

**Bridge to Independence (B2i) Advisory Committee**

May 5, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Omaha Room  
1526 K Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

**I. Call to Order and Welcome**

Co-Chair, Christina Lloyd, called the meeting of the Bridge to Independence (B2i) Advisory Committee to order at 10:06 a.m., and asked Adam Anderson to call roll

**II. Roll Call and Introductions**

***Committee Members present (6):***

*Proxy for* Jill Holt, *Kitty Washburn (10:48 a.m.)*

Jovan Johnson  
Christina Lloyd

Felipe Longoria  
Sara Riffel  
Susan Thomas

***Committee Members absent (5):***

Douglas Beck  
Whitney Beck  
Sarah Helvey

Michaela Hirschman  
Bailey Perry

***Ex-Officio Members present (1):***

Maghan Madsen

***Ex-Officio Members absent (6):***

Brandy Gustoff  
Candi Marcantel  
Katie McLeese Stephenson

Jennifer Skala  
Lindsay Meyer  
Deb VanDyke-Ries

**A quorum was established at 10:48 a.m. upon the arrival of an additional Member.**

***Guests In Attendance (4):***

Adam Anderson.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Deanna Brakhage.....	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Mary Fraser Meints.....	Sustainability Workgroup
Shayne Schiermeister.....	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Kitty Washburn.....	Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition
Heather Wood.....	Foster Care Review Office

*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.

\*Minutes do not follow the order of the agenda.

### III. Approval of Agenda

Co-Chair Christina Lloyd opened the floor for discussion on the agenda items. Members noted the Sustainability Workgroup and Recommendations would need discussion and a vote. Adam Anderson noted that if the recommendations were not voted on at this meeting, it would be incorporated into the annual report and then voted on during the vote for the annual report.

**It was moved by Sara Riffel and seconded by Susan Thomas to approve the agenda as presented.**

There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

#### FOR (6):

*Proxy for* Jill Holt, *Kitty Washburn*  
Jovan Johnson  
Christina Lloyd

Felipe Longoria  
Sara Riffel  
Susan Thomas

#### AGAINST (0):

#### ABSTAINED (0):

#### ABSENT (5):

Douglas Beck  
Whitney Beck  
Sarah Helvey

Michaela Hirschman  
Bailey Perry

#### MOTION CARRIED

### IV. Approval of Minutes

**It was moved by Sara Riffel to approve the February 3, 2022 minutes with corrections as discussed.**

**The motion was seconded by Susan Thomas.** There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

#### FOR (6):

*Proxy for* Jill Holt, *Kitty Washburn*  
Jovan Johnson  
Christina Lloyd

Felipe Longoria  
Sara Riffel  
Susan Thomas

#### AGAINST (0):

#### ABSTAINED (0):

#### ABSENT (5):

Douglas Beck  
Whitney Beck  
Sarah Helvey

Michaela Hirschman  
Bailey Perry

## MOTION CARRIED

### V. Co-Chair Report

Adam Anderson noted that this is Christina Lloyd's last meeting as Co-Chair and encouraged members to submit their names if they are interested. Anderson and Lloyd shared some of the details about being a Co-Chair.

### VI. Membership Update

Adam Anderson discussed Committee membership, noting that Jovan Johnson was appointed to the Committee on April 19, 2022. Anderson reviewed the prior appointments. He also added that meeting times could be decided that may make membership more convenient for potential members. Anderson listed membership vacancies in independent living services agencies, child welfare advocacy organizations, and a member of a recognized Indian Tribe residing in the state of Nebraska. Anderson also noted that new members could be appointed in resource positions. Anderson noted that there was previously membership from the behavioral health regions and it might be good to invite them again.

Anderson also shared possible legislative solutions regarding meeting virtually that would help bring young adults to the table.

### VII. Legislative Update

Adam Anderson noted that this agenda item is an accidental carryover from the previous meeting.

### VIII. Workgroup Updates

#### a. Sustainability Workgroup

Sara Riffel noted that the sustainability workgroup recommendations are included in the handouts. She noted several meetings were held to develop the proposed language in the handout. She shared that additional research will be included in the final recommendations. Riffel shared that recent recommendations for direct cash transfers to b2i youth did not make it out of legislative committee, and because of this the workgroup recommends that if funds are available in the future a similar pilot project would be recommended using these funds. Additionally, the workgroup recommends intentionality in case management towards b2i youth. Finally, the workgroup recommends ongoing data collection long-term.

Members discussed proposed recommendations.

**It was moved by Susan Thomas to approve the Sustainability Workgroup annual report recommendations as discussed. The motion was seconded by Felipe Longoria.** There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

#### **FOR (6):**

*Proxy for* Jill Holt, *Kitty Washburn*

Jovan Johnson

Christina Lloyd

Felipe Longoria

Sara Riffel

Susan Thomas

#### **AGAINST (0):**

#### **ABSTAINED (0):**

**ABSENT (5):**

Douglas Beck  
Whitney Beck  
Sarah Helvey

Michaela Hirschman  
Bailey Perry

**MOTION CARRIED**

**b. Data & Evaluation Workgroup**

Heather Wood shared updates from the recent meetings of the Data and Evaluation Workgroup. She noted that the workgroup is tasked with identifying data sources that are relevant and informative about the b2i program. Wood shared a [PowerPoint](#) with information from a data set that is collected by the Foster Care Review Office. She noted that the data comes from another vantage point than the data offered by DHHS. Wood walked the committee through the PowerPoint. Members discussed the data presented. Wood noted that at the next b2i meeting she would like feedback from the committee regarding any changes to the data collection or recommendation for next steps. She added that this data can be presented a couple times per year. Members offered suggestions for data presentation.

**IX. DHHS Update**

Deanna Brakhage shared a [PowerPoint](#) with continuous quality improvement data. She noted that a recent Children and Families Service Review looked at racial and ethnic data for b2i participants and preliminary data show that African American youth are less likely to succeed in the program compared to all youth. Also, she shared that data from surveys show parenting youth increasing. Members discussed a data point that shows 38% of homeless youth have past system involvement. Members discussed if there was a way to determine if they have b2i involvement. Brakhage continued to present data from the PowerPoint. She shared that seven youth had been terminated from the program, and DHHS will be looking into those cases to determine the reasons those seven were not successful in the program.

**X. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**XI. New Business**

Sara Riffel shared cards with a QR code that leads to information regarding resources.

**XII. Upcoming Meetings:**

- a. August 11, 2022
- b. November 17, 2022

**XIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.