

Nebraska Children's Commission Meeting

January 15, 2025
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

Chair Misty Flowers welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM She asked attendees to introduce themselves. Roll call was taken by Adam Anderson through introductions.

2. Introductions and Roll Call

Commission Members Present (10)

Jarren Breeling	Sara Hoyle (10:25 AM)	Susan Thomas
Misty Flowers	Melissa Nance	LaShawn Young
Ron Giesselmann	Felicia Nelsen	
Richard Hasty	Lana Temple-Plotz	

Commission Members Absent (0)

Commission Ex-Officio Members Present (5)

Proxy for Dr. Alyssa Bish, Camas Holder	Kari Rumbaugh
Jennifer Carter	Judge Amy Schuchman
Monika Gross	

Commission Ex-Officio Members Absent (4)

Senator Beau Ballard	Tony Green
Senator Myron Dorn	Deb VanDyke-Ries

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

Guests in Attendance (6)

Adam Anderson, Nebraska Children's Commission
Theresa Goley, Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Co-Chair
Sage Leis, Nebraska Children's Commission
Amy Ambrose, Foster Parent
Katie Nungesser, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
Peggy Galaway, Jefferson County Pretrial and Diversion Services Director
Ivy Svoboda, Nebraska CAC
Kathryn O'Hagan, Nebraska Human Services
Anahi Salazaar, Voices for Children
Cody Manthei, Parent with Lived Experience

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 **Richard Hasty** and seconded by **Melissa Nance** to approve the agenda with amendment to include membership nominations. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (9):

Jarren Breeling
Misty Flowers
Ron Giesselmann

Richard Hasty
Melissa Nance
Felicia Nelsen

Lana Temple-Plotz
Susan Thomas
LaShawn Young

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

ABSENT (1):

Sara Hoyle

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. [October 29, 2024 Meeting Minutes](#)
- b. [Member Nomination Report](#)

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

FOR (9):

Jarren Breeling
Misty Flowers
Ron Giesselmann

Richard Hasty
Melissa Nance
Felicia Nelsen

Lana Temple-Plotz
Susan Thomas
LaShawn Young

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

ABSENT (1):

Sara Hoyle

MOTION CARRIED

5. Governance Document Amendment

Adam Anderson reviewed the proposed changes to the Governance Document regarding quorum. He shared that over the last few years, the Commission and Committees under the Commission have only failed to reach quorum a few times, and those times were likely due to circumstances revolving around the pandemic and weather conditions.

Members discussed the options provided by Anderson and asked questions regarding the outcome of the proposed changes.

It was moved by Lana Temple-Plotz and seconded by Richard Hasty to approve amendment of the Governance and Organization Structure document page 3, paragraph 4, to read “A simple majority of voting members is required to hold a meeting and take any action.” There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (8):

Jarren Breeling
Misty Flowers
Ron Giesselmann

Richard Hasty
Melissa Nance
Felicia Nelsen

Lana Temple-Plotz
Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

ABSENT (2):

Sara Hoyle
LaShawn Young

6. Commission Membership and Vacancies

Adam Anderson noted that he had spoken with Pat Selk at the Office of the Governor. Selk informed Anderson that some time-sensitive judicial appointments needed to be made, and then the Governor’s Office will work on getting appointments made to the Commission. Selk added that the Commission had not been forgotten. Members questioned Anderson regarding their application status. Anderson noted that the Governor’s Office will be in contact with Commission staff prior to announcing appointments to determine if there are any conflicts.

7. Chair Report

Chair Flowers noted that the Chair Report has already been covered in previous agenda items and strategic priorities have also been discussed.

8. Policy Analyst Update

Sage Leis shared that social media is going well and so far over 30K have been reached. She noted that all our ads have a like, follow, and subscribe tag for future engagement.

Leis shared that there is a bill about appointments introduced. Leis explained the appointment bill, that it gives certain timelines regarding appointments and when the legislature would step in if appointments aren’t made by the Governor. Leis also shared information about LB 181, that extends B2i and Medicaid to lawfully present immigrants. Leis also shared information regarding committee chairs and refocusing the work in the new year.

9. Chair Report

Chair Misty Flowers shared that she had a chance to sit in on the Joyce James Groundwater Analysis presentation. She mentioned that in the past, perhaps DHHS had provided that training. She shared that she enjoyed the training and found out that it is rather costly, however it is something worthwhile for engagement in diversity and inclusion. Members discussed that it might be a good opportunity for subcommittees, if there is funding available.

10. DHHS Update

Camas Holder shared that there are no updates for the 2025 CFSR. Stakeholder interviews and monthly meetings are underway. This is the first state-led CFSR. The 1st level review will be conducted by the state and then the ACF will review 2nd level.

Holder shared that the Child and Family Services Plan has been submitted this summer. It has been approved by the ACF for 2025-2029. The yearly AFSR allows for revisions in the interim. Holder shared websites with information in the website: Child and Family Services State Plan , and [Nebraska 2025 APSR Final Report.pdf](#)

Holder shared that prior outcome data from page 31 shows interesting information. She shared highlights from page 54 regarding the service array.

Holder noted that B2i expansion to juvenile justice has begun as of January 1, 2025. She noted that approximately 1-2 participants per month growth is expected.

Holder shared that 20 bills have dropped in the last week affecting CFS that are being followed. There are more that are expected. She highlighted LB 48 regarding Family Resource Centers, and home visitation.

Holder shared that contract review will begin shortly. Late March, early April will have more detailed information shared with contract updates.

Holder shared that there will be town hall meetings regarding Comprehensive Foster Care later in January or early February. She noted that this is an identified response for high-acuity youth. She will share additional information when meeting minutes are shared with the Commission.

11. Probation Update

Kari Rumbaugh shared that Probation Administrator Deb Minardi has submitted for retirement effective at the end of January. Chief Justice Funke has been sworn in.

Trauma-informed assessments will be implemented in districts 3J, 8, 10. In the summer, experts will come in to train in the TARGET Model. There will be a 30 provider cohort from an RFQ after.

Adolescent development will be a focus for Probation internally, and through the CIP for providers. Rumbaugh shared history regarding this training expansion.

Rumbaugh also shared information regarding the B2i expansion to probation.

Rumbaugh noted that they are working with UNK regarding an environmental scan in the rural areas of Nebraska.

There has been a request for information for highest level of intensive placement services has closed and providers have responded.

The tool for evaluating risk assessment has been validated but not finalized back in 2013. Probation is attempting again for validation.

Lastly, Rumbaugh shared information regarding concern over youth involved in serious crimes. She noted that 3% of probation involved youth with very high risk. According to Rumbaugh, the youth with very high needs are always a focus for the Juvenile Division.

Rumbaugh answered questions regarding evidence-based programs for families. She noted that probation has brought in MST, and now 86% of counties have that service. There are also parent support services.

12. Committee Update

a. Alternative Response Committee

Monika Gross noted that the Committee has not met since the last meeting. The Co-Chairs will meet and to determine next steps. Guests discussed needed data from CFS regarding AR cases. Holder discussed the

process of voluntary cases. Holder added that when families decline AR, CFS offers other supports. Holder noted that data regarding recidivism is available, but reasons for declines requires more hand counting.

b. Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee

Co-Chair Hasty discussed the recent meeting of the B2i. He noted that discussions involved co-chair positions and engagement from b2i participants, and b2i networking events. He also shared that the Committee would like to explore the idea of an opt out system. He noted that there are many ideas coming up for discussion at the next meeting.

c. Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

Felicia Nelsen noted that the NCR group continues to meet to discuss the revisions to the NCR for foster care rates payment. Theresa Goley noted that there is a draft of a new NCR. She also added that workgroup has a diverse and engaged membership. Goley shared a little about the history of scoring tools in the state. Sage Leis share that the next meeting will be January 27, and she will share the information with those that are interested.

d. Juvenile Services Committee

Leis shared that the JSC has an upcoming meeting on January 23rd. Leis shared that she will be working with the Co-Chairs to reengage the workgroups.

e. Strengthening Families Act Committee

Ron Giesselmann shared that the SFA is in the process of restructuring and looking at introducing new topics as well as staying true to the federal and state mandates.

13. New Business

There was no new business.

14. Upcoming Meeting Planning

- a. April 15th
- b. July 15th

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson