

Psychotropic Medications Committee
Update to the Nebraska Children's Commission
July 18, 2017

The Psychotropic Medications Committee, chaired by Paula Wells and Dr. Gregg Wright, works to support the health and well-being of youth in foster care by examining the provision of psychotropic medication and making recommendations that ensure that agencies utilize best practices in psychotropic medication review and oversight procedures.

The Committee created the Informed Consent Task Force, chaired by Angie Pick, to examine the document used by the State to give informed consent for the prescription of psychotropic medications to youth in foster care. The group created the attached Psychotropic Medication Informed Consent document ("Document") after a thorough review of best practices from other states and feedback from the Department of Health and Human Services. The Document is intended to contribute to the health and well-being of foster children by providing a mechanism for a prescribing physician to discuss psychotropic medications with the child and the caregiver, while providing adequate information for the legal guardian or parent to provide informed consent.

The Committee discussed next steps for the implementation of the document once approved by the Commission, and identified potential implementation pilot sites with the Committee members who are prescribers and have volunteered to participate in the pilot. These implementation pilot sites would allow the group to further refine the form and process before a potential implementation by the Department of Health and Human Services or the Administrative Office of Probation. Targeted pilot sites would include a variety of practitioners in different geographic settings.

The Psychotropic Medications Committee recommends that the Nebraska Children's Commission approve the Psychotropic Medications Informed Consent Document. If the Nebraska Children's Commission approves to document, the Committee recommends that the Commission approve the Committee to move forward with an implementation pilot of the document.