

Strengthening Families Act Committee Meeting

October 4, 2021
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Zoom Online Video Conferencing

1. Call to Order

Co-Chair of the Strengthening Families Act (SFA) Committee of the Nebraska Children’s Commission (Commission), Jessica Hilderbrand, called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm and welcomed everyone. Laura Opfer asked attendees to introduce themselves. Roll call was taken through introductions.

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members present (10):

Deanna Brakhage	Stephanie Gardella	Sara Riffel
Heather Colton	Ron Giesselmann	Tiffany Uher
Misty Flowers	Brandy Gustoff	
Pat Frost	Jessica Hilderbrand	

Committee Members absent (5):

Payne Ackerman	Rhia Connley	Deb Shuck
Ashley Brown	Terri Knutson	

Non-Voting Members present (2)

Bailey Perry
Jeremy Behrends

Non-Voting Members absent (2):

Monika Gross
Deb VanDyke-Ries

A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (6):

Adam Anderson.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Laura Opfer.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Mandi Juricek.....	Nebraska Court Improvement Project
Karen Moran.....	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Jill Holt.....	Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition
Felicia Nelsen.....	Normalcy Subcommittee Co-Chair

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

It was moved by Jessica Hilderbrand to approve the agenda as presented. Stephanie Gardella seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (10):

Deanna Brakhage
Heather Colton
Misty Flowers
Pat Frost

Stephanie Gardella
Ron Giesselmann
Brandy Gustoff
Jessica Hilderbrand

Sara Riffel
Tiffany Uher

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (5):

Payne Ackerman
Ashley Brown

Rhia Connley
Terri Knutson

Deb Shuck

ABSTAINED (0)

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion followed the agenda.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Sara Riffel to approve the August 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes with edits as discussed. Deanna Brakhage seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (10):

Deanna Brakhage
Heather Colton
Misty Flowers
Pat Frost

Stephanie Gardella
Ron Giesselmann
Brandy Gustoff
Jessica Hilderbrand

Sara Riffel
Tiffany Uher

AGAINST (0):

ABSENT (5):

Payne Ackerman
Ashley Brown

Rhia Connley
Terri Knutson

Deb Shuck

ABSTAINED (0)

MOTION CARRIED

5. Co-Chair Report

Co-Chair Misty Frazier noted her name change to Misty Flowers. She shared excitement about the upcoming SWOT analysis during the meeting.

6. Transition Age Youth Funding

Sara Riffel shared a PowerPoint regarding funding avenues for Transition Aged Youth. She noted that the funding overview of the private portion of the funding streams, adding that there is additional funding from the state and federal partners. She shared that there are both evidence-based changes and direct services in the partnership between private and public stakeholders. Riffel continued by defining unconnected youth and young adults and the services available for young people in Nebraska. Riffel also shared information regarding state and national training available. Lastly, Riffel provided a breakdown of the CYI Annual Investment by Source and result area.

Members asked questions regarding detention center youth outreach. Riffel noted that CYI doesn't yet track a detention center youth cohort. Riffel also provided information regarding how CYI determines the amounts allocated to each result area and how other states handle similar programs.

Co-Chair Flowers asked about Chaffee funding as it relates to the tribes of Nebraska. Riffel noted opportunity to grow in regard to services to tribes, and also offered to have discussions with Flowers outside the meeting.

Laura Opfer added that Deanna Brakhage will be invited to discuss the DHHS side of funding.

7. Normalcy Subcommittee

Felicia Nelsen shared information regarding the work of the Subcommittee. She noted that the group has been reviewing Normalcy Plans and Reports. She added that the group had a good timeline this year to help the groups fill out the plans and reports better. Nelsen noted that the group met individually with providers and entered data into Survey Monkey, in order to send out a memo with feedback to aid the providers. She continued that the group plans on changing the report template to add ghost wording of good examples to help make the plans better. Co-chair Gardella shared more information regarding the one-on-one meetings with the providers.

8. APPLA Subcommittee

Laura Opfer shared the recent work of the Subcommittee. She noted a recent meeting with DHHS regarding the TAYA (Transition Aged Youth Advocates) recommendation from the 2021 SFA Annual Report. Opfer was happy with the result of the meeting. Roger Robinson and Alger Studstill will be working on identifying TAYA within each service area. Robinson and Studstill noted that pay or funding for additional workers would be a barrier. Opfer is hopeful for movement in the next few months. Members discussed previous informal recommendations regarding transition aged youth.

9. Trafficking Subcommittee

Laura Opfer noted that this Subcommittee hasn't met as it is waiting to see what happens with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation grant. Co-chair Flowers noted that NICWC also has an interest in the grant and will be following it closely.

10. Strategic Priorities Discussion (SWOT)

Laura Opfer shared a brief review of the SFA Statute. Co-Chair Flowers lead the group through SWOT Analysis via a Google Jamboard here: https://jamboard.google.com/d/1acqkqIUOzLSet5bSa6lJFltRUO4ZCe_FbXI20_0BPo4/viewer?f=0

11. New Business

There was no new business.

12. Public Comment

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

13. Next Steps

Co-chair Flowers noted that Hilderbrand, Opfer and herself will meet prior to the next meeting and use the SWOT analysis to determine strategic priorities.

14. Upcoming Meetings

- February 15, 2022
- June 7, 2022
- August 2, 2022
- October 18, 2022

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson