

# Nebraska Children's Commission Meeting

May 14, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

5<sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conference Room  
Lincoln Community Foundation  
215 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, NE 68508

## 1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Melissa Nance welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM She asked attendees to introduce themselves and answer an icebreaker question. Roll call was taken by Adam Anderson through introductions.

## 2. Introductions and Roll Call

### *Commission Members Present (10)*

Jarren Breeling (11:20 AM)	Richard Hasty	Lana Temple-Plotz
A'Jamal Byndon	Sara Hoyle	Susan Thomas
Proxy for Misty Flowers, Felicia Nelsen	Melissa Nance	LaShawn Young
	Felicia Nelsen	

### *Commission Members Absent (1)*

Ron Giesselmann

### *Commission Ex-Officio Members Present (6)*

Proxy for Dr. Alyssa Bish, Camas Holder	Sen. Myron Dorn	Judge Amy Schuchman
Jennifer Carter	Monika Gross	Proxy for Deb VanDyke-Ries,
	LaDonna Jones-Dunlap	Theresa Cusic

### *Commission Ex-Officio Members Absent (5)*

Senator Beau Ballard	Tony Green
Senator Carol Blood	Kari Rumbaugh

**Roll call was taken through introductions, and a quorum was established.**

### *Guests in Attendance (3)*

Adam Anderson, Nebraska Children's Commission  
Mikayla Findlay, Nebraska Legislature  
Katie Nungesser, Voice for Children in Nebraska

#### *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 Meetings Calendar and Nebraska Children's Commission websites 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 Children's Commission Website.

### 3. Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Felicia Nelsen and seconded by A'Jamal Byndon to approve the agenda as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

**FOR (9):**

A'Jamal Byndon	Sarah Hoyle	Susan Thomas
Proxy for Misty Flowers, Felicia Nelsen	Melissa Nance	LaShawn Young
Richard Hasty	Felicia Nelsen	
	Lana Temple-Plotz	

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAIN (0):**

**ABSENT (2):**

Jarren Breeling	Ron Giesselmann
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**MOTION CARRIED**

*Note that the order of items in the minutes will not be reflective of the original agenda.*

### 4. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- a. [February 13, 2024 Minutes](#)
- b. [Co Chair Nominations](#)
- c. [Member Nomination Report](#)

It was moved by Felicia Nelsen and seconded by Lana Temple-Plotz to approve the Consent Agenda items. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

**FOR (9):**

A'Jamal Byndon	Sarah Hoyle	Susan Thomas
Proxy for Misty Flowers, Felicia Nelsen	Melissa Nance	LaShawn Young
Richard Hasty	Felicia Nelsen	
	Lana Temple-Plotz	

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAIN (0):**

**ABSENT (2):**

Jarren Breeling	Ron Giesselmann
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**MOTION CARRIED**

## **5. Commission Membership & Vacancies**

Adam Anderson shared an update that Governor Pillen's Office will be moving forward with appointments in the near future. Anderson shared a list of members who had reapplied for appointment. He noted that if a member's name was not shared to reapply via the governor's website. Anderson will share an e-mail with a link, the one-page Commission overview, and a deadline of application being June 1, 2024. He also shared that two members of the public applied for appointment and noted that the executive committee will provide feedback to the Governor's Office regarding those applicants.

Members discussed the application process.

## **6. Voices for Children in Nebraska**

Katie Nungesser from Voices for Children in Nebraska presented information from the 2023 Kids Count Report as well as other information regarding child welfare and juvenile justice in Nebraska.

Nungesser pointed out that during their review, data from the county courts do not contain racial and ethnic breakdowns for around 38% of youth. Judge Schuchman noted an upcoming Judicial Branch Meeting that might be beneficial to hear racial and ethnic data as well as information regarding fees from the counties. Nungesser noted that Voices for Children didn't have information regarding fees that the courts are receiving. She also shared information regarding the communication systems for Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers, that committed youth use to communicate with families is sometimes cost prohibitive. She noted that Voices for Children is looking at visitation policies at the detention centers. She shared information regarding truancy being the starting point of entering the juvenile justice system.

Nungesser continued by sharing family and education data. She noted that nine counties don't have a licensed childcare. She added that 74% of mothers are in the workforce and some counties have 100% of parent workforce employed and not enough childcare to accommodate this.

Nungesser shared that Voices for Children are taking every chance to go out in public to present information from the Kids Count report and other data. She noted that the national Annie E. Casey report comes out in June and may have comparisons among the states.

Nungesser also shared promising data regarding direct cash assistance that happened during the Pandemic.

## **7. DHHS Update**

### **a. TANF funds/Prevention dollars to Community Collaboratives**

Camas Holder shared that funding for 23 Community Collaboratives that started under Bring Up Nebraska is in place and all but seven counties covered. She noted that Children and Family Services dollars went to Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and now the agreements are being made with the Community Collaboratives. Holder noted an intention to look at a State Plan Amendment for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds for community-based prevention. Holder noted federal requirements for TANF funds. Holder shared that there is \$3 million at this time and for next year it will be \$6 million. Holder noted that funding allocation is based on size and history.

Holder continued and noted that DHHS is also looking at warmlines infrastructure. She added, the Family First Prevention Advisory Committee will provide input on what a warmline will look like. Holder shared that they are working on updating the FFPSA website to provide info about outcomes.

A'Jamal Byndon asked about the availability of information, and Holder noted that much of this information is on the DHHS website.

Holder noted some state statutes that would need updated to make a warmline work. Holder noted the differences between Alternative Response and a warmline. She noted that AR is an accepted intake and a warmline would not. She shared some information regarding other states that have a warmline and are figuring out how the referral process work. She added that FFPSA allows for warmlines and that warmlines have a central navigator to walk the

request through. Additionally, Holder noted that there's a difference between the Family Helpline in that the Helpline is more focused on behavioral health and concrete supports.

**b. Reimagine Wellbeing updates**

Holder noted that some of the recommendations that DHHS have taken out of the report, but no legislation has been introduced to move recommendations forward.

**c. CFSR initial updates/planning**

Holder noted that a Children and Families Service Review is coming in 2025. DHHS planning has started and a plan has been submitted. She state that April – September 2025 is the scheduled time.

**d. Programming/Contract Updates**

Holder noted that Director Bish is on leave.

A'Jamal Byndon noted that he would like to see administration sharing information out in the public.

Holder noted that Remonte Green will be the SAA over SESA and NSA. Brenda Brooks will be the SAA over WSA and Central.

**8. Probation Update**

Kari Rumbaugh joined the meeting virtually during the public comment portion of the meeting and provided an update. She noted that Sara Quiroz is now the Assistant Deputy, Amoreena Brady and Erin Curran have been promoted. She stated that new promotions have made Erin Curran's position open, and Brooke Fuhr is now the Specialist in charge of special projects. Rumbaugh continued, sharing that Ashley Casper is an Administrative Assistant. YRTC Re-Entry Position has been filled by Lisa Sufi. Rumbaugh noted that she will send out an org chart.

Rumbaugh shared that Probation continues to work with DHHS to look at getting a the TFC service up in running between July and October.

Rumbaugh shared that Professional Foster Care is now a registerable program on the website and multiple providers have onboarded.

Rumbaugh shared that probation has been working on a system enhancement to lift up certain recommendations within the report that will be approved by the Nebraska Supreme Court. She shared some specific recommendations that may be implemented from the report.

Rumbaugh shared updates from the Quarterly Outcome Report and will share a link to the strategic plan.

**9. Committee Update**

**a. Alternative Response Committee**

Monika Gross shared that LB 1417 would've removed AR Committee, and the workgroup will meet in July to approve recommendations. She shared that the Children's Bureau released legal representation for foster youth.

**b. Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee**

Richard Hasty provided an update regarding the most recent meeting of the B2i Committee.

**c. Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee**

Felicia Nelsen discussed the FCRRRC Report, providing highlights from the work done over the course of the last few years to develop the report.

**It was moved by A'Jamal Byndon and seconded by LaShawn Young to approve the FCRRRC 2024 Report with revisions as discussed.** There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

**FOR (10):**

Jarren Breeling  
A'Jamal Byndon  
Proxy for Misty Flowers,  
Felicia Nelsen

Richard Hasty  
Sarah Hoyle  
Melissa Nance  
Felicia Nelsen

Lana Temple-Plotz  
Susan Thomas  
LaShawn Young

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAIN (0):**

**ABSENT (1):**

Ron Giesselmann

**MOTION CARRIED**

**d. Juvenile Services Committee**

Adam Anderson provided an update regarding the recent work of the JSC and its workgroups.

**e. Strengthening Families Act Committee**

Adam Anderson provided an update regarding the most recent meeting of the SFA Committee.

**f. Lived Experience**

Jarren Breeling noted that the workgroup had met, and during the discussion the group has decided to partner with organizations to meet in their space to ask for feedback on Children's Commission topics.

**10. Public Comment**

Vice Chair Nance opened the floor for public comment. Kari Rumbaugh shared updates from Probation.

**11. New Business**

There was no new business.

**12. Upcoming Meeting Planning**

- a. August 6, 2024, Virtual
- b. November 12, 2024

**13. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Adam Anderson