

## **Nebraska Children's Commission**

Twenty-first Meeting

March 18, 2014

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Christ United Methodist Church, Conference Rooms A&B

4530 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68510

### **Call to Order**

Karen Authier called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. 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, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Martin Klein, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab.

Commission Members absent: Nancy Forney, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Becky Sorensen.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky, Hon. Linda Porter, Julie Rogers, and Vicky Weisz.

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Senator Jeremy Nordquist, Thomas Pristow, and Kerry Winterer.

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

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Approval of February 19, 2014, Minutes**

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2014, meeting as written. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Pam Allen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Martin Klein abstained.

Nancy Forney, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Becky Sorensen were absent. Motion carried.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Karen Authier provided a brief chair's report. Karen thanked Commission members for making the additional effort to drive to the new location for the meeting. Karen also informed Commission members that the remaining meetings for the year are scheduled for the Country Inn and Suites on North 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Karen then asked Leesa Sorensen to give an update on the Nebraska Children's Commission website. Leesa indicated that the website was currently under design and that Commission members would be notified once the website was available. Karen then noted that the May and June Commission meeting agendas are currently under discussion and that a conference call is scheduled with Deb Burnight for the afternoon to discuss the facilitation that Deb has been asked to do related to the Phase II. Karen told Commission members that Leesa would be sending out a poll regarding the meeting time in May or June once the facilitation plan was more finalized. Karen also noted that the May and June meetings will be planned in coordination with the whole population discussions for measurable outcomes as that information would be helpful to have in place before the Phase II planning meeting.

### **Nebraska Children's Commission Appointment Application**

Karen Authier reminded Commission members who were appointed by the Governor that their original appointment to the Nebraska Children's Commission is scheduled to end on June 30, 2014. Commission members were provided a copy of the *Board and Commission Vacancies January – June 2014* list from the Governor's website which provides the link to the on-line application to reapply to continue as a Commission member. Members who are interested in re-applying were encouraged to do so by the end of April. Karen noted that she was hopeful that the appointment process would be completed by the Children's Commission meeting in June.

### **Crime Commission Grant Process Update**

Cindy Gans, Community Based Aid Administrator for the Crime Commission provided information on the 2014 community based aid program. Cindy provided the timeline for the review of grant applications and noted that award letters are expected to be out in early May. Cindy noted the types of programs that had applied for funding. It was also noted that there is approximately \$76,000.00 that may be made available for an additional round of grant applications. Cindy noted that she will continue to provide updates to the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee.

### **Legislative Update**

Bethany Connor provided Commission members with a list of Legislative Bills that she is tracking on behalf of the Children's Commission. Bethany noted that the list updates progress of the bills related to Alternative Response (LB503), Guardianship (LB908), Lead Agency (LB660), and Facilitated Conferencing (LB1093). Bethany gave additional information on

LB464 which covers necessary amendments to LB561 and provides other changes to the juvenile justice process.

### **DHHS Report**

Thomas Pristow was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments. Therefore, there was no DHHS report.

### **Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Report**

Peg Harriott provided a verbal progress report on the work of the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee. Peg noted that the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate committee did not meet during the month of March due to the weather related postponement of the meeting and to a meeting DHHS scheduled with an external consultant. Representatives from the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate committee were invited to participate in the meetings with the consultant. Peg also explained the three components included in determination of rates and provided additional information on why establishing proper rates in a timely manner was critical to the process.

Peg reported that Rich Pope was no longer able to serve on the committee due to a change in employment and that Ellen Brokofsky had recommended Jeanne Brandner to represent Probation. David Newell then made a motion to add Jeanne Brandner to the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee as the Probation representative. The motion was seconded by Marty Klein. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Martin Klein, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Nancy Forney, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, and Becky Sorensen were absent. Motion carried.

### **Foster Care Review Office – March Quarterly Report**

Kim Hawekotte provided Commission members with a copy of the March Quarterly Report from the Foster Care Review Office and explained key data elements from the report. Kim highlighted data on out of home care, length in placement, and important improvements that have been made.

### **Psychotropic Medication Committee**

Candy Kennedy-Goergen reported that the Psychotropic Medication Committee would like to add Dr. Janine Fromm from Magellan Behavioral Health of Nebraska to the committee membership. Candy then made a motion to add Dr. Fromm to the committee membership. The motion was seconded by Beth Baxter. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Martin Klein, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Dale Shotkoski. Voting no: none. Nancy Forney, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab were absent. Motion carried.

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

Martin Klein and Ellen Brokofsky provided a written report and a sample of the strategic planning chart that the committee will be using beginning at the April meeting. Ellen and Marty noted that they had surveyed committee members regarding their desire to continue on the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee. It was noted that all committee members at the March 11 meeting had indicated that they planned to continue on the committee. Marty and Ellen also indicated that the committee will be working through a strategic analysis of the Phase I Strategic Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee recommendations. Marty and Ellen informed the Commission members that the committee would be starting their analysis with the Community-based Program Recommendations.

### **Workforce Work group recommendations update**

Susan Staab provided an update on a report that the workgroup had been completing with assistance from Bethany Connor. The workgroup is looking at career trajectories, cross-training, and the 14 components of a workforce that were included in the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee Phase I Strategic Recommendations. The workgroup will meet to finalize the report.

### **Community Ownership of Child Well-being Panel Presentation**

Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Jennifer Skala, Shawn Shanahan, Deb Fischer, Steph Knust, and Donna Meisner provided information on the process that was used in the Fremont community to establish their community collaborative. The panel reviewed the steps that were taken to make sure the collaborative process was successful. Jennifer Skala reviewed the community data that was looked at to determine the community services that were needed. Mary Jo also talked Commission members through the *Model for Community Ownership of Child Well-being*. At the end of the panel presentation, Mary Jo asked Commission members to approve the model.

A motion was made by Susan Staab to use the *Model for Community Ownership of Child Well-being* model as presented. The motion was seconded by Beth Baxter. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Nancy Forney, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab were absent. There was not a majority of voting members present, so the matter was continued to the next meeting.

### **New Business**

Julie Rogers expressed concern that the committee did not have enough members present until the end of the meeting to hear the community presentation and approve the model document. She also suggested that at times information for the meeting is distributed too close to the meeting time to allow Commission members to have a thoughtful review of materials. It was suggested that the Commission consider restructuring meetings and looking at the use of a consent agenda. Karen Authier and Beth Baxter indicated that they would take the suggestions

under consideration and would bring their recommendations back to the Commission members at a future meeting.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 15, 2014, 9:00am-12:00pm. Information on the meeting location will be sent at a later date.

**Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Beth Baxter. The meeting adjourned at 12:14 pm.