

Nebraska Children’s Commission

Thirty-Third Meeting

July 21, 2015

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Staab Management Co.

3048 W. Stolley Park Road

Grand Island, NE

I. Call to Order

The Nebraska Children’s Commission Chair, Karen Authier, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Karen noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted at the sign in table at the back of the room as required by state law.

II. Roll Call

Commission Members present (15):

Teresa Anderson	Kim Hawekotte	Deb O’Brien
Karen Authier	Candy Kennedy-Goergen	Mary Jo Pankoke
Beth Baxter	Gene Klein	Dale Shotkoski
Holly Brandt	Norman Langemach	Susan Staab
Jennifer Clark	Andrea Miller	Paula Wells

Commission Members absent (2):

David Newell	Diana Tedrow
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Ex Officio Members present (5):

Senator Kate Bolz	Katie McLeese Stephenson	Julie Rogers
Senator Kathy Campbell	Courtney Phillips (9:36)	

Ex Officio Members absent (4):

Ellen Brokofsky	Tony Green	Senator Patty Pansing-Brooks
Hon. Linda Porter		

A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance ():

Bethany Allen	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Monika Anderson	Nebraska Families Collaborative
Jim Blue	CEDARS
Jeanne Brandner	Office of Probation Administration
Anna Eikholdt	Nebraska State Legislature
Corrie Edwards	Mid-Plains Center for Behavioral Healthcare Services
Amanda Felton	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Senator Mike Gloor	Nebraska State Legislature
Kelli Hauptman	Center for Children, Families, and the Law
Joni Kuzma	Hall County Community Collaborative
Audrey Lutz	Heartland United Way

FOR (15):

Teresa Anderson
Karen Authier
Beth Baxter
Holly Brandt
Jennifer Clark

Kim Hawekotte
Candy Kennedy-Goergen
Gene Klein
Norman Langemach
Andrea Miller

Deb O'Brien
Mary Jo Pankoke
Dale Shotkoski
Susan Staab
Paula Wells

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (2):

David Newell

Diana Tedrow

ABSTAINED (0):

MOTION CARRIED

V. Chairperson's Report

Karen Authier, gave her last report as Chair of the Nebraska Children's Commission. She thanked the members for their hard work. With the Commission reaching its third anniversary, Ms. Authier believed that the group was hitting its stride, and were ready for the work ahead. She commented that the Commission was a much needed umbrella of structure that allowed multiple stakeholders to come together and focus on the vulnerable youth of Nebraska.

VI. Approval of Slate of Officers

The floor was given to Julie Rogers to discuss the Slate of officer nominations for the Commission Chair and Vice Chair. Recommendations for Beth Baxter as Chair and Gene Klein as Vice Chair, were given. There were no further nominations. Susan Staab moved and Jennifer Clark seconded to approve the recommendation of Beth Baxter as Chair and Gene Klein as Vice Chair of the Nebraska Children's Commission. No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (15):

Teresa Anderson
Karen Authier
Beth Baxter
Holly Brandt
Jennifer Clark

Kim Hawekotte
Candy Kennedy-Goergen
Gene Klein
Norman Langemach
Andrea Miller

Deb O'Brien
Mary Jo Pankoke
Dale Shotkoski
Susan Staab
Paula Wells

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (2):

David Newell

Diana Tedrow

MOTION CARRIED

Beth Baxter and Gene Klein both accepted the positions. Ms. Baxter assumed the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

VII. Lead Agency Taskforce Report and Panel

The members of the Lead Agency Taskforce presented their report for the Commission. Members present included Beth Baxter, Jim Blue, Jennifer Clark, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Kelli Hauptman, Norman Langemach, and Mary Jo Pankoke. Also present were Kim Hawekotte and Julie Rogers who served as expert resources to the Taskforce. The members met several times to discuss the options for management of the child welfare system and services across the state. These discussions included talk of lead agency contracting as one of the options as required by State statute. During this process, the Taskforce determined seven key components that would lead to a seamless system of care.

The seven components provided included Outcomes and Accountability, Clarification of Roles and Responsibility, Quality Case Management Workforce, Trust, Coordinated and Flexible Service Delivery Model, and a Singular Data Repository/Warehouse. Lengthy discussion occurred regarding how to “professionalize” the role of the Case Manager. Questions arose as to the process of changing the job classification in a public vs. lead agency setting.

Other concerns that were addressed included the legal party status and liability of lead agencies, diminishing competition between lead and public agencies, and limiting the number of times the participants are required to repeat data to various agencies. Courtney Phillips, CEO of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), indicated that the information from this report would be taken into consideration when creating and updating policies as well as when introducing recommendations to the Legislature. Senator Kate Bolz also commented that it would be important to prioritize what items need to be addressed so as not to get lost in the legislative discussion.

Paula Wells moved to approve and submit the recommendations of the Lead Agency Taskforce to the Governor and the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature for consideration. Susan Staab seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll Call Vote as follows:

FOR (15):

Teresa Anderson
Karen Authier
Beth Baxter
Holly Brandt
Jennifer Clark

Kim Hawekotte
Candy Kennedy-Goergen
Gene Klein
Norman Langemach
Andrea Miller

Deb O’Brien
Mary Jo Pankoke
Dale Shotkoski
Susan Staab
Paula Wells

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (2):

David Newell

Diana Tedrow

ABSTAINED (0)

MOTION CARRIED

The Commission paused for break at 10:34 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:49 a.m.

VIII. Barriers to Permanency Report Panel and Discussion

Chair Baxter gave the floor to the Project's collaborative members. Members present included Kim Hawekotte, Julie Rogers, and Donna Rozell. Ms. Hawekotte summarized for the Commission the findings from the report. The report looked at children ~~that~~ who, at a point in time, were in out-of-home care for three years or longer. The report identified five top barriers to permanency that included the following:

- Past case management/supervision issues and practices.
- County attorney would not, or could not, file a termination of parental rights petition
- Court delays, continuance, full dockets, scheduling issues and related matters.
- Need for a relative search at the time of removal
- Length of time to an appellate decision of a termination of parental rights.

One key point of discussion included the high percentage of cases with parental rights still intact despite the large number of adoption or guardianship plan objectives for the cases. Mental and behavioral health diagnoses were also topics of conversation. Ms. Hawekotte mentioned ways in which the report had brought light to and improved current practices. She then covered several areas that still needed addressing such as the types of moves the youth were undergoing, encouraging relative searches earlier in the process, and re-examining the systematic perspective in a way to address the trauma that may be caused by its actions. Ms. Hawekotte indicated hopes to repeat the study in three years' time.

IX. Legislation Overview and Legislative Resolution Discussion

Chair Baxter invited Senator Kathy Campbell to provide an update to the Commission. Senator Campbell summarized for the members the Bills referenced to the Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee for the 2015 year. Senator Campbell emphasized the importance of providing a history of child welfare to the new Senators. She went on to review the resolutions that were referred to the HHS Committee.

X. Lunch

The Commission suspended business to take lunch at 12:06 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 12:55 p.m.

XI. Community Ownership of Child Well-Being Presentation

Mary Jo Pankoke addressed the Commission regarding Community Ownership of Child Well-Being. Ms. Pankoke stressed the need for community assistance in providing services. Moving forward, Community Collaboratives will play a key part in ensuring the well-being of youth in our communities.

- a. Hall County Community Collaborative Presentation*

Ms. Pankoke invited Teresa Anderson and Joni Kuzma forward to present on the Hall County Community Collaborative (H3C). They explained that the collaborative has three subcommittees with focuses on youth age 0-5, 6-11, 12-18. Teresa and Joni discussed the elements of the H3C and its progression. Encouraging transparency, working to overcome competition, and showing the benefit of multiple group resources are ways the H3C has been to become successful.

b. Heartland United Way Presentation

Ms. Anderson and Ms. Kuzma introduced Audrey Lutz, a representative from United Way. Audrey began her presentation with sharing the goal of the United Way which ~~was~~ is to improve lives and create possibilities. Their impact areas encompassed education, income, and health. Ms. Lutz went on to give a presentation regarding teen pregnancy in the Hall county area. She provided several statistics showing the large number of teen births and the age and race percentages of those births.

XII. Bridge to Independence Membership

Chair Baxter welcomed Mary Jo Pankoke to present on this agenda item. Ms. Pankoke brought to the Commission's attention that the Bridge to Independence Committee was having difficulty finding youth members who could regularly attend meetings. It was recommended that the youth positions consist of rotating memberships to ensure that the Committee remains in compliance. Mary Jo Pankoke moved and Paula Wells seconded to have rotating youth memberships on the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee. No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (15):

Teresa Anderson	Kim Hawekotte	Deb O'Brien
Karen Authier	Candy Kennedy-Goergen	Mary Jo Pankoke
Beth Baxter	Gene Klein	Dale Shotkoski
Holly Brandt	Norman Langemach	Susan Staab
Jennifer Clark	Andrea Miller	Paula Wells

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (2):

David Newell	Diana Tedrow
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MOTION CARRIED

XIII. Workforce Workgroup Report

Susan Staab was invited to give an update on the Workforce Workgroup. Ms. Staab indicated that there was no new information to discuss for the Workgroup, but that they were continuing to make progress.

XIV. Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Report

Chair Baxter drew the Commissions' attention to Lana Temple-Plotz, who filled in for Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) Chair, Peg Harriott. Ms. Temple-Plotz reviewed with the members the items of discussion from the FCRRC's last two meetings.

a. Group Home Sub-Committee Report

In their efforts to create a new financial methodology for the group home rate tracking, the Committee found the proposed licensing regulations would have significant financial implications for providers and the DHHS Division of Children and Family. Two recommendations from the FCRRC were presented to the Commission. They are as follows:

- The Foster Care Rate Committee asks the Children's Commission to recommend to DHHS that a fiscal analysis be done for any proposed new licensing regulations, and if they are not cost neutral to provide adequate funding to address the fiscal impact of the required licensing regulations.
- The Foster Care Rate Committee asks the Children's Commission support for the FCRRC to further advance the work on group home rates by using the agreed upon methodology to establish recommendations for group home rates.

Gene Klein moved to accept the report and move forward on the recommendations of the FCRRC. The motion was seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (15):

Teresa Anderson
Karen Authier
Beth Baxter
Holly Brandt
Jennifer Clark

Kim Hawekotte
Candy Kennedy-Goergen
Gene Klein
Norman Langemach
Andrea Miller

Deb O'Brien
Mary Jo Pankoke
Dale Shotkoski
Susan Staab
Paula Wells

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (2):

David Newell

Diana Tedrow

MOTION CARRIED

XV. Legal Parties Taskforce Update

Kim Hawekotte presented on the Legal Parties Taskforce progress. Ms. Hawekotte stated that a large push would be made to increase professionalism in juvenile court. The members had much discussion covering the necessity of educated case managers and the relationship between attorneys and case managers.

XVI. Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee Report

Ms. Hawekotte continued on with a report on the Juvenile Services Committee. She gave a brief summary of happenings and informed the members that representatives from the National Council for Juvenile Justice will be attending the August meeting of the OJS Committee. She noted that representatives from Missouri would be traveling to Nebraska to present to the OJS Committee about Missouri's regional juvenile justice model. The Committee plans to invite Commission members and members of the Judiciary and Health and Human Services Committees of the Legislature.

XVII. Public Comment

Chair Baxter invited any members of the public forward. No public comment was offered.

XVIII. New Business

There was no New Business to present at this time.

XIX. Next Meeting Planning

The Chair welcomed any recommendations for a meeting location or items to add to the next agenda. It was recommended that presentations be given by Children & Family Services and by the Nebraska Family Collaborative.

XX. Adjournment

It was moved by Karen Authier and seconded by Gene Klein to adjourn the meeting. There was no discussion. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

07/23/2015

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