

## **Nebraska Children's Commission**

Twenty-second Meeting  
April 15, 2014  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Country Inn & Suites, Omaha Room  
5353 North 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE

### **Call to Order**

Karen Authier called the meeting to order at 9:05 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, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab.

Commission Members absent: Janteice Holston and Jennifer Nelson.

Ex Officio Members present: Senator Kathy Campbell, Thomas Pristow, Julie Rogers, and Kerry Winterer.

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

Also in attendance: Bethany Connor and 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 John Northrup. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Janteice Holston and Jennifer Nelson were absent. Motion carried.

### **Approval of March 18, 2014, Minutes**

A motion was made by Susan Staab to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2014, meeting with revisions. Susan noted that on page 4 under the Community Ownership presentation Susan was noted as being both present and absent for the vote. The motion to approve the minutes with revisions was seconded by John Northrup. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman

Langemach, Andrea Miller, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Janteice Holston and Jennifer Nelson were absent. Motion carried.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Karen Authier provided a brief chair's report. 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 reminded Commission members of the need to re-apply to be on the Commission. She also noted that Jennifer Nelson had indicated that she would not be seeking another term on the Commission and that Candy would be looking for a co-chair for the Psychotropic Medications Committee. Karen then addressed the issue that came up as new business at the March meeting regarding looking for more efficient ways to conduct the monthly meetings including considering a consent agenda. Karen asked that Commission members provide additional input and that she and Beth Baxter would be discussing the suggestions to try and find a solution.

Karen then reviewed the issues that would be covered in the agenda for the day. She noted that Bethany was available to be a resource to the committees and reviewed the role of the policy analyst that was outlined in LB269. Karen concluded her remarks by providing an update on the June meeting and the Phase II planning. Karen noted that Deb Burnight would be coming to the meeting to facilitate the Phase II discussion and review with the Commission the progress that has been made. Karen informed Commission members that there was an issue with needing a new contract because of the Commission's move from DHHS to the Foster Care Review Office.

At the conclusion of Karen's remarks Beth Baxter made a motion to approve the issuance of a new contract to Deb Burnight to continue the facilitation of Phase II of the statewide strategic plan. The motion was seconded by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, David Newell, John Northrop, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Susan Staab. Voting no: none. Janteice Holston and Jennifer Nelson were absent. Motion carried.

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

Mary Jo Pankoke gave Commission members an overview of the work that was done to create the Model for Community Ownership of Child Well-being. Mary Jo emphasized the needs for having a successful community collaborative including having data collected and available, having a backbone organization, having a broad base of public and private stakeholders from a wide variety of systems and sectors, and having a common vision. Mary Jo offered to answer any questions Commission members might have on the model.

Mary Jo Pankoke then made a motion to adopt the Community Ownership of Child Well-being model as presented by the Community Ownership workgroup. The motion was seconded by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy

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

### **Young Adult Voluntary Services and Support Committee Report**

Mary Jo Pankoke and Nathan Busch provided an update on the Bridges to Independence program. There has been a delay in the implementation of the program. Nathan noted that the regulations for the program were developed and went through the formal process in October of 2013. It was noted that the regulations are currently on the Governor's desk for signature. The regulations must be signed by the Governor before DHHS can receive Federal approval to implement the program. It was noted that private partners are currently covering the cost of the program until the federal waiver or state funds are put into place.

Mary Jo also noted that the committee had two open representative positions and provided a membership application form to Commission members. The committee is currently looking for a young adult currently or previously in foster care. This position may be filled on a rotating basis by members of Project Everlast or a similar youth support or advocacy group. The committee is also looking for a representative of a child welfare service agency. Applications are due by noon on May 14, 2014.

### **Legislative Update**

Bethany Connor provided Commission members with a list of Legislative Bills. Bethany gave a brief overview of the bills related to Alternative Response (LB853), Lead Agency (LB660), Juvenile Justice (LB464) and Psychology Internships (LB901). Bethany also provided a list of Legislative Resolutions of Interest and highlighted LR530 (Interim study to examine existing and proposed programs, policies, administrative rules, and statutes that impact the financial stability of working families in Nebraska) and LR533 (Interim study to assess the enrollment of former foster youth in the new Medicaid category for youth formerly in foster care up to age 26 in Nebraska under the new federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act).

Senator Campbell then made a few comments. Senator Campbell reminded everyone that bills that did not advance from this session would need to be reintroduced in the next session in order to be considered. She also highlighted LR422 (Provide the Health and Human Services Committee, in cooperation with the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee, be designated to develop policy recommendations towards transformation of Nebraska's health care system); LR552 (Interim study to examine Nebraska's juvenile courts, especially juvenile courts within Douglas County); and LR580 (Interim study to examine the reform effort of Nebraska's behavioral health system). Senator Campbell also encouraged the Children's Commission members to begin thinking about legislation that the Commission may want to draft and introduce in the next session related to the strategic plan.

### **IT Work Group Report**

David Newell gave a brief update on the work the IT work group has been doing. David noted that the whole population discussion would take place on May 2 and would be a continuation of the work that was done earlier in the year. The other effort the group was working on was to identify data that might be needed by the other Children's Commission work groups.

### **Monthly Glance at Child Welfare System**

Bethany Connor provided a *SAMPLE Monthly Glance at Nebraska's Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems* document to help the Children's Commission begin to monitor the type of information needed to clearly and thoroughly analyze progress on child welfare indicators as required by LB821. Bethany noted that the sample was just for discussion purposes to begin the monitoring process. Bethany also provided a list of readily available information for Commission members to consider. Commission members were asked to provide input on other data elements they might like to see.

- Kim Hawekotte indicated that it would be nice to have monthly indicators that could be tied to implementation of the Alternative Response and Bridge to Independence programs.
- Senator Campbell indicated that it might be nice to have year to year data and a trend line and information on where money is being spent.
- Julie Rogers indicated that YRTC placements; information from the Barriers to Permanency project; and information on cross-over youth might also be helpful.
- David Newell suggested looking at data in a more systemic way.
- Susan Staab noted that it would be nice to know the number of available foster homes.
- Becky Sorensen asked for data on which calls are sent on from the hotline.
- Kim Hawekotte suggested having data on mediation and facilitation.

Commission members and committee/work group leaders were encouraged to contact Bethany to discuss any additional data elements they thought might be helpful. It was also noted that the IT work group is trying to identify data elements that are needed but are not readily available.

### **Alternative Response Evaluation Update**

Michelle Graef and Katherine Sorenson provided an updated on the evaluation plan for the Alternative Response process. It was noted that the evaluation plan will be finalized in May or July. The evaluation process is subject to federal approval on the terms and conditions of the evaluation. The evaluators will be working on a variety of different aspects including community readiness; funding commitment; training; fidelity to the model; and efforts to overcome barriers and the steps taken to correct issues. An outcome report is expected in the Spring of 2017 with a final report due the end of 2019.

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

Peg Harriott provided a written progress report on the work of the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee. Peg noted that the Level of Care work group has completed most of the work

on the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibilities tool. The work group is still working on the definition and process for respite care and determining how travel should be compensated for urban and rural areas.

The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate committee reviewed the July 1 implementation plan for DHHS, NFC and Probation. The committee also began the process of reviewing draft recommendations that will be presented to the Children's Commission at the May meeting. Peg noted that some of the work was still pending due to the lack of agency support rates from DHHS. Peg noted that the May 6 meeting would be used to review agency support rates and the final recommendations. Agency support rates were due from Thomas Pristow on April 28, 2014.

Peg reported that the committee currently had three open positions that needed to be filled. Peg provided a membership application form to Commission members. The positions that are open are:

- A child welfare agency that contracts directly with foster parents (SESA only);
- A representative from an advocacy organization, the singular focus of which is issues impacting children; and
- A foster parent who contracts with a child welfare agency.

### **DHHS Report**

Thomas Pristow indicated that he did not have anything to add regarding the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate committee or the Alternative Response presentation. He noted that there was nothing more to add as a DHHS report.

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

Martin Klein provided a written report on the activities of the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee meeting on April 8, 2014. The committee is working to further develop the Phase I Strategic Recommendations issued in December 2013. The committee received updates on the provisions in LB464 as it progressed to final reading and on a planning grant that has been received to expand in-home services. The committee also received an update from Cindy Gans, Community Based Aid Administrator for the Crime Commission on the 2014 community based aid program.

The committee began looking at the recommendations related to Community-based programs in a more in-depth manner. The committee referred back to design work that had been created in Phase I planning to determine what types of services are needed at every area of involvement in the juvenile justice system. The committee looked at and further developed the Continuum of Service chart and began discussing service design according to the eight evidence-based principles: Assess Risk and Needs; Build Motivation; Target Interventions (Including Treatment and Sanctions) Based on Risk and Needs; Use Cognitive Behavioral Techniques to Teach and Practice New Skills; Increase Positive Reinforcement; Engage Ongoing Support in Natural Communities; Measure Relevant Processes/Practices; and Provide Measurement Feedback.

The committee will continue its discussions, development, and information gathering on Community-based programs at the next meeting which is scheduled for May 13, 2014.

### **System of Care Planning Grant Update**

Beth Baxter and Sheri Dawson provided information on the System of Care plan. The information packet included the system of care planning grant timeline and a copy of the working draft of the strategic plan. It was noted that a meeting would be held on May 14 to review the plan. Commission members were asked to provide feedback on the draft plan by April 25, 2014.

### **Family Organizations Presentation**

Due to time constraints, Candy Kennedy-Goergen was asked if she would be willing to postpone her presentation to a later meeting. Candy agreed to do the presentation at a future Commission meeting.

### **New Business**

Marty Klein informed Commission members that he had accepted a job with the US Attorney's office in Lincoln, Nebraska as a special assistant US Attorney. Due to his job change, Marty resigned his position as a member of the Nebraska Children's Commission. Marty indicated that his resignation from the Commission would be effective after the Juvenile Services (OJS) committee meeting on May 13.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 9:00am-12:00pm. Country Inns & Suites – Omaha Room, 5353 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Andrea Miller. The meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.