

Strengthening Families Act Committee Meeting

May 14, 2020

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Webex Online Video Conferencing System

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair of the Strengthening Families Act (SFA) Committee of the Nebraska Children's Commission (Commission), Vernon Davis, called the meeting to order at 1:05.

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members present (9):

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Ashley Brown | Ron Giesselmann | Sara Riffel |
| Vernon Davis | Brandy Gustoff | Deb Shuck |
| Patricia Frost | Terri Knutson | Lisa Story |

Committee Members absent (7):

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Payne Ackerman | Heather Colton | Amara Madsen |
| Deanna Brakhage | Rebecca Daugherty | |
| Nathan Collier | Stephanie Gardella | |

Ex Officio Members present (3)

Bailey Perry
Jeremy Behrends
Deb VanDyke-Ries

Ex Officio and Resource Members absent (0):

A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (12):

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Crystal Aldmeyer..... | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation |
| Adam Anderson..... | Nebraska Children's Commission |
| Sarah Forrest..... | Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers |
| Jessica Hilderbrand..... | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation |
| Jill Holt..... | Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition |
| Tom McBride..... | Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association |
| Felicia Nelsen..... | Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parents Association |
| Laura Opfer..... | Nebraska Children's Commission |
| Sara Quiroz..... | Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division |
| Sara Riffel..... | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation |
| Julie Smith..... | Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division |
| Susan Thomas..... | Nebraska CASA Association |

a. Notice of Publication

Recorder, Adam Anderson, 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 Nebraska Children's Commission Website

3. Approval of Agenda

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

FOR (9):

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Ashley Brown | Ron Giesselmann | Sara Riffel |
| Vernon Davis | Brandy Gustoff | Deb Shuck |
| Patricia Frost | Terri Knutson | Lisa Story |

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (7):

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Payne Ackerman | Heather Colton | Amara Madsen |
| Deanna Brakhage | Rebecca Daugherty | |
| Nathan Collier | Stephanie Gardella | |

ABSTAINED (0)

MOTION CARRIED

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Brandy Gustoff and seconded by Terri Knutson to approve the minutes of the [January 9, 2020](#) meetings as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (9):

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Ashley Brown | Ron Giesselmann | Sara Riffel |
| Vernon Davis | Brandy Gustoff | Deb Shuck |
| Patricia Frost | Terri Knutson | Lisa Story |

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (7):

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Payne Ackerman | Heather Colton | Amara Madsen |
| Deanna Brakhage | Rebecca Daugherty | |
| Nathan Collier | Stephanie Gardella | |

ABSTAINED (0)

MOTION CARRIED

5. Co-Chair Report

a. Nebraska Children's Commission Update

Co-chair Vernon Davis updated the Committee on the most recent meeting of the Nebraska Children's Commission. He noted that at that meeting, Jessica Hilderbrand volunteered to join the Committee as its new Co-Chair. He added that a vote to appoint Hilderbrand will be on the May 19th Commission agenda. Hilderbrand will also be appointed to the Committee at that time. Davis noted that Hilderbrand is attending as interim Co-chair for this meeting, and has been getting up to speed on the work of the Co-chairs and was involved in the planning for the meeting.

6. Legislative Update

Laura Opfer shared that the Legislature is on hiatus at the moment, and will hopefully be back in session in June or July. At this time Legislation is paused. She added that when the Legislature comes back the Speaker will look at reprioritizing many of the important bills for this session.

7. Normalcy Subcommittee

Co-Chairs Tom McBride and Felicia Nelsen shared that the Normalcy Subcommittee hasn't met since last summer but is gearing up for the Normalcy Report Review at the next Normalcy Subcommittee meeting in early June. Karen Moran, from DHHS will be sharing the Normalcy Reports with the Subcommittee, once they are submitted to DHHS.

8. APPLA Subcommittee

Chair Crystal Aldmeyer shared that the APPLA Committee had a meeting scheduled for the beginning of March, which was cancelled due to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and newly instituted stay-at-home orders. She added that the Subcommittee is looking to meet in June or July to begin their work looking into the recent FCRO recommendations laid out in the [2019 FCRO Annual Report](#). Dr. Katie Bass from the FCRO will be in attendance at the next APPLA meeting to lead discussion.

9. Trafficking Subcommittee

Chair Sarah Forrest updated the Committee on the recent work of the Subcommittee. She noted that the Trafficking Subcommittee will have a meeting on May 28, at which time the Subcommittee will review recent data and decide on next steps.

10. Annual Report Planning

Laura Opfer shared that she has begun work on the Annual Report to the Legislature. She noted that a draft will be available at the next SFA Committee Meeting for the members to approve to move forward to the Children's Commission in August.

11. New Business

Laura Opfer welcomed Jessica and noted that the Committee has a lot of work ahead. She added that she looks forward to meeting in person those members that she hasn't had a chance to meet yet.

10. Public Comment

Co-Chair Davis opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

12. Next Steps

Members discussed options for the next meeting.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson