Nebraska Children's Commission

The Nebraska Children's Commission works as a high-level leadership body with membership from the legislative, executive, and judicial branches along with system stakeholders to improve the safety and well-being of all children and families in Nebraska.



Background

The Nebraska Children's Commission was a product of the 2011 LR37 (Campbell); an investigation by the Health and Human Services Committee that identified a number of gaps in the service delivery model for children and families.

In 2012, the Nebraska State Legislature created the Commission to provide a permanent leadership forum for the collaboration of child welfare and juvenile justice, and devise a strategic plan for child welfare and juvenile justice reform. *Learn more at <u>www.childrens.nebraska.gov</u>*

Who are we?

- 26 Members appointed by the Governor;
- Non-voting, ex-officio representatives from all three branches of government;
- Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice state, regional and community representatives;
- Private, public and community stakeholders; and
- Young adults who've aged out of foster care

Key Accomplishments

The Commission's work gave roots to major initiatives such as:

- ☑ Alternative Response
- Foster Care Reimbursement Rates
- ☑ Bridge to Independence Act
- ☑ Strengthening Families Act



Over 250 stakeholders and community members across the state participate in the Commission's initiatives, which have significant impact on child welfare and juvenile justice policy and legislation.

What are we?

- Umbrella Commission which informs, and coordinates the implementation of new state and federal child welfare and juvenile justice legislation;
- Preserves institutional knowledge of child welfare and juvenile justice which is important for term limits and executive and judicial branch turnover;
- Collaborative expert resource for the HHS Committee and Legislature; and
- Legitimate forum for community involvement and representation

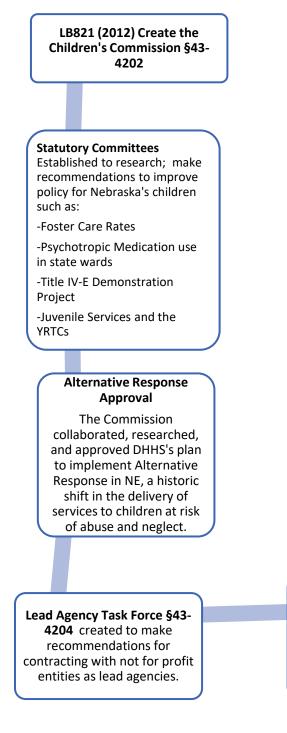
Key Deliverables of the Nebraska Children's Commission

- 1. Annual report and hearing before the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature
- 2. Education for stakeholders and testimony for proposed legislation;
- 3. Coordination and <u>collaboration</u> amongst related child welfare and juvenile justice parent groups, commissions and statutory groups.

What you need to know

- This is the parent Commission to five statutory committees:
 - 1. Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee NRS §43-4216
 - 2. Juvenile Services Committee NRS §43-4203
 - 3. Strengthening Families Act Committee NRS §43-4218
 - 4. Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee NRS §43-4513
 - 5. Alternative Response Advisory Committee NRS §43-4203

Timeline of Key Initiatives



Bridge Orders legislation passed LB708 (2017)

Commission's Legal Parties Task Force researched and recommended amending Nebraska's Juvenile Code to custody transfers to juvenile court and ease financial burden for custodians.

Strengthening Families Act LB746 (2016)

Codifies the federal act, ensures Nebraska's compliance and implementation. Ensures foster youth grow up in less restrictive, more family-like environments and participate in age and developmentally appropriate activities.

Child Welfare Financing Primer 2015

A collaborative publication to guide legislators about financing child welfare in Nebraska and the US.

Bridge to Independence Act LB216 (2013)

Extends foster care and supports for young adults aged out of foster care to age 21.



Nebraska Child Welfare Blueprint 2017

A collaborative publication guides all three branches of government on the continued reform of child welfare in NE.

Continuation of the Commission through LB600 (2019)

Eliminated the Commision's sunset date and established NCC as a permament leadership forum.

Alternative Response legislation passed LB1061 (2020)

Eliminates the programs sunset date and establishes permanent criteria for the states alternative response system. Created an advisory committee to examine the program and eliminated the Psychotropic Medications committee under NCC.