

Member Nomination Report

Report to the Nebraska Children's Commission

August 18, 2020

The following individuals have been nominated for membership on identified Committees as noted below. The Executive Committee has reviewed all applicants and recommends the following appointments.

Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee

- Representative of a child welfare advocacy organization
 - **Sarah Helvey, reappointment (Voting)** – Child Welfare Program Director/Staff Attorney, Nebraska Appleseed
 - **Maghan Madsen, to replace Kim Thomas (Resource)** – Advocate Supervisor, Douglas County Nebraska CASA
 - **Candi Marcantel, reappointment (Resource)** – Supervisor, Sarpy County Nebraska CASA
 - **Susan Thomas, reappointment (Voting)** – CASA Volunteer, Nebraska CASA Association
- Representative of an independent living services agency
 - **Mary Fraser Meints, reappointment (Voting)** – Executive Director, Youth Emergency Services
 - **Brandy Gustoff, reappointment (Resource)** – Program Manager – Transition Services, Omaha Home for Boys, Jacob's Place
 - **Bailey Perry, reappointment (Voting)** – Transitional Living Manager, Omaha Home for Boys, Jacob's Place
 - **Lana Verbrigghe, reappointment (Voting)** – Senior Director of Programs and Services, Children's Square USA
- Representative of a child welfare service agency
 - **Christina Lloyd, reappointment (Voting)** – Program Director – Bridges Transitional Living and Street Outreach Services, CEDARS Youth Services
 - **Katie McLeese Stephenson, reappointment (Resource)** – Director, Hope Spoke
 - **Sara Riffel, reappointment (Voting)** – Associate Vice President, Connected Youth Initiative, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- Representative of the Judicial Branch of government
 - **Deb VanDyke-Ries, reappointment (Ex Officio)** – Director, Nebraska Court Improvement Project
- Young adult currently or previously in foster care
 - **Whitney Beck, reappointment (Voting)** – Young adult previously in foster care

Juvenile Services Committee

- Representative of the Court Improvement Project
 - **Deb VanDyke-Ries, reappointment (Voting)** – Director, Nebraska Court Improvement Project
- Representative of DHHS, Division of Behavioral Health
 - **Tamara Gavin, reappointment (Voting)** – Deputy Director, DHHS, Division of Behavioral Health
- Nebraska Crime Commission Representative
 - **Amy Hoffman, reappointment (Voting)** – Director of Juvenile Diversion and Community-Based Aid, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice
- Representative of the office of juvenile services
 - **Nicole Berggren, reappointment (Resource)** – Program Manager, DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, Office of Juvenile Services

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- **Mark LaBouchardiere, reappointment (Voting)** – Facilities Director, DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, Office of Juvenile Services
- Representative of Juvenile Probation
 - **Julie Smith, reappointment (Resource)** – Juvenile Justice Program Specialist, Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division
- Advocate group representative
 - **Tom McBride, reappointment (Voting)** – Executive Director, Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association
- Representative of the Department of Education
 - **Michele Borg, reappointment (Voting)** – Education of Systems-Involved Students (ESIS) Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Education
- Representative of the entity administering Title II funds
 - **A’Jamal Byndon, reappointment (Voting)** – Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator, Douglas County
- Data Expert representative
 - **Dr. Richard Wiener, reappointment (Voting)** – Bessey Professor of Psychology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- Group Home/Shelter representative
 - **Vicky Thompson Smith, reappointment (Voting)** – Program Manager, CEDAR Youth Services

Strengthening Families Act Committee

- Young adult currently or previously in foster care
 - **Payne Ackerman, reappointment (Voting)** – Former Foster Youth, Project Everlast
 - **Vernon Davis, reappointment (Voting)** – Young Adult Previously in Foster Care
- Representative from a child welfare advocacy organization
 - **Stephanie Gardella, reappointment (Voting)** – Program Coordinator, Douglas County Nebraska CASA
- Representative of a child care institution
 - **Ron Giesselmann, reappointment (Voting)** – Executive Director, Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children
- Representative of an independent living services agency
 - **Brandy Gustoff, reappointment (Voting)** – Program Manager – Transition Services, Omaha Home for Boys, Jacob’s Place
 - **Bailey Perry, reappointment (Resource)** – Transitional Living Manager, Omaha Home for Boys, Jacob’s Place
 - **Deb Shuck, reappointment (Voting)** – Central Service Navigator for the Older Youth System of Care, CAPWN
 - **Jennifer Skala, reappointment (Resource)** – Senior Vice President of Community Impact, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- Professional who has relevant practical experience
 - **Sara Riffel, reappointment (Voting)** – Associate Vice President, Connected Youth Initiative, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
- Representative from a child welfare service agency
 - **Ashley Brown, reappointment (Voting)** – Program Director, Nebraska KVC
- Guardian Ad Litem who practices in juvenile court

- **Heather Colton, reappointment (Resource)** – Associate Attorney/Guardian Ad litem, Pollak & Ball, LLC
- Representative of the Judicial Branch of government
 - **Deb VanDyke-Ries, reappointment (Ex-Officio)** – Director, Nebraska Court Improvement Project
- Representative of the Executive Branch of government
 - **Deanna Brakhage, reappointment (Voting)** – Program Specialist, Bridge to Independence, DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services
- Parent who has experience in the foster care system
 - **Terri Knutson, reappointment (Voting)** – Parent