

Nebraska Children's Commission

Twenty-seventh Meeting
September 16, 2014
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Country Inn & Suites, Lighthouse Room
5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

Call to Order

Karen Authier called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 (9:15 a.m.), Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Kim Hawekotte, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Diana Tedrow.

Commission Members absent: Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Kathy Campbell, Hon. Linda Porter, Thomas Pristow, Julie Rogers (9:09 a.m.), Vicky Weisz (9:06 a.m.), and Kerry Winterer.

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

Also in attendance: Bethany Connor and Leesa Sorensen from the Nebraska Children's Commission; and Cris Copeland, Southeast Community College practicum student.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Andrea Miller to approve the agenda, as written. The motion was seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. Voting yes: Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Kim Hawekotte, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Diana Tedrow. Voting no: none. Pam Allen, Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of August 19, 2014, Minutes

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2014, meeting as written. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Kim Hawekotte. Voting yes: Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Kim Hawekotte, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Diana Tedrow. Voting no: none. Holly Brandt abstained. Pam Allen, Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab were absent. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report

Karen Authier provided a brief chair's report. Karen announced that Jolie Pillsbury would be speaking on Collaborative Funding, which was identified as an important topic for strategic planning. Karen stated that the IT and Data Sharing Workgroup would be giving an update. David Newell, Thomas Pristow, Julie Rogers, and Vicky Weisz will discuss the structural taskforce recommendations. Karen noted that there are recommendations from the Structure Taskforce that can be implemented immediately and noted that time was provided on the agenda to plan for the next meeting. Karen noted that the Commission will continue with the strategic plan discussions. Karen stated that Thomas Pristow and Vicki Maca will be updating the commission on DHHS Children and Family Services. Karen noted that the CASA position on the Commission has not been filled. Karen asked the Commission's help in identifying and encouraging CASA representatives to apply for the open position. Karen reminded Commissioner's that Bethany provided a matrix on available reports to Commission members by e-mail prior to the meeting.

Legislative Update

Senator Kathy Campbell provided a legislative update on the interim study hearings that are scheduled that would impact the work of the Commission. The following hearings were noted:

Friday, September 19, 2014 at 1:30pm – Joint hearing of HHS and Judiciary Committees
LR 542 - Interim study to examine issues regarding the current Guardian ad litem system.

Friday, October 24, 2014 **9:00am – Room 1510**

LR 533 – 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

LR 539 – Interim study to examine whether the maximum payment rate in the Aid to Dependent Children program, is adequate to meet the goals of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, including keeping children in their own home.

1:30pm – Room 1510

LR 592 Interim study to examine various methods of behavioral health workforce development

Friday, November 14, 2014 **10:30am – Room 1510**

Development of policy recommendations towards transformation of Nebraska Health Care system, pursuant to LR 422.

Report out on LB 76 by Database advisory committee.

PM Hearing

LR 535 - Interim study to conduct a comprehensive review of the structure of health and human services functions currently administered by the Department of Health and Human Services. This will be followed by a briefing on the payments on the disallowance of penalties.

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 **10:30am – Room 1510**

LR 601 - Interim study to examine the impact of implementing, and the impact of failing to implement, Medicaid expansion in Nebraska.

The Tentative 2015 Legislative Session calendar was also provided to Commission members.

Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee Update and Action Item

Ellen Brokofsky provided an update on the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee. Ellen noted that the committee met on August 19, 2014. Ellen noted that it was the intent of the Committee to have all members attend all meetings and participate. Currently there are three positions available due to 3 members not being able to attend meetings due to their schedule. In addition, Corey Steel resigned his position because of his move to Court Administrator, and has recommended Jeanne Brandner for his previous position on the Committee. There will be a vote to nominate Jeanne as a member at the October 7, 2014 meeting of the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee. If nominated, Jeanne's name will be submitted to the Commission for approval at the October Commission meeting. Ellen also reminded Commissioners that the Committee's Co-Chair position, previously held by Marty Klein, was still open.

Ellen did note that Dr. Richard Weiner had been nominated for membership by the Committee at the August 19, 2014 meeting. Ellen asked the Commission for a motion to approve Dr. Richard Weiner as a member of the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee. Kim Hawekotte made the motion to approve the nomination of Dr. Richard Weiner. The motion was seconded by David Newell. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Kim Hawekotte, Andrea Miller, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Diana Tedrow. Voting no: none. Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Dale Shotkoski, and Susan Staab were absent. Motion Carried.

IT and Data Sharing Work Group Report

David Newell informed the Commission that the Commission members from the IT and Data Sharing workgroup met with Jennifer Miller Haight from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago by conference call to get information on the Nebraska Profile Reports. The Nebraska Profile Reports are generated from data provided by Nebraska DHHS to Chapin Hall. Dave noted that Thomas Pristow was aware of the meeting and had approved that the reports could be shared. David also noted that the IT and Data Sharing Workgroup would be looking for a new monthly meeting time. Dave noted that the work with Chapin Hall was tied to the work being done on Whole Populations outcomes.

Collaborative Funding

Mary Jo Pankoke introduced Jolie Pillsbury, to provide an overview on Collaborative Funding. Jolie led the Commission in a discussion about four types of funding: Braided, Blended, Flexible, and Collaborative. Jolie stated that while she does not consider herself an expert on funding, she has worked with many states to implement collaborative funding and noted that there are challenges as well as advantages that Nebraska may want to consider. Jolie concluded her remarks by sharing the following lessons that have been learned regarding successful use of collaborative funding:

- Leaders put results in the center of their work and note changes in data with trend lines over time (e.g. – Children enter school ready to learn).

- Have difficult discussions needed to get to shared outcomes with all the right leaders at the table.
- Use short cycles when assessing Continuous Quality Improvement.
- Look at funding at all levels of the process and not just at the state level (i.e. – local/community level, county level, and state level).
- Don't wait for everyone to agree to get started.

DHHS Update

Thomas Pristow updated the committee on Alternative Response, Bridge to Independence, Results Based Accountability, and the IV-E Waiver. Thomas stated that Bridges to Independence is currently scheduled to roll out October 20, 2014, but that he is hopeful that the implementation date can be moved up. Results Based Accountability is at a 95% success rate in the data loading process and will be moving into its 2nd phase. Thomas noted that Commissioners may want to look at the monthly DHHS CQI report at:

http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/CQIMonthlyReports.aspx.

Vicki Maca and Jerrilyn Crankshaw then presented on the pilot site implementation of Alternative Response. Vicki and Jerrilyn provided information on the Alternative Response process and how data will be collected to evaluate the process. Alternative Response is designed to promote child safety, enhance protective factors, improve family and child well-being, and prevent future risk of harm by providing an alternative to removing children from their homes. Vicki concluded the presentation with providing information on community involvement in the process.

Probation Update

Ellen Brokofsky provided a handout prepared by Jeanne Brander, regarding Probations progress with implementing the provisions of LB464. The handout provided information on the move of cases from the Office of Juvenile Services (OJS) to Probation; the work that is being done to enhance intensive in-home services in Nebraska; and updates on National initiatives that Probation is currently working on related to detention alternatives, crossover youth, and data collection.

Structure Taskforce Report

Julie Rogers presented on behalf of David Newell, Thomas Pristow, and Vicky Weisz regarding the work and recommendations of the Structure Taskforce. Julie noted that changes to the memo that were added based on the last Commission input were noted by the underlined text. Julie noted that the taskforce will be continuing work on the recommendations. Commission members were asked to review the memo and provide any feedback to the Structure Taskforce.

Strategic Plan Document Review and Discussion

Karen Authier noted that due to the full agenda for the meeting that the Strategic Plan discussion would be deferred to the October meeting. Karen provided an overview to Commission

members on the layout of the draft report on the Strategic Plan and asked Commission members to provide any input on the layout to Leesa via e-mail.

Next Meeting Planning

Commission members discussed the need for Commission meetings in October and November. It was noted that topics need to include: Funding; Evidence-Based Practices; and DHHS Restructuring. It was noted that the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee would have action items for the October meeting. The Statutory Taskforce also indicated that they should have an update for the next meeting. Karen asked Commission members to send any additional agenda items to Leesa by e-mail.

New Business

Kim Hawekotte noted that she had copies of the Foster Care Review Office report that was issued on September 15, 2014, to share with Commission members.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 9:00am-12:00pm. Country Inns & Suites, Omaha Room, 5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

Adjourn

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Deb O'Brien. The meeting adjourned at 12:17 pm.

Hearing Schedule for Friday October 24, 2014

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Friday October 24, 2014

Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Room 1507 - 1:30 PM

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| LR527 | Bloomfield | Interim study to examine the reasons why emergency disaster payments made by or through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are not made in a timely manner once awarded |
| LR582 | Crawford | Interim study to review the work of the Task Force on Unfunded Mandates created in 1996 and to study the impacts of unfunded and underfunded mandates on counties and county governments |
| LR581 | Avery | Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee |

Health and Human Services Room 1510 - 1:30 PM

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| LR592 | McGill | Interim study to examine various methods of behavioral health workforce development |
| LR596 | Watermeier | Interim study to evaluate the potential uses of Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment and out-of-hospital Do Not Resuscitate protocols |

Health and Human Services Room 1510 - 9:00 AM

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| LR533 | Crawford | 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 |
| LR539 | Campbell | Interim study to examine whether the maximum payment rate in the Aid to Dependent Children program, is adequate to meet the goals of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, including keeping children in their own home |

Child Saving Institute

Lutheran Family Services of
Nebraska

Nebraska Children's Home
Society

Nebraska DHHS, Division of
Child and Family Services

Jeanette Harder, PhD, CMSW,
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Emily Nguyen, MSW / MPA,
University of Nebraska at Omaha

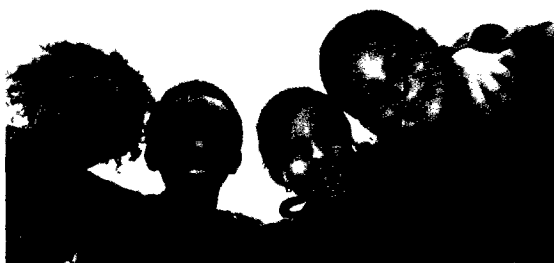
Kevin Campbell
Family Finding Trainer/Consultant
Center for Family Finding & Youth
Connectedness

Darla Henry
3-5-7 Model© Trainer/Consultant
Darla L. Henry & Associates

Start Date: Sep. 30, 2014

End Date: Feb. 28, 2016

The purpose of this project is to test intensive child-focused adoptive parent recruitment models in order to improve the permanency outcomes for "hardest to match" children/youth in the Eastern Service Area of Nebraska's child welfare system. Three evidence-based models will be used, which include Family Finding, the 3-5-7 Model©, and Wendy's Wonderful Kids.

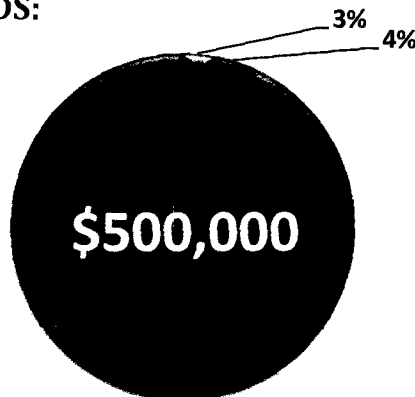


PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Identify children/youth waiting the longest for adoption due to their age, special needs, or sibling group status
- ✓ Reduce the amount of time that children/youth wait for an adoptive family
- ✓ Reduce the number of older youth aging out of the child welfare system without an adoptive family
- ✓ Integrate successful elements of the evidence-based models into the child welfare system in Douglas and Sarpy Counties

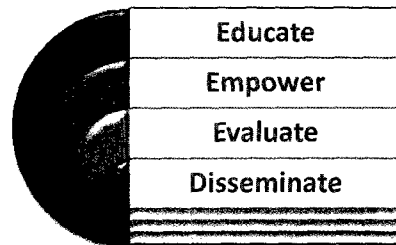
GRANT FUNDS:

- Personnel
- Travel
- Contractual
- Other



PRIMARY ACTIVITIES:

1. **Educate** child welfare staff with model-specific trainings
2. **Empower** child welfare staff with ongoing consultation in models
3. **Evaluate** process and outcomes
4. **Document and disseminate** processes and outcomes



Nebraska Families
COLLABORATIVE

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Legislative Assigned Task	Action Item(s) & Recommendations:
<p>Evidence-Based Prevention and Early Intervention [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4204(1)(b)]</p> <p>(1) The Nebraska Children's Commission shall create a statewide strategic plan to carry out the legislative intent stated in section 43-4201 for child welfare program and service reform in Nebraska. In developing the statewide strategic plan, the commission shall consider, but not be limited to: (a) [. . .]; (b) Provision of leadership for strategies to support high-quality evidence-based prevention and early intervention services that reduce risk and enhance protection for children;</p>	<p>Action Item(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for a panel presentation on high-quality evidence-based prevention and early intervention. • Coordinate Commission efforts with the work being done on the evaluation of evidence-based practices for juvenile justice programs. • Review the Hornby Zeller report due out in December 2014. • Determine how evidence-based work should be handled by the Commission in conjunction with efforts of the Community Ownership of Child Well-being Workgroup. <p>Recommendations:</p>
<p>Child Welfare Indicators [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4204(1)(d)]</p> <p>(1) The Nebraska Children's Commission shall create a statewide strategic plan to carry out the legislative intent stated in section 43-4201 for child welfare program and service reform in Nebraska. In developing the statewide strategic plan, the commission shall consider, but not be limited to: (d) Identification of the type of information needed for a clear and thorough analysis of progress on child welfare indicators [...].</p>	<p>Action Item(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Ownership of Child Well-being Workgroup and IT and Data Sharing Workgroup, in conjunction with the Prevention Partnership will continue to develop strategies for determining and implementing Whole Populations measures. <p>Recommendations:</p>
<p>Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4206]</p> <p>The department shall collaborate with the commission regarding the development of a plan for a statewide automated child welfare information system to integrate child welfare information into one system if the One Hundred Second Legislature, Second Session, 2012, enacts legislation to require the development of such a plan. The department shall coordinate and collaborate with the commission regarding engagement of an evaluator to provide an evaluation of the child welfare system if the One Hundred Second Legislature, Second Session, 2012, enacts legislation to require such evaluation.</p>	<p>Action Item(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IT and Data Sharing Workgroup is planning additional discussions related to a statewide automated child welfare information system. The Commission will be reviewing the <i>Child Welfare Information System Strategic Plan Report</i> to determine strategies that should be considered for further recommendations. <p>Recommendations:</p>

Nebraska Children's Commission Action Agenda for Statutory Responsibilities:

Legislative Assigned Task	Action Item(s) & Recommendations:
<p>Networking [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4203(1)]</p> <p>The Nebraska Children's Commission shall work with administrators from each of the service areas, 1184 teams, local foster care review boards, child advocacy centers, the teams created pursuant to the Supreme Court's Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative, community stakeholders, and advocates for child welfare programs and services to establish networks in each of such service areas.</p> <p>Each service area shall develop its own unique strategies to be included in the statewide strategic plan. The Department of Health and Human Services shall assist in identifying the needs of each service area.</p>	<p><i>Needed</i></p> <p>Action Item(s): <i>Needed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create strategies to establish formal networks. • Work with DHHS to ensure that each service area develops its own unique strategic plan strategies and that the needs of each service area are identified. <p>Recommendations:</p>
<p>DHHS Structure [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4201(d) & §43-4204(3)]</p> <p>The commission shall review the operations of the department regarding child welfare programs and services and recommend, as a part of the statewide strategic plan, options for attaining the legislative intent. . . , either by the establishment of a new division within the department or the establishment of a new state agency to provide all child welfare programs and services which are the responsibility of the state.</p>	<p>Action Item(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the work being done under Legislative Resolution 535 (LR 535) which will be reviewing the structure of DHHS. • Review the Attestation Report – DHHS Child Welfare. <p>Recommendations:</p>
<p>Lead Agency [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4204(1)(a)]</p> <p>The Nebraska Children's Commission shall create a statewide strategic plan to carry out the legislative intent stated in section 43-4201 for child welfare program and service reform in Nebraska. In developing the statewide strategic plan, the commission shall consider, but not be limited to: (a) The potential of contracting with private nonprofit entities as a lead agency, subject to the requirements of subsection (2) of this section. Such lead-agency utilization shall be in a manner that maximizes the strengths, experience, skills, and continuum of care of the lead agencies. Any lead-agency contracts entered into or amended after April 12, 2012, shall detail how qualified licensed agencies as part of efforts to develop the local capacity for a community-based system of coordinated care will implement community-based care through competitively procuring either (i) the specific components of foster care and related services or (ii) comprehensive services for defined eligible populations of children and families;</p>	<p>Action Item(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the work being done under Legislative Resolution 535 (LR 535) which will be reviewing the structure of DHHS. • Review the Hornby Zeller report due out in December 2014. • Consider creating a Committee to focus on creating recommendations related to Lead Agency utilization. <p>Recommendations:</p>