

Strengthening Families Act Committee Meeting

June 3, 2019

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

CEDARS Northbridge, 1533 N 27th St, Lincoln, NE 68503

1. Call to Order

Co-Chairs of the Strengthening Families Act (SFA) Committee of the Nebraska Children’s Commission (Commission), Vernon Davis and Sarah Helvey, opened the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members present (12):

Payne Ackerman	Heather Colton	Brandy Gustoff
Deanna Brakhage	Vernon Davis	Sarah Helvey
Ashley Brown	Stephanie Gardella	Amara Madsen
Nathan Collier	Ron Giesselmann	Deb Shuck

Committee Members absent (6):

Rebecca Daugherty	Kim Hawekotte	Sara Riffel
Patricia Frost	Terri Knutson	Lisa Story

Ex Officio and Resource Members absent (2):

Bailey Perry	Deb VanDyke-Ries
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A quorum was obtained.

Guests in Attendance (5):

Crystal Aldmeyer.....	Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
Amanda Felton.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Chris Jones.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Julie Smith.....	Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division
Cristen White.....	PromiseShip

a. Notice of Publication

Recorder, Amanda Felton, indicated that the notice of publication for this meeting was posted on the Nebraska Public Meetings and Nebraska Children’s Commission websites in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

b. Announcement of the placement of Open Meetings Act information

A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for public inspection and was located on the sign in table to the side of the meeting room.

3. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Ashley Brown to approve the [agenda](#) as presented. Payne Ackerman seconded the motion. here was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (11):

Payne Ackerman	Vernon Davis	Sarah Helvey
Deanna Brakhage	Stephanie Gardella	Amara Madsen
Ashley Brown	Ron Giesselmann	Deb Shuck
Heather Colton	Brandy Gustoff	

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (7):

Nathan Collier
Rebecca Daugherty
Patricia Frost

Kim Hawekotte
Terri Knutson
Sara Riffel

Lisa Story

ABSTAINED (0)

MOTION CARRIED

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Brandy Gustoff and seconded by Payne Ackerman to approve the minutes of the [January 10, 2019](#) and the [April 11, 2019](#) meetings as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (11):

Payne Ackerman
Deanna Brakhage
Ashley Brown
Heather Colton

Vernon Davis
Stephanie Gardella
Ron Giesselmann
Brandy Gustoff

Sarah Helvey
Amara Madsen
Deb Shuck

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (7):

Nathan Collier
Rebecca Daugherty
Patricia Frost

Kim Hawekotte
Terri Knutson
Sara Riffel

Lisa Story

ABSTAINED (0)

MOTION CARRIED

5. Co-Chair Report

a. Legislative Discussion

Chris Jones, Policy Analyst for the Commission, was given an opportunity to discuss the passing of [LB600](#). The legislation included provisions to continue the Commission and its statutory committees in much the same format as they currently functioned. Members were encouraged to apply and share information on applying as members of the Commission.

The members also reviewed the list of [interim studies](#) focusing on [LR127](#) introduced by Senator Hunt. The group discussed how many of the items included in the LR were issues the SFA Committee had worked on or were still working on. It was agreed that outreach should be done to the Senator to see how the Committee may be of assistance.

Conversation landed on the issue of driver's license attainment for youth in care. Members discussed Senator Wishart's [LB219](#) and its status. Members revisited previous discussions of barriers to youth obtaining a driver's license which mostly landed on issues of insurance. After lengthy discussion, it was decided to delve deeper into the topic. It was suggested to pull together a panel of experts to discuss the potential of and barriers to easing access to driver's license for youth in care. The panel should include individuals familiar with insurance, the Department of Motor Vehicles, Opportunity Passport, and similar organizations.

6. Approval of SFA Committee Annual Report

Co-Chairs Helvey and Davis led members through the various sections of the report. Members discussed the need to broaden language for the Trafficking recommendation #3 to ensure that it was interpreted to mean any charge and not just sexual offences. Members also discussed the need to raise awareness of the youth and caregiver court forms.

It was moved by Payne Ackerman and seconded by Nathan Collier to approve the 2019 annual Strengthening Families Committee Report with alterations to the language of the third trafficking recommendation to clarify

the scope of charges and to allow leeway for grammatical or formatting corrections. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (12):

Payne Ackerman
Deanna Brakhage
Ashley Brown
Nathan Collier
Heather Colton

Vernon Davis
Stephanie Gardella
Ron Giesselmann
Brandy Gustoff
Sarah Helvey

Amara Madsen
Deb Shuck

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (6):

Rebecca Daugherty
Patricia Frost

Kim Hawekotte
Terri Knutson

Sara Riffel
Lisa Story

ABSTAINED (0)

MOTION CARRIED

7. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Public Comment

Co-Chairs Davis and Helvey invited any public forward who wished to make comment. No comment was offered.

10. Next Steps

Members were directed to the proposed meeting dates on the agenda. The group agreed to cancel the July 11th date in favor of an August meeting time. An attendance survey would be sent out to find a time available to members.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Felton