

Nebraska Children’s Commission Meeting

August 6, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Webex
And
Foster Care Review Office Conference Room
1225 L Street, Suite 401
Lincoln, NE 68508

1. Call to Order

Vice Misty Flowers welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM She asked attendees to introduce themselves. Roll call was taken by Adam Anderson through introductions.

2. Introductions and Roll Call

Commission Members Present (7)

Jarren Breeling	Melissa Nance	Susan Thomas
A’Jamal Byndon	Felicia Nelsen	
Misty Flowers	Lana Temple-Plotz	

Commission Members Absent (3)

Ron Giesselmann	Sara Hoyle
Richard Hasty	LaShawn Young

Commission Ex-Officio Members Present (6)

Jennifer Carter	Monika Grozz	Kari Rumbaugh
Tony Green	LaDonna Jones-Dunlap	Deb VanDyke-Ries

Commission Ex-Officio Members Absent (5)

Senator Beau Ballard	Senator Myron Dorn
Alyssa Bish	Judge Amy Schuchman
Senator Carol Blood	

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

Guests in Attendance (4)

Adam Anderson
Logan Chitty
Camas Holder
Ivy Svoboda

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 Jarren Breeling to approve the agenda as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (7):

Jarren Breeling
A'Jamal Byndon
Misty Flowers

Melissa Nance
Felicia Nelsen
Lana Temple-Plotz

Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

ABSENT (4):

Ron Giesselmann
Richard Hasty

Sara Hoyle
LaShawn Young

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. [May, 14, 2024 Minutes](#)
- b. [Member Nomination Report](#)

It was moved by Susan Thomas and seconded by Felicia Nelsen to approve the consent agenda items as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (7):

Jarren Breeling
A'Jamal Byndon
Misty Flowers

Melissa Nance
Felicia Nelsen
Lana Temple-Plotz

Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

ABSENT (4):

Ron Giesselmann
Richard Hasty

Sara Hoyle
LaShawn Young

MOTION CARRIED

5. Commission Membership & Vacancies

Adam Anderson shared information regarding membership updates, noting that no movement has been made on appointments. Chair Flowers suggested that the Executive Committee could prepare communication to the Governor's Office regarding appointments. Commission staff will help draft an email to the Governor's Office.

6. Diversity and Inclusion Engagement

Chair Flowers led the group through a real-time survey regarding diversity and inclusion, through Mentimeter: <https://www.menti.com/alrop7d67qf4>. Sage Leis proposed sending out a more lengthy survey ahead of the November meeting. A'Jamal Byndon shared thoughts regarding diversity on state boards and committees and thoughts about exit interviews for members. Susan Thomas shared thoughts regarding geographic inclusion for all of Nebraska.

Chair Flowers reviewed the survey results and discussion continued. Adam Anderson will share the results.

7. DHHS Update

a. Special Session Funding Legislation Update

Camas Holder noted that Director Corsi supported agency budget funding at hearing. Holder noted that no reduction in CFS staff will occur from the proposed budget changes.

b. CFSR initial updates/planning

Holder shared a handout with the proposed Nebraska CFSR Process. She provided an overview of the plan. She noted that this will be a state-led process ahead of the April-September 2025 review. She noted that stakeholder interviews begin in May 2025 for approximately 80 case families. She encouraged interested stakeholders to reach out to be put on a list of interested interviewees.

Holder clarified that a state-led process was encouraged by the Federal partners for those states that have comprehensive CQI systems. Federal partners continue to complete the second-level reviews in the process.

c. Programming/Contract Updates

Holder continued by noting that the CFS referral module begins next week. It allows for referrals to be built into the provider portal starting August 12. Additionally, there will be training positions posted or soon to be posted. B2i will also have additional postings 1 Independence Coordinator and 1 program specialist posting soon for Probation expansion.

Holder also noted that there will be a clinical team providing support for certain high-acuity children and families.

Deb VanDyke-Ries asked about internal training and the new clinical team. Holder proposed having Director of Talent Acquisition, Dr. Katherine O'Hagan present at the November Commission meeting. Holder stated that the new training is currently being developed, and there are intentions on it being a more hands-on training with additional mentoring and support throughout the first year of CFS employment. She added that Dr. O'Hagan has brought together CFS staff to review the current training. A'Jamal Byndon shared thoughts about the importance of community training and sharing training. Holder laid out a timeline in response to a question, noting that around December 2024 will be the approximate date of the new process.

Holder responded to a question regarding a Federal Final Rule by sharing that DHHS is currently drafting new regulations in response to the new Federal Final Rule for LGBTQ+ homes that are suitable for LGBTQ+ youth.

8. Probation Update

a. Structure Updates

Kari Rumbaugh started by asking for recommendations about discussion topics for future. Sara Quiroz is now the Assistant Deputy.

b. Programming/Contract Updates

Kari Rumbaugh shared that the current JJSEN is now posted on the internet and Probation is now beginning to incorporate recommendations. The recommendation regarding youth and family engagement has begun with embedded language regarding youth and family engagement in protocol. She noted that they are working on investigation policy for courts to use in disposition.

Additionally, Probation is looking at enhancing behavioral health screenings. Probation will be bringing in MASEY II and CTS and removing out-of-date assessments. Probation will be launching pilot in September in Lancaster, Hastings, O'Neil, Broken Bow.

Rumbaugh continued by discussing service access noting that providers that target their risk and need in Western Nebraska are needed. Probation has made progress in foster care and has initiated a contract with UNK who will be doing an environmental study to fill gaps to help support staff judges, court system. She is hopeful it will conclude later in fall.

Rumbaugh shared Q2 report. She noted continued stabilization, and increase in new youth after COVID, but now stabilization. She added that Probation continues to utilize tangible incentives with success.

Rumbaugh spoke about LB705, with is a data sharing report with Bellweather. She noted that they are currently having interviews with a report expected in September. She noted that the partners are ED, CFS, and Probation.

In response to a question, Rumbaugh noted that the Supreme Court Judicial Services Committee receives the quarterly reports for review and discussion. She also responded that there is no specific conversation outside of JDAI partner discussion regarding racial and ethnic disparities.

9. Committee Update

a. Alternative Response Committee

Monika Gross noted that the AR Committee submitted a report in December. She shared a recommendation from the Legal Services work group and what that work group will focus on in the future.

b. Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee

It was moved by Felicia Nelsen and seconded by Susan Thomas to approve the B2i Annual Report as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (6):

Jarren Breeling
A'Jamal Byndon

Misty Flowers
Melissa Nance

Felicia Nelsen
Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

ABSENT (5):

Ron Giesselmann
Richard Hasty
Sara Hoyle

Lana Temple-Plotz
LaShawn Young

MOTION CARRIED

c. Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

Felicia Nelsen noted that the FCRRRC had submitted the report and that the NCR Workgroup is looking at other states for a simplified assessment for foster care reimbursement.

d. Juvenile Services Committee

It was moved by Susan Thomas and seconded by Lana Temple-Plotz to approve the JSC/NCJJ Annual Report as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (6):

Jarren Breeling
A'Jamal Byndon
Misty Flowers

Melissa Nance
Felicia Nelsen

Lana Temple-Plotz
Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

ABSENT (4):

Ron Giesselmann
Richard Hasty

Sara Hoyle
LaShawn Young

MOTION CARRIED

e. Strengthening Families Act Committee

Members discussed moving forward with the work of the SFA. Members speculated if the work of the committee be rolled into another committee.

Members also discussed announcing vacancies and social media. Monika Gross noted that FCRO outsources social media. Sage Leis discussed the idea of a newsletter. Gross shared that the FCRO uses Say Hey There for social media and will share that info with Commission staff.

f. Lived Experience

Jarren Breeling noted that the Workgroup will have further discussion at the November meeting along with the family run organization invited to share at the meeting.

10. Approval of NCC Annual Report

Adam Anderson provided an overview of changes needed to be made to the NCC report and the SFA report. Members discussed changes at length.

It was moved by Lana Temple-Plotz and seconded by Susan Thomas to approve the SFA Annual Report and NCC Annual report with revisions as approved by Chair Flowers prior to submission. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (7):

Jarren Breeling
A'Jamal Byndon
Misty Flowers

Melissa Nance
Felicia Nelsen

Lana Temple-Plotz
Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

ABSENT (4):

Ron Giesselmann
Richard Hasty

Sara Hoyle
LaShawn Young

MOTION CARRIED

11. Public Comment

Vice Chair Nance opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

12. New Business

There was no new business.

13. Upcoming Meeting Planning

- a. November 12, 2024

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson

DRAFT