

**Strengthening Families Act Committee Meeting**

August 6, 2021

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Zoom

and

Lower Level Conference Room C

Nebraska State Office Building

301 Centennial Mall South

Lincoln, NE 68508

**1. Call to Order**

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Co-Chair of the Strengthening Families Act (SFA) Committee of the Nebraska Children’s Commission (Commission), Jessica Hilderbrand, called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Roll call was taken through introductions.

**2. Roll Call and Introductions**

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

Deanna Brakhage	Misty Frazier	Terri Knutson
Rhia Connley	Ron Giesselmann	Sara Riffel
Vernon Davis	Brandy Gustoff	Jessica Rockemann

***Committee Members absent (8):***

Payne Ackerman	Rebecca Daugherty	Deb Shuck
Ashley Brown	Pat Frost	Tiffany Uher
Heather Colton	Stephanie Gardella	

***Non-Voting Members present (2)***

Bailey Perry  
Jeremy Behrends

***Non-Voting Members absent (2):***

Monika Gross  
Deb VanDyke-Ries

**A quorum was not established.**

***Guests in Attendance (7):***

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

*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 and at the sign-in table.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

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**It was moved by Deanna Brakhage to approve the agenda as presented. Sara Riffel seconded the motion.** There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

**FOR (9):**

Deanna Brakhage  
Rhia Connley  
Vernon Davis

Misty Frazier  
Ron Giesselmann  
Brandy Gustoff

Terri Knutson  
Sara Riffel  
Jessica Rockemann

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSENT (8):**

Payne Ackerman  
Ashley Brown  
Heather Colton

Rebecca Daugherty  
Pat Frost  
Stephanie Gardella

Deb Shuck  
Tiffany Uher

**ABSTAINED (0)**

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Discussion followed the agenda.*

**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

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**It was moved by Brandy Gustoff to approve the April 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes with edits as discussed. Deanna Brakhage seconded the motion.** There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

**FOR (9):**

Deanna Brakhage  
Rhia Connley  
Vernon Davis

Misty Frazier  
Ron Giesselmann  
Brandy Gustoff

Terri Knutson  
Sara Riffel  
Jessica Rockemann

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSENT (8):**

Payne Ackerman  
Ashley Brown  
Heather Colton

Rebecca Daugherty  
Pat Frost  
Stephanie Gardella

Deb Shuck  
Tiffany Uher

**ABSTAINED (0)**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5. Co-Chair Report**

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Co-Chair Rockemann reminded the Committee that due to the nature of this meeting being an extra meeting to help move business forward she had nothing additional to report.

**6. Annual Report**

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Laura Opfer gave a summary of the recommendations contained in the SFA Annual Report. She reminded the Committee of the discussion at the previous meeting. She addressed a question from the previous meeting regarding Chafee funding, noting that the Committee will be taking time to look into the funding sources available for transition aged youth, as to better understand all funding streams. Opfer highlighted the changes made in the annual report from feedback received at the previous meeting and discussions.

**It was moved by Ron Giesselmann to approve the SFA Annual Report with edits as discussed. Jessica Rockemann seconded the motion.** There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

**FOR (9):**

Deanna Brakhage  
Rhia Connley  
Vernon Davis

Misty Frazier  
Ron Giesselmann  
Brandy Gustoff

Terri Knutson  
Sara Riffel  
Jessica Rockemann

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSENT (8):**

Payne Ackerman  
Ashley Brown  
Heather Colton

Rebecca Daugherty  
Pat Frost  
Stephanie Gardella

Deb Shuck  
Tiffany Uher

**ABSTAINED (0)**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**7. APPLA Subcommittee**

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Laura Opfer discussed the plan for the APPLA Subcommittee to move forward with having discussion with DHHS regarding the recommendation of the Committee to pursue Transition Aged Youth Advocate Specialist positions within Children and Family Services. Deanna Brakhage noted that Alger Studstill and Roger Robinson would be people to begin the conversation with. Sara Riffel will present information at the next meeting about how funding is broken down.

**It was moved by Jessica Rockemann to approve the APPLA Subcommittee action item to move forward with discussion regarding Transition Aged Youth Advocates. Ron Giesselmann seconded the motion.** There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

**FOR (9):**

Deanna Brakhage  
Rhia Connley  
Vernon Davis

Misty Frazier  
Ron Giesselmann  
Brandy Gustoff

Terri Knutson  
Sara Riffel  
Jessica Rockemann

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSENT (8):**

Payne Ackerman  
Ashley Brown  
Heather Colton

Rebecca Daugherty  
Pat Frost  
Stephanie Gardella

Deb Shuck  
Tiffany Uher

**ABSTAINED (0)**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**8. New Business**

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Laura Opfer took some time to discuss the updated Open Meetings Act requirements. She noted that if members have concerns meeting in person to reach out to her or Adam Anderson to express those concerns. She shared that the Committee can hold up to 50% of its meetings with a virtual option in a calendar year. Adam Anderson answered questions regarding virtual meetings.

**9. Public Comment**

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Co-Chair Rockemann opened up the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.

## **10. Next Steps**

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Laura Opfer noted that a Doodle poll will be sent to schedule the next meeting.

## **11. Adjournment**

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The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Anderson