

## **Nebraska Children's Commission**

Twenty-ninth Meeting  
November 18, 2014  
9:00 AM – 3:00 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, Teresa Anderson (9:43 a.m.), Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein (9:09 a.m.), David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Susan Staab (11:02 a.m.), and Diana Tedrow.

Commission Members absent: Norman Langemach and Andrea Miller.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Judge Linda Porter, Thomas Pristow, Julie Rogers, Vicky Weisz, and Kerry Winterer.

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Jeremy Nordquist.

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 with a correction to the time to recess for Workgroups (item XIV – should be 12:00 p.m. instead of 12:00 a.m.). The motion was seconded by Jennifer Clark. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Diana Tedrow. Voting no: none. Abstaining: none. Teresa Anderson, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, and Susan Staab were absent for the vote. Motion carried.

### **Approval of October 21, 2014, Minutes**

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2014, meeting as written. The motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Candy Kennedy Goergen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Gene Klein, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and

Diana Tedrow. Voting no: none. Kim Hawekotte abstained. Teresa Anderson, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, and Susan Staab were absent for the vote. Motion carried.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Karen Authier provided a brief chair's report. Karen noted that she had attended the **Health Care Summit** where the group looked at the eight building blocks for health care. The conference provided information on future changes that can be expected in the health care industry. Karen also noted that Voices for Children was hosting a conference on disproportionate minority contact in child welfare and juvenile justice. The conference, Race Matters, is scheduled for December 3 and 4. Karen noted that registration information would be sent to Commission members for their review. Karen updated the Commission on Norman Langemach and noted that he would be returning to the Commission in 2015, but was currently out due to some health issues. Karen then concluded her remarks by noting that the November 2014 meeting would be Kerry Winterer's last Commission meeting due to his resignation from DHHS. Karen thanked Kerry for his leadership and hard work, especially with the start-up of the Nebraska Children's Commission.

### **Legislative Update**

Senator Colby Coash gave an update on the upcoming legislative session. Senator Coash noted that the make-up of the legislature and key leadership changes would be taking place in 2015. He noted that new colleagues would be welcomed to both the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature and the Judiciary Committee. He noted that the Judiciary Committee would have between four and six new members out of eight total members.

Senator Coash and Senator Kathy Campbell provided information on the Legislative Resolution on Guardian ad Litem. It was noted that this would be a top issue during the legislative session.

Senator Campbell provided additional information on healthcare issues that Nebraska will face in the next 15 years. She noted that she anticipates that a bill will be introduced in the next session to set in motion the eight building blocks of health care.

Senator Campbell concluded her remarks by noting that Michelle Chaffee had accepted a different job and would be leaving her position as legal counsel for the Health and Human Services Committee.

### **DHHS Update**

Thomas Pristow updated the committee on issues with the IV-E Waiver. Thomas stated that he was asking for Commission support to begin looking at Group Home Rates and the need to unbundle those rates, just as the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee had done with Foster Care Rates. Thomas noted that the implementation date was July 1. Thomas asked for the Commission's support in having the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee look at Group Home Rates also. Thomas noted that he had discussed with Karen Authier and Peg Harriott that the composition of the committee might need to change slightly to make sure their

was proper industry representation. Thomas noted that there are 16 providers. He also noted that he didn't believe foster parents would be needed on the committee for this discussion.

A motion was made by Candy Kennedy Goergen to accept the assignment of reviewing IV-E rate adjustments for the unbundling of Group Home Rates and to assign the task of reviewing this issue to the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee. The motion was seconded by Pam Allen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Diana Tedrow. Voting no: none. Abstaining: none. Teresa Anderson, Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, and Susan Staab were absent for the vote. Motion carried.

### **Probation Update**

Ellen Brokofsky provided a Probation update. Ellen noted that the Council of State Governments (CSG) is currently working with 30 separate focus groups to look at policy, procedures, and processes related to juvenile justice. Ellen noted that the group will not be looking at status offenders. She noted that the group hoped to look at the YRTC's and the whole population in out-of-home care. Ellen noted that CSG hopes to have a preliminary report out in February.

Ellen also provided information to the group on the Evidence-Based Practices evaluation process being worked on by Dr. Anne Hobbs and Dr. Richard Weiner and the Crossover Youth project. Ellen concluded her remarks by providing information on the MST/FFT planning grant that was provided by the Sherwood Foundation.

### **LR 542 Report (Guardian ad Litem)**

Bethany Connor reviewed the information contained in the *Summary of Legislative Hearing on Legislative Resolution 542: Interim Study to Examine Issues Regarding the Current Guardian ad Litem System* report. Commission members then discussed the role of the Commission in examining the GAL issue. It was noted that the Workforce Workgroup had the GAL issue on the list of workforce issues to address at some point, but acknowledged that they might not get to that issue for a while. Kim Hawekotte noted that the FCRO works to get information from the GAL as a part of their case file reviews, but they receive less than a 50% response. Senator Coash indicated that he wants the Children's Commission involved in the discussion related to the structuring of the GAL program in Nebraska. Since the Workforce Workgroup is not currently able to address the issue, a recommendation was made to create a special taskforce to look at all the issues surrounding the GAL process.

Gene Klein then made a motion to create a special taskforce that would review reports and background information as a foundation, and make specific recommendations on the GAL process in a report that can be reviewed by the Children's Commission at the January meeting and then sent to the legislature. The motion was seconded by Kim Hawekotte. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke,

Dale Shotkoski, and Diana Tedrow. Voting no: none. Abstaining: none. Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, and Susan Staab were absent for the vote. Motion carried.

Kim Hawekotte then volunteered to chair the taskforce and requested that Bethany Connor help organize the taskforce. Deb O'Brien, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Gene Klein, David Newell, Judge Linda Porter, Jennifer Clark, and Julie Rogers also agreed to serve on the taskforce, along with David Slattery from Senator Coash's office. Kim indicated that she would work with this group to identify other participants who might need to be included in the discussion.

### **Bridge to Independence Committee Report**

Mary Jo Pankoke provided an update on the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee and the committee report. Mary Jo noted that the final report included examples of the kind of help that has been provided to program participants. Mary Jo noted that the FCRO will be doing 6 month reviews that will begin in February. She also noted issues that will need to be addressed in the future including Tribal youth issues and the OJS population. A question was raised regarding the final bullet of the report and it was noted that the reference to the Probation/OJS Population should reference "Some young people" instead of "Many young people".

At the conclusion of the discussion time Kim Hawekotte made a motion to approve the November 18, 2014 version of the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee Report with the change to the final bullet to change the word "Many" to "Some". The motion was seconded by Gene Klein. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, and Diana Tedrow. Voting no: none. Abstaining: none. Norman Langemach, Andrea Miller, and Susan Staab were absent for the vote. Motion carried.

### **Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee Report and Action Item**

Ellen provided an update on the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee. Ellen noted that Nicole Brundo will lead the December meeting of the committee as the group works to set priorities for 2015. Ellen also noted that the committee voted to recommend that a seat on the committee be given to Casey Rockwell and a youth from Project Everlast. It was noted that the two people will have only one vote on the committee. Ellen asked the Commission to approve this addition to the committee. Commission members discussed this addition to the committee and how the voting process should work for the youth. At the conclusion of the discussion, Kim Hawekotte made a motion to add Casey Rockwell or her designee from Project Everlast as a voting member of the Juvenile Services Committee with the recommendation that the young person have the vote on the Committee. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Clark. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Susan Staab, and Diana Tedrow. Voting no: none. Abstaining: none. Norman Langemach and Andrea Miller were absent for the vote. Motion carried.

### **Structure Taskforce Report**

Julie Rogers presented on behalf of David Newell, Thomas Pristow, and Vicky Weisz regarding the work and final recommendations of the Structure Taskforce. Julie provided an overview of the changes to the memo since the Commission's last review of the memo. After further discussion, changes were recommended to the attendance section, the Executive Committee section, to the section on the voting status of committee chairs, and to the section on membership of workgroups and committees. Karen assigned the process of updating the memo with Commission input to Leesa to craft the final agreed upon language. A motion was then made by Susan Staab to accept and adopt the Governance and Organizational Structure Recommendations with the conceptual changes as identified during the discussion. The motion was seconded by Gene Klein. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Kim Hawekotte, Gene Klein, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Susan Staab, and Diana Tedrow. Voting no: none. Abstaining: none. Norman Langemach and Andrea Miller were absent for the vote. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to adjourn the Commission for lunch and workgroup meetings. The motion was seconded by Susan Staab. The Commission adjourned for lunch and workgroup meetings at 12:07p.m.

The Commission reconvened at 1:34 p.m.

Commission Members present: Pam Allen, Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Gene Klein, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Susan Staab, and Diana Tedrow.

Commission Members absent: Jennifer Clark, Kim Hawekotte, Norman Langemach, and Andrea Miller.

Ex Officio Members present: Senator Kathy Campbell, Hon. Linda Porter, Julie Rogers, and Vicky Weisz.

Ex Officio Members absent: Ellen Brokofsky, 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.

### **Strategic Plan Action Agenda Document Review and Discussion**

Karen Authier and Beth Baxter provided the Commission with an action agenda document that included information from the strategic planning session and legislative language for work priorities for 2015. The Commission members reviewed the document in workgroups during lunch and discussed changes that were needed for each section of the document. The document was updated by each workgroup as the Commission members discussed each section of the action agenda. Language updates to the file were agreed upon by Commission members during

the discussion. The Commission members agreed that the action agenda should be used in 2015 to guide the work of the Commission and for the purpose of providing project updates.

At the conclusion of the report review and discussion time, Mary Jo Pankoke made a motion to approve the Action Agenda report with changes as made at the meeting. The motion was seconded by Deb O'Brien. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Teresa Anderson, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Holly Brandt, Candy Kennedy Goergen, Gene Klein, David Newell, Deb O'Brien, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Susan Staab, and Diana Tedrow. Voting no: none. Abstaining: none. Jennifer Clark, Kim Hawekotte, Norman Langemach and Andrea Miller were absent for the vote. Motion carried.

### **2015 Meeting Schedule**

Karen noted that a list of tentative meeting dates for 2015 was included in the handouts for the meeting. Karen asked Commission members to reserve these dates until a decision is made on the meeting schedule for 2015.

### **Next Meeting Planning**

Commission members discussed the topics to be reviewed at the January retreat and Commission meeting. It was agreed that possible topics include Data Dashboards with a recommendation to have a presentation from Chapin Hall; Big Picture Juvenile Services work; Evidence-based Practices; Alternative Response Pilot; Hornby Zeller Report; Trauma Informed Care; and the NFC Federal Grant.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 21, 2015 for the Nebraska Children's Commission Retreat and Thursday, January 22, 2015 from 9:00am-12:00pm for the January meeting.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Candy Kennedy Goergen. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.