

Nebraska Children's Commission Meeting

April 15, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

KVC Lincoln
5001 Central Park Drive
Lincoln, NE 68504

1. Call to Order

Melissa Nance welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM She asked attendees to introduce themselves. Roll call was taken by Adam Anderson through introductions.

2. Introductions and Roll Call

Commission Members Present (6)

Misty Flowers

Ron Giesselmann

Richard Hasty

Melissa Nance

Felicia Nelsen

Susan Thomas

Commission Members Absent (4)

Jarren Breeling

Sara Hoyle

Lana Temple-Plotz

LaShawn Young

Commission Ex-Officio Members Present (5)

Proxy for Dr. Alyssa Bish, Camas Holder

Jennifer Carter

Monika Gross

Dr. Tom Janousek

Kari Rumbaugh

Commission Ex-Officio Members Absent (4)

Senator Beau Ballard

Senator Myron Dorn

Judge Amy Schuchman

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

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 Ron Giesselmann and seconded by Richard Hasty to approve the agenda as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (6):

Misty Flowers
Ron Giesselmann

Richard Hasty
Melissa Nance

Felicia Nelsen
Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

ABSENT (4):

Jarren Breeling
Sara Hoyle

Lana Temple-Plotz
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. [January 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)
- b. [Member Nomination Report](#)

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

FOR (6):

Misty Flowers
Ron Giesselmann

Richard Hasty
Melissa Nance

Felicia Nelsen
Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

ABSENT (4):

Jarren Breeling
Sara Hoyle

Lana Temple-Plotz
LaShawn Young

MOTION CARRIED

5. Commission Membership & Vacancies

Adam Anderson discussed the ongoing efforts obtaining appointments to the Commission from the Governor's Office. He noted that technically the terms have passed, but June 30, 2025 would mark the end of the 2023-2025 term. He did not have information about whose appointment applications the Governor's Office had on file, as there has been no communication regarding applications on file.

Adam Anderson shared that Jarren Breeling was no longer able to serve on the Executive Committee that she had been nominated for. Members discussed options moving forward.

It was moved by Felicia Nelsen and seconded by Misty Flowers to nominate Kari Rumbaugh to serve on the Executive Committee. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (6):

Misty Flowers
Ron Giesselmann

Richard Hasty
Melissa Nance

Felicia Nelsen
Susan Thomas

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAIN (0):

ABSENT (4):

Jarren Breeling

Sara Hoyle

Lana Temple-Plotz

LaShawn Young

MOTION CARRIED

Adam Anderson spoke about membership of the Committees and how social media plays a role in the membership process and how the social media account process works.

Members talked about financial issues from other boards and commissions as reported by the State Auditor, due to the lack of oversight.

Adam Anderson discussed LB 346 and how it would affect membership of the B2i and FCRRRC. He explained what the bill would do to affect the duties of the Commission.

6. DHHS Update

a. CFSR Initial Updates/Planning

Camas Holder noted that there has been eliminations of five regional offices under ACF, down from ten, but the CFSR is moving forward as planned. She added that the long-term regional partner has retired and is no longer with ACF. Holder noted that there is a new partner that DHHS will be working with. She noted that at this time the review will be a self-review.

b. CFSP Update

Holder noted no updates with the CFSP. She stated that a link to the DHHS website showing the planning was sent out last meeting. She shared that the ASPSR is moving forward as planned.

c. New Worker Training Update

Holder reminded the Commission that new-worker training moved in-house months ago. She shared that surveys have been distributed to new workers and their peers, and results have been positive and have stated that they are coming out of training better prepared for the work.

d. Budgetary Updates

Holder noted no change during the current biennium.

e. Other Updates

Holder shared that the new FFPSA has been submitted and has not substantially changed since the previous iteration. Holder speculated about eight months for approval. Holder noted the main change is to recommend a community pathway and a warmline to pull IV-E funding to those that don't have to be pulled into the system to access services.

Holder shared information about Family Centered Treatment that about 85 families are utilizing across the state. She noted that it is about a six-month program. She shared that the first round of families is almost ready to exit and results are looking promising.

Holder shared that B2i enrollment for Probation youth has been progressing at the anticipated rate. She noted about five youth currently from probation enrolled.

Holder took questions about training, noting that the first group has almost exited.

Holder shared information about STAR Reviews: Safe, Timely, Accelerated Reunifications. She noted that this review will focus on achieving permanency with strategic staffing. Holder explained why this should be operationalized across the board.

Holder took a question about the child welfare grievance process. She noted that questions should be referred to the Ombudsmen and Grievance Process. Members noted that the Ombudsmen can walk a person through the process and make sure that DHHS policies are being followed. Members suggested building-in links on the Commission website to other websites, such as OIG and Ombudsman and Grievance Process and Supreme Court Grievance Process, FAQ. Misty Flowers talked about NICWC specific cases.

7. Probation Update

Kari Rumbaugh shared a link to a [handout](#) and discussed the quarterly data points. She noted a stabilization of the population coming out of the rise post COVID. She also noted a slight dip in the length of probation and a slight increase of out-of-home youth. Rumbaugh shared that the graduated response incentive program continues to increase, and she has shown increase continually since the beginning of the program. She added that the incentive program is grant-funded that provides tangible goods, and it has been expanded into special rewards. The program is getting Probation close to the four-to-one, sanctions to rewards average.

Rumbaugh shared information about the JJSEN implementation from the over 40 recommendations such as new screening, trauma screening. She noted that with this implementation also comes provider training in the TARGET program, which clinicians across the state have signed up for the year-long program. She is excited about the additional training clinicians are able to have access to. She added that districts 11 and 12 have completed an environmental scan that she now has access to, and Probation received 11 responses from their RFI to provide the RESTORE model.

Rumbaugh shared information about the targeted furlough process that is being tested for re-entry from YRTCs.

Rumbaugh also shared information about the concerns about very young violent offenders. She noted coordination between agencies and systems by identifying at risk youth and looking at special factors to study that population.

Rumbaugh noted conversations are ongoing about what would happen with a budget reduction.

Members discussed parent accountability in probation cases. Rumbaugh noted special considerations from judges regarding the challenge of holding parents accountable for youth on probation. Members focused on age ranges where parents would be held accountable. Members also discussed a warmline for prevention and incentivizing parents.

Members discussed community access to services and prevention.

8. Committee Update

a. Alternative Response Committee

Co-Chair Monika Gross noted that the AR Committee met on February 28, and the Committee talked about reorganization and what the workgroups want to work on. Gross talked about prepetition services, data and oversight. Gross stated that the group would like to see data about cases flipping from AR to TR, reentry rates, and other data points. She also shared vacancies for the Committee.

b. Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee

Chair Richard Hasty stated that the B2i Committee met on March 26 and talked about data, marketing and membership. Hasty talked about the pending LB 346 legislation for the Committee regarding immigrant populations. Hasty also discussed the planning of the workgroups, as well as reviewing the statute for eligibility and an opt-out possibility.

Hasty also talked about informational brochures to be posted on our website and perhaps social media advertising and noted that the next meeting will be June 22.

Hasty clarified what the opt-out scenario would look like rather than the current process of having to opt-in to B2i.

Members discussed the implications of LB 296 regarding the education records of youth.

c. Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

Co-Chair Theresa Goley noted that the NCR Workgroup is working on a new form to replace current NCR. Goley said the Workgroup is looking at trying to capture the population that may be missed under the current form. She continued that it will score the youth and the foster parent on the same form. Goley spoke about the intent of the form, and she noted that there have been some tests with samples of youth in foster care. Goley also talked about the next steps, and thanked Julie Smith for her hard work on the form.

Adam Anderson will update the group about the work of the Committee during the interim.

d. Juvenile Services Committee

Adam Anderson talked about recent work of the JSC. He shared information about the workgroups of the Committee, noting that the Access to Services Workgroup is working on a plan to reduce YRTC population by bundling the services provided at the YRTCs to be provided in the community by way of a potential State Plan Amendment. He shared that the Continuum of Care Workgroup is conducting surveys of the YRTCs and congregate care facilities. Lastly, he shared information regarding the R/ED Workgroup, noting the tentative plan was to wrap the services into a larger workgroup

focused on accessibility to all. He noted that more information about the R/ED Workgroup will be coming out with the new Policy Analyst.

e. Strengthening Families Act Committee

Ron Giesselmann talked about the work of the Committee by sharing the plan to make the Subcommittees more active and practical to work on.

9. New Business

Members discussed the interim plan for the Policy Analyst. Monika Gross walked the Commission through the hiring process and information about the strength of the applicants.

10. Upcoming Meeting Planning

- a. August 7th
- b. October 15th

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson