

Bridge to Independence (B2i) Advisory Committee

October 31, 2023

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Nebraska State Office Building
Lower Level Sarpy Conference Room
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68508

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Co-Chair Richard Hasty called the meeting of the Bridge to Independence (B2i) Advisory Committee to order at 9:38 a.m. and asked Adam Anderson to call roll.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members present (9):

Richard Hasty
Sarah Helvey
Proxy for Michaela Hirschman, Angela Miles
Proxy for Jill Holt, Kitty Washburn
Jovan Johnson

Felipe Longoria-Shinn
Bailey Perry
Keenan Page
Susan Thomas

Committee Members absent (5):

Douglas Beck
Whitney Beck
Christina Lloyd

Mia Pokorny
Haylee Wing

Ex-Officio Members present (1):

Brandy Gustoff

Ex-Officio Members absent (4):

Maghan Madsen
Jennifer Skala

Theresa Cusic
Lindsay Meyer

A quorum was present.

Guests In Attendance (9):

Amanda Adams
Adam Anderson
Deanna Brakhage
Michelle Muhle

Shayne Schiermeister
Dylan Grave
Sara Drueke
Melissa Schaerer

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

It was moved by Susan Thomas and seconded by Sarah Helvey to approve the agenda as presented.

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

FOR (8):

Richard Hasty
Sarah Helvey
Proxy for Michaela Hirschmann, Angela Miles
Jovan Johnson

Felipe Longori-Shinn
Keenan Page
Bailey Perry
Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Douglas Beck
Jill Holt
Christina Lloyd

Mia Pokorny
Susan Thomas
Haylee Wing

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Bailey Perry to approve the July 28, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Proxy for Michaela Hirschman, Angela Miles. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (8):

Richard Hasty
Sarah Helvey
Proxy for Michaela Hirschmann, Angela Miles
Jovan Johnson

Felipe Longori-Shinn
Keenan Page
Bailey Perry
Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Douglas Beck
Jill Holt
Christina Lloyd

Mia Pokorny
Susan Thomas
Haylee Wing

MOTION CARRIED

V. Co-Chair Report

Co-Chair Hasty noted that we have Region 6 providers in attendance as well as former participants. Hasty also shared information regarding a recent hearing regarding probation placed youth.

Amanda Adams noted that the FCRO is also interested in expanding b2i for youth with all immigration statuses.

Hasty shared information regarding the NCC retreat.

VI. Membership Update

Adam Anderson shared a membership update. He noted no new members are up for appointment.

VII. Nebraska Total Care Presentation

Jamaree Maack and Michelle Muhle shared Power Point presentations with information regarding Nebraska Total Care (NTC) and NTC's Adolescent to Adult program.

Maack provided specific information regarding NTC's services and an overview of Nebraska's Medicaid system. She noted that the MCOs are working together to streamline access and differences between providers. Maack highlighted the differences in the providers such as NTC's value-add services. Maack shared that NTC can help with housing applications, phone access, transportation, and other things not normally associated with MCOs.

Foster Care Liaison from NTC, Michelle Muhle presented information regarding the care management program Adolescence to Adulthood. Muhle noted that the program is trauma informed care. Members discussed ways to identify new primary care providers and dentists. Muhle continued by highlighting specifics to the program. She answered questions regarding how the program reaches out and works with the young adult.

Members discussed Medicaid application and renewal processes for young adults as they progress through and age out of the b2i program, as well as provider selection and enrollment process.

Amanda Adams noted that she will discuss some of the priorities with Michelle Muhle and discuss.

VIII. Strategic Plan Priorities

Amanda Adams shared that the NCC wanted to create an active strategic plan. She noted that the b2i Committee is not specifically assigned a priority area, but is involved in reviewing services offered to the families.

IX. Senator Hansen Meeting Update

Amanda Adams shared that Senator Hansen offered to meet with the NCC Executives. The b2i recommendations didn't meet the cutoff for discussion, but immigration status was still discussed during the meeting. Richard Hasty shared his thoughts on the meeting and noted that he seemed open to discuss the items. Adams also shared that Senator Hansen was interested in efficiency, revenue, expenses and business models.

X. Workgroup Updates

a. Sustainability Workgroup

Keenan Page shared a handout with the vision and mission of the workgroup. He shared information regarding how the workgroup has been working through the VMOSA framework. Members and guests talked about the importance of hope and self-directed decision-making. Guests continued by

noting goals and goal guidance are important to the success in the program. Additional discussion continued regarding financial ramifications and aging out of b2i.

b. Data & Evaluation Workgroup

Heather Wood shared a packet with information containing the most recent case review data from the FCRO. She highlighted that for FY 2023 FCRO had conducted 199 case reviews. She shared information regarding the assessments. She added specific information regarding the data presented from the reviews. Wood and Deanna Brakhage noted that they will be diving into terminations and re-entries into b2i, to be shared at the next Data and Evaluation Workgroup meeting. Wood continued by noting key influencers on progress appear to be stable housing and “four or more occurrences of missing from care” led to higher rates of unstable housing. Additionally, Brakhage will be bringing information from the RISE program to upcoming meetings.

c. Immigration Status Workgroup

Amanda Adams shared that the group met to discuss the previous meeting of the b2i committee. Adams noted that the approach will be focused on what the community can do as opposed to what DHHS can do. She noted that other states do not have full participation regardless of immigration status. Felipe Longoria added that the group will also focus on what the b2i program do to prepare the youth for aging out of the foster care system. Adams identified members from the Commission on Latino-Americans and El Centro will be joining the conversation.

XI. DHHS Update

Angela Miles shared updated the Committee regarding the status of the Youth Thrive rollout. All training has been completed and rolled out as of October 1. She noted that the surveys will be completed every six months. Miles answered questions regarding the process. Deanna Brakhage distributed a CQI data handout, and reviewed the data.

XII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

XIII. New Business

Members discussed ideas for guests such as Junior Achievement and Jobs for American Graduates

XIV. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. January 16,, 2024, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM virtual

XV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 AM