

Nebraska Children's Commission – Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee

Fifteenth Meeting

January 14, 2014

9:00AM-12:00PM

Airport Country Inns & Suites, Platte Room

1301 West Bond Circle, Lincoln, NE

Call to Order

Ellen Brokofsky and Marty Klein called the meeting to order at 9:12am and noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the room as required by state law.

Roll Call

Subcommittee Members present: Martin Klein, Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Barb Fitzgerald, Cindy Gans, Judge Larry Gendler (10:22am), Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Jana Peterson, Pastor Tony Sanders (9:32am), Corey Steel, and Monica Miles Steffens.

Acting as resources to the committee: Tony Green, Jerall Moreland, and Dan Scarborough.

Subcommittee Member(s) absent: Sarah Forrest, Tina Marroquin, Mark Mason, Dalene Walker, and Dr. Ken Zoucha.

Resource members absent: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Jim Bennett, Liz Hruska, Doug Koebernick, Liz Neeley, Jenn Piatt, Hank Robinson, and Julie Rogers.

Also attending: Karen Authier, Bethany Connor, and Leesa Sorensen.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Corey Steel to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Jana Peterson. Voting yes: Martin Klein, Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Barb Fitzgerald, Cindy Gans, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Jana Peterson, Corey Steel, and Monica Miles Steffens. Voting no: none. Sarah Forrest, Judge Larry Gendler, Tina Marroquin, Mark Mason, Pastor Tony Sanders, Dalene Walker, and Dr. Ken Zoucha were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of December 10, 2013, Minutes

A motion was made by Cindy Gans to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2013, meeting, seconded by Ron Johns. Voting yes: Martin Klein, Ellen Brokofsky, Kim Culp, Barb Fitzgerald, Cindy Gans, Kim Hawekotte, Anne Hobbs, Ron Johns, Nick Juliano, Jana Peterson, Corey Steel, and Monica Miles Steffens. Voting no: none. Sarah Forrest, Judge Larry Gendler, Tina Marroquin, Mark Mason, Pastor Tony Sanders, Dalene Walker, and Dr. Ken Zoucha were absent. Motion carried.

Co-chair's Report

Ellen Brokofsky and Marty Klein gave a co-chair's report. Ellen and Marty both provided an update on the testimony that was given to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature at the hearing on December 19, 2013. It was noted that the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee reached consensus, for the most part, on all of the recommendations in the report. Marty and Ellen noted that the report reflects what is needed for the juvenile justice system. It was noted that the committee needed to be mindful of having a consistent message that the report should be taken in total and not split up.

Legislative Report

Ellen noted that the county attorneys had provided input on having every juvenile case start in juvenile court. Ellen noted that Senator Ashford would be focusing on changes to the adult justice system and that Senator Krist, with Jenn Piatt, will be working on the juvenile justice changes including the clean-up bill for LB561. Senator Krist and Jenn will also be meeting with county officials to look at existing facilities and get input on proposed juvenile justice changes. Senator Brasch will be working on the legislation related to family group conferencing.

Children's Commission Update

Marty and Ellen introduced Karen Authier who attended the meeting to provide a Nebraska Children's Commission update. Karen noted that Beth Baxter had planned to attend the meeting but was unable to because of a scheduling conflict. Karen noted that the Children's Commission and the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee was at a watershed moment as there has never been as much focused energy on children's issues. Karen noted that the Juvenile Justice committee's recommendations tie in nicely with the Phase I strategic plan of the Children's Commission especially the recommendations related to community ownership of child well-being. Karen then provided an overview of the work that the Commission has been doing that relates to the themes in the juvenile services committee report. Karen also provided copies of testimony that was given to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature on behalf of the Commission. An invitation was also provided for anyone from the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee who was interested in presenting the report to the Commission at the January 22, 2014, meeting.

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 that by the next Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee meeting she should have additional information to share with the group. It was also noted that clean-up language to LB561 was expected to include language that will restrict how money from the Crime Commission can be utilized in the community for juvenile justice programs.

Final Report Review Process Discussion

The committee discussed the presentation of the report to the Nebraska Children's Commission on January 22, 2014. After discussion about the need for the report to be taken in total and not split, the group decided that talking points would be helpful to make sure that everyone was provided a consistent message.

The committee then discussed what should be done next with the report. The committee concluded that the committee should begin the work of identifying what groups are working on what aspects of the report recommendations. The committee decided to begin this analysis process at its next meeting.

New Business

None.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2014 from 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., if the Commission approves the continuation of the Committee.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Monica Miles Steffens to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kim Culp. The meeting adjourned at 12:07p.m.