Department of Education
Office of Juvenile Justice
Office of Probation Administration
Educational Service Units
Children's Mental Health Providers
Buffet Early Childhood Institute

“ When the awareness of
what is achievable
brushes your life, the
journey has begun. ”

Contact

Vicki Maca
Deputy-Director
Children & Family Svc.
DHHS
Vicki.maca@nebraska.gov
(402) 471-1362

Sheri Dawson
Deputy-Director
Behavioral Health
DHHS
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(402) 471-7856

Facilitated Conferencing and Mediation in Nebraska Juvenile Cases

Nebraska Children's Commission presentation, August 20, 2013

The Purpose of Facilitation/Mediation

- ❖ Improve time to permanency
- ❖ Increase family engagement
- ❖ Allow for non-adversarial discussion/resolution/agreements within a formalized court process
- ❖ Produce more and better information to enhance decision-making

The Types of Facilitation/Mediation

Initial Pre-Hearing Conference: Held immediately prior to the Protective Custody Hearing (initial hearing), knowledgeable child welfare facilitators assist in facilitating a brief (30-45 minute) conference to address key preliminary safety and permanency issues with the parties in the case, including the parents, caseworkers, and attorneys.

Family Group Conference: An evidence-based, family-centered approach that may be used at any stage of the process, FGC coordinators proficient in working with complex family dynamics individually meet with, prepare and engage family and a network of others to create a meaningful and accountable family plan during the 3-7 hour conference.

Youth Circle:

PHPR – Permanency Pre-hearing Conference: Optimally scheduled 60 days prior to the 12-month Permanency Hearing, this off-site facilitated conference requires parents, caseworkers, and attorneys to confront critical barriers to progress, permanency decisions that need to be made and action steps to be taken prior to the Permanency Hearing.

PHTPR – Pre-Hearing TPR Conference: Experienced facilitators proficient in TPR issues, conflict dynamics and best interest considerations prepare and facilitate a conference of parents, caseworkers, attorneys and other individuals to confront critical issues and determine next steps, including a consideration of relinquishment as well as bringing a termination of parental rights petition to trial. This conference includes a relinquishment counselor in some areas.

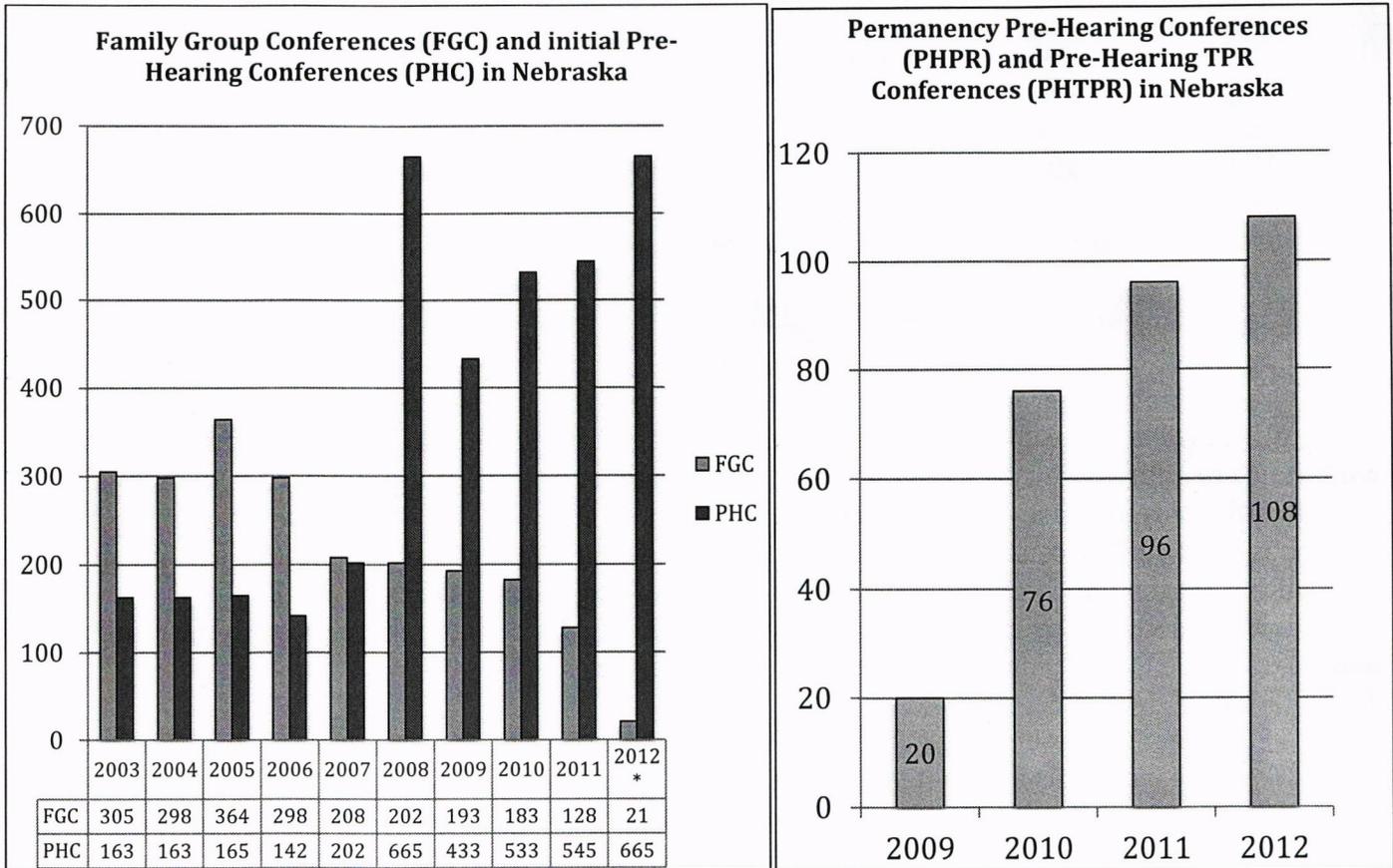
Child Welfare Mediation: As needed small problem solving conferences between family members and providers, or other individuals.

Restorative Justice / Victim-Offender Mediation: A facilitated meeting between victim, offender, and their families in order to repair the harm to the victim and community through dialogue. The mediation provides an opportunity for the offender to accept responsibility for the harm caused and to participate in setting consequences to repair the harm.

Data

- ❖ In PHTPRs in Omaha, 30% resulted in parental relinquishment and 21% with another outcome such as guardianship, tribal transfer or the parent entering substance abuse treatment
- ❖ Participants are highly satisfied with these conferences (4.36 / 5 for satisfaction with the outcome)
- ❖ National studies have established that Family Group Conferences: reduce re-abuse rates, reduce the number of placements and increase placements with extended family

The Increasing Frequency of Facilitation



Current Capacity

- ❖ Availability of PHC facilitation in juvenile cases is contingent on an annual contract with DHHS that must be renewed yearly
 - Total Grant Amount 2012-2013 (excluding FGC): \$235,000
- ❖ The ability of mediation centers to provide facilitation/mediation is limited by the capped amount of the contract. In June 2013, some mediation centers had to suspend PHC services because the capped number in the contract had been reached and a request for an emergency addendum did not succeed.
- ❖ Number of families served in 2012-2013: 662
 - Total # of 3a filings in 2012-2013: 1779

Recommendations

We respectfully recommend that the Children's Commission consider:

- Moving funding for juvenile facilitation/mediation into the Judicial Branch
- Increasing the amount of funding available for facilitation/mediation
- Encouraging local communities to continue their use of facilitation and mediation as a best practice

Hastings Tribune

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS

Friday, Aug. 16, 2013

Maryland Living Center residents impress Nebraska's chief justice

HEAVICAN TOURS
HOUSING FACILITY
FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

LIS ARNESON

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Organizers of the Maryland Living Center hosted Nebraska Chief Justice Mike Heavican on a private tour Thursday morning.

The Maryland Living Center, which opened Aug. 1, is a permanent housing facility that works to transition homeless youth ages 16 to 24 into independent living within 12 to 18 months. The Maryland Living Center includes 12 apartments and can accommodate up to

20 youths.

Heavican's visit included a tour of the newly renovated facility, including the library and a few apartments.

Renovation of the building took a year to complete.

Following the tour, Heavican had breakfast with organizers and four of the center's residents. Residents had the opportunity to share their personal stories, how the center has affected their lives and their aspirations for the future. Several have common goals: go to college, earn a degree and get a stable job.

Heavican said the residents of the Maryland Living Center

made an impression on him.

"One of the things that impresses me is their drive and determination," he said. "And that, again, relates back to the program and I'm especially impressed with the responsibility elements of the program. This is not just a place to live but it also has life skill training and the idea that everybody has to pay some rent and everybody has to save some money — those are the positive kinds of things that the young people will take with them and use wherever they go."

Residents pay rent, which is 30 percent of their individual

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Justice: Heavican tours housing facility

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income, said RuAnn Root, director of South Central Nebraska's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). Residents are expected to save 10 percent of their income so they have money for things like rent and utilities when they move out. They also are expected to spend 40 hours each week going to school or working, or a combination of the two.

"So those kinds of programs, the whole idea of providing housing with a structure, are ideas that I certainly think need to be provided in some way or another everywhere in this country," Heavican said.

He said he will encourage state programs to look at children who have aged out of the foster care system and the kinds of things they need.

"One of the things that we have related to the court sys-

tem is a program that's called 'Through the Eyes of a Child,' " he said. "And we have 26 different teams organized around the state and this particular program, this 'Through the Eyes of a Child' team here in Hastings, works very closely here with this program, they've gotten awards for it, so we know that our other 'Through the Eyes of a Child' teams throughout the state know about the program. And every community may respond in just a little bit different way, some of the basic elements of what they're doing here will be needed everywhere."

Adams County Judge Michael Burns accompanied Heavican on the tour.

"People in the community are very aware of what's happening here and very supportive of it. It's a need that's everywhere, but I think Hastings as a community has embraced the

idea that this will work," Burns said.

Heavican expressed his thanks to the organizers of the Maryland Living Center.

"I think the community of Hastings needs to be thanked. And everybody here, RuAnn and Judge Burns and everybody who's involved with this, all the board members. Everybody involved here is just doing a great job," Heavican said.

Ben Dumas, program director at the Maryland Living Center, said it was an honor to host Heavican and to have the new program so widely recognized.

"And it's really encouraging to know that we not only have the support of the Hastings community but also of Nebraska as a state," Dumas said. "So it was really neat and it's just nice to know that we have such a great team of people behind us."