

Alternative Response (AR) Advisory Committee

May 28, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Webex Online Video Conferencing System

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Co-Chair, Monika Gross welcomed everyone and called the meeting of the Alternative Response Advisory Committee (AR) to order at 10:10 a.m. and asked Adam Anderson to call roll.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members present (8):

Jennifer Carter

Monika Gross

Michelle Oldham

Michelle Paxton

Jan Reeves

Ivy Svoboda

Susan Thomas

Mikayla Wicks

Committee members absent (9):

Alise Baker

Jarren Breeling

Pat Carraher

Sarah Helvey

Alex Hildebrand

Bri McLarty

Carey Potter

Karine Sokpoh

Reggie Young

A quorum was not established.

Guests in Attendance (10):

Adam Anderson.....Nebraska Children's Commission

Laura Opfer.....Nebraska Children's Commission

Krista Roebke.....Center on Children, Families, and the Law

a. Notice of Publication

Co-Chair, Monika Gross 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 at the sign-in table.

III. Approval of Agenda

A quorum was not present to approve the agenda.

Items in the minutes follow the original order of the agenda.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A quorum was not present to approve the March 26, 2021 meeting minutes.

V. Membership Update

Adam Anderson laid out the membership vacancies. Members discussed the options moving forward with inviting youth with lived experience and another county attorney. Anderson noted that he will send out the AR Committee application with the minutes.

Members discussed meeting frequency options and the legislative reporting requirements. Laura Opfer noted that although an annual report is not required per the statute, she shared her plan for reporting within the Children's Commission report due in September.

VI. Team Building

Co-chairs Gross and Thomas led the Committee through introductions and a team building activity. The members broke into two groups for the team building activity.

VII. Strategic Planning

Laura Opfer gave a brief explanation regarding the strategic planning discussion. Co-Chair Gross led the group through the discussion. Opfer highlighted the three statutory areas the Committee is required to examine. Discussion focused on the first statutory requirement: Receipt and Screening of Reports.

Members discussed a specific incident, believing that a worker did not conduct an adequate assessment for an additional intake on an ongoing case. Members also discussed the option of a fresh set of eyes reviewing cases. Members felt like the screening process fidelity to Structured Decision Making is going well. Additionally, members felt like Program Specialists reviewing “does not meet definition” intakes is going well. Jennifer Carter felt like the 1061 teams and exclusionary criteria changes are helpful to put concerns at ease. Mikayla Wicks shared numbers of intakes and the screening process.

Laura Opfer captured the discussion on the dry-erase board:

1. What’s going well in this area?
 - a. Screening fidelity to the SDM tool
 - b. Program Specialists are utilized to review *some of the DND (does not meet definition) intakes
 - c. SDM review process with Evident Change (reviewing tools and implementing recommended changes)
 - d. LB1061 clarified exclusionary criteria
 - e. Support for hotline staff
2. What concerns do you have about this area?
 - a. Handling of subsequent intakes on a family with an open case (IA worker, ongoing case manager assigned, etc.)
 - b. Effects of the 0-5 policy for medical providers
 - c. Reporters expectations (urban vs. rural)
 - d. Family history of multiple unaccepted intakes prior to an open case
 - e. Turnover of hotline workers
 - f. Reports from law enforcement may not always make it to the hotline (timeliness, lack of technology statewide?)
3. Questions/Additional information needed:
 - a. What data points indicate the health and/or success of this program?
 - b. Hotline reports
 - c. What reports are county attorneys getting (1184 teams?)
 - d. Community response team process (connecting families to resources)
 - e. Screening tool & consultation points
 - f. Use of non-court cases vs. AR

VIII. Alternative Response Training

Krista Roebke joined virtually and shared a PowerPoint. She discussed the AR training as provided to DHHS by the University of Nebraska Center for Children Family and the Law (CCFL). She highlighted that training consists of self-paced units and in classroom modules. CCFL has an online classroom that allows areas of greater Nebraska the same training program. Roebke shared that the AR training, with self-paced and classroom training is approximately nine hours of training. She shared a breakdown of the different key areas learned in new worker training.

Roebke discussed the strategy she uses to train workers on engaging families.

Members discussed the difference between AR, TR and Project Jump Start in Hall County. Members noted that Project Jump Start is not related to AR.

IX. DHHS Update

AR Program Specialist, Mikayla Wicks shared [handouts](#) and [updates](#) from DHHS. Members discussed blind reviews of cases. She shared recent data from AR. Wicks noted that 48 cases out of 1028 have flipped from AR to Traditional Response (TR).

Wicks provided information regarding the opening and closing process for an AR case. Members discussed the ability to track closures compared to those that turn down services. Wicks noted that now that the randomizer is gone, moving forward it would be helpful to look at data for those that declined services.

Wicks shared that cases can still go the non-court voluntary route after an initial assessment. Jennifer Carter noted that she would like the Committee to explore this further. Members agreed that non-court as it relates to AR.

Wicks shared the changes in the Exclusionary Criteria. Mikayla will work on a crosswalk of regulation changes to provide for the next meeting.

X. Public Comment

Monika Gross opened the floor for public comment. There were no members of the public in attendance.

XI. New Business

There was no new business.

XII. Upcoming Meeting Planning

The next meeting will be determined at a later date. Location and details will be sent to members and posted to the Commission website at a later date.

XIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson