

**Alternative Response (AR) Advisory Committee**

September 3, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lancaster County Extension Education Center

444 Cherrycreek Road

Lincoln, NE 68528

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

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Co-Chair Monika Gross welcomed everyone and called the meeting of the Alternative Response Advisory Committee (AR) to order at 10:05 a.m. Gross asked Adam Anderson to call roll and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

**II. Roll Call and Introductions**

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***Committee Members present (9):***

Patrick Carraher	Alex Hilderbrand	Ivy Svoboda
Jennifer Carter	Bri McLarty	Susan Thomas
Monika Gross	Jan Reeves	Mikayla Wicks

***Committee members absent (7):***

Alise Baker	Michelle Oldham	Reggie Young
Jarren Breeling	Michelle Paxton	
Sarah Helvey	Carey Potter	

**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 at the sign-in table and on the Nebraska Children’s Commission website.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

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**It was moved by Pat Carraher and seconded by Jennifer Carter to approve the agenda as presented.** There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

**FOR (9):**

Patrick Carraher	Alex Hilderbrand	Ivy Svoboda
Jennifer Carter	Bri McLarty	Susan Thomas
Monika Gross	Jan Reeves	Mikayla Wicks

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (0):**

**ABSENT (7):**

Alise Baker	Michelle Oldham	Reggie Young
Jarren Breeling	Michelle Paxton	
Sarah Helvey	Carey Potter	

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

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It was moved by Alex Hilderbrand and seconded by Bri McLarty to approve the [March 26, 2021 minutes](#) as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

**FOR (9):**

Patrick Carraher	Alex Hilderbrand	Ivy Svoboda
Jennifer Carter	Bri McLarty	Susan Thomas
Monika Gross	Jan Reeves	Mikayla Wicks

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (0):**

**ABSENT (7):**

Alise Baker	Michelle Oldham	Reggie Young
Jarren Breeling	Michelle Paxton	
Sarah Helvey	Carey Potter	

**MOTION CARRIED**

**V. Strategic Planning**

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Co-Chair Gross refreshed the Committee regarding the recent discussion regarding strategic planning. Laura Opfer discussed the recent work regarding strategic planning and lead the group on additional strategic planning. She noted that DHHS has contracted with Evident Change, who are reviewing Structured Decision Making model fidelity. Opfer shared the history of the discussion regarding screening of reports, lack of technology statewide, and AR Specialist staffing. Members discussed LE calls to the hotline afterhours across the state. Opfer also reminded the committee of the previous discussion regarding reporting training and schools. Members discussed the community collaborative resource gap.

Co-Chair Gross shared the steps to be taken regarding discussion and strategic planning.

Members noted that more AR cases are being screened in and not being referred for prosecution. If AR cases are referred for prosecution, participants are already hooked up to community resources like therapists, etc. Members discussed that documentation seems to be better under AR, and there is more clarity in the law regarding exclusionary criteria. Discussion also noted that Standard Work Instructions have been helpful for workers in TR because of statewide standardization and transparency.

Members discussed counseling advice, or lack of advice given to participants by providers is concerning, primarily due to the fact that it is unknown how case progress or ramifications for not following steps are being communicated. Adam Anderson will send out the document the families sign when being offered AR. Members questioned how AR quality is measured and oversight. Members would also like to have information if a family declines and subsequent follow-up of AR screened cases where prior participation was declined, and no evidence was shown that would have mitigated the original safety concern. Members discussed data points, noting agencies such as Foster Care Review Office and Court Appointed Special Advocates don't receive regarding AR or in-home non-court families, making it hard to determine if AR is successful for families. Co-Chair Gross noted that in order for these agencies to receive information regarding non-court and AR cases, a statutory change would be required.

Members discussed safety and risk measurement and measures taken at each step, and the need for information. Members noted information needed includes how many families accept AR, how many flip from AR to TR, how many families that

declined that in turn came back into the system, services available. Adam Anderson noted the website [Nebraska Resource and Referral System - NRRS](#) is a searchable database of services based on location and the types of services available.

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## **VI. DHHS Update**

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Mikayla Wicks shared a document with data regarding the number of families involved, average length of cases, subsequent intakes within 12 months of closure. Wicks shared information regarding the tribes having zero subsequent intakes within 12 months. Members asked for a percentage of TR cases that have subsequent intake within 12 months. Wicks noted that subsequent intakes for TR versus AR used to be tracked. Wicks will look at pulling this data for the next meeting.

Wicks shared a crosswalk of proposed regulations changes. She noted that proposed regulations have been signed by the Governor and are to take effect on September 7, 2021. Wicks provided more detailed explanations of the changes. She noted that all Red Team decisions are unanimous even though not specifically stated in regulations. Wicks will share a document with statutory requirements and regulations highlighted to show what requirement is in statute and what is in regulations.

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## **VII. Public Comment**

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Co-Chair Gross opened the floor for public comment. There were no members of the public in attendance.

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## **VIII. New Business**

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Adam Anderson noted that Karine Sokpoh has resigned from the Committee, effective September 2, 2021. Anderson also noted that Rose Hood-Buss from Hub Lincoln inquired about vacancies on the Committee for young adult participation. Anderson informed the Committee that if applications are received that fall outside statutorily required representation, that resource or non-voting membership can be approved.

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## **IX. Upcoming Meeting Planning**

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The next meeting will be held November 5, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with a lunch break. Location and details will be sent to members and posted to the Commission website at a later date.

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## **X. Adjourn**

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The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Adam Anderson