

Alternative Response (AR) Advisory Committee

January 22, 2021

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Webex Online Video Conferencing System

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Nebraska Children’s Commission Policy Analyst, Laura Opfer welcomed everyone and called the meeting of the Alternative Response Advisory Committee (AR) to order at 11:04 a.m. Opfer asked Adam Anderson to call roll through introductions.

Laura Opfer noted that the Governor extended the Open Meetings Act waiver until then end of April, 2021.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members present (16):

Alise Baker	Alex Hilderbrand	Lynelle Homolka
Jarren Breeling	Bri McLarty	Ivy Svoboda
Patrick Carraher	Michelle Oldham	Mikayla Wicks
Jennifer Carter	Michelle Paxton	Reggie Young
Monika Gross	Carey Potter	
Sarah Helvey (11:23 a.m.)	Susan Thomas	

Committee members absent (2):

Jan Reeves
Karine Sokpoh

A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (10):

Adam Anderson.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Laura Opfer.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission

a. Notice of Publication

Recorder for the meeting, Adam Anderson, indicated that the notice of publication for this meeting was posted on the Nebraska Public Meeting and Nebraska Children’s Commission website in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. The publication would be kept as a permanent attachment with the meeting minutes.

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.

III. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Susan Thomas and seconded by Monika Gross to approve the [agenda](#) as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (18):

Alise Baker	Alex Hildebrand	Ivy Svoboda
Jarren Breeling	Lynelle Homolka	Susan Thomas
Patrick Carraher	Bri McLarty	Mikayla Wicks
Jennifer Carter	Michelle Oldham	Reggie Young
Monika Gross	Michelle Paxton	
Sarah Helvey	Carey Potter	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (2):

Jan Reeves
Karine Sokpoh

MOTION CARRIED**IV. Alternative Response Historical Overview**

Laura Opfer welcomed Mikayla Wicks, Alternative Response Program Specialist, from Nebraska DHHS to provide a historical overview of Alternative Response. She shared a [PowerPoint](#) with information regarding the history and working order of Alternative Response. Wicks highlighted that AR is now a permanent program due to the passing of LB 1061, and she shared the process of AR intakes through case closure. She noted that AR links providers with families. She noted the 25 exclusionary criteria that exclude families from AR. Wicks compared Traditional Response (TR) and AR case paths. She shared the interview process, noting that in AR the parents are contact first via phone to begin building trust. Wicks continued by noting the randomizer is set to 90% of cases eligible being sent to AR. Regulations currently with the Attorney General would remove the filter. She shared the types of assessments completed and the forms completed with the family.

Wicks shared findings from the evaluation of AR completed by the University of Nebraska's Center for Children, Families, and the Law.

Wicks answered questions regarding Non-court cases vs. AR. She noted that some cases can go non-court after the end of AR or close. She also answered a question regarding payment, noting that cases can be referred in the normal process, and anything outside of that is purchased on the AR Purchase Card. Additionally, outside financial assistance services exist. Wicks explained the AR brochure and consent form and noted that she will share the form with members.

Members discussed 1184 team meetings, a multi-disciplinary team that meets to review intakes.

V. Nebraska Children's Commission Structure

Laura Opfer shared a [Microsoft PowerPoint - AR Committee Overview 1.2021 \(nebraska.gov\)](#) that provided a historical overview of the AR Committee and statutory requirements for the Committee. She noted the importance to continue focus on the requirements and the reporting timeline. Opfer also shared a graphic showing where the AR Committee fits within the Nebraska Children's Commission, and she note some important aspects of the Commission.

VI. Strategic Planning

Laura Opfer shared information regarding strategic planning, noting first steps of the Committee will be to fill the Co-Chair roles, survey the members to get an idea regarding the knowledge and any questions regarding AR, to determine the meeting frequency and topics, and develop subcommittees or workgroups.

VII. DHHS Update

Wicks reiterated some of the items from her PowerPoint, and asked the Committee what sort of items members would like to hear about in the DHHS Update portion of future meetings. She noted the downturn of cases due to COVID-19, and the gradual increase as communities reopen.

Members asked to see caseload sizes or information about dually-assigned caseloads and training statewide.

VIII. Public Comment

Laura Opfer welcomed public comment. There was no public comment.

IX. New Business

There was no new business.

X. Upcoming Meeting Planning

The next meeting will be held March 26, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. online through the Webex Online Video Conferencing System.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson