

Bridge to Independence (B2i) Advisory Committee

January 28, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Webex
&
FCRO Conference Room
1225 L Street, Suite 401
Lincoln, NE 68508

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Richard Hasty called the meeting of the Bridge to Independence (B2i) Advisory Committee to order at 10:06 a.m. and asked Adam Anderson to call roll.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members present (8):

Terry Gibbs
Richard Hasty
Camas Holder
Felipe Longoria-Shinn
Sarah Mitchell

Proxy for Sami Spain, Hannah Olafson
Susan Thomas
Kitty Washburn

Committee Members absent (3):

Dylan Graeve
Monalisa McGee

Camille Ohri

Ex-Officio Members present (3):

Colton Stogdill
Theresa Cusic

Brooke Fuhr

Ex-Officio Members absent (2):

Jennifer Skala

Senator Glen Meyer

A quorum was present.

Guests In Attendance (11):

Adam Anderson
Mindy Anderson
Darra Boetel
Deanna Brakhage
Deborah Dancer
Chloe Fowler

Grace Johnson
Angela Morehead
Melissa Pratt
Caitlin Whitehead
Terrence Williams

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 Terry Gibbs and seconded by Susan Thomas to approve the agenda as presented.

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

FOR (7):

Terry Gibbs
Richard Hasty
Camas Holder
Felipe Longoria-Shinn

Proxy for Sami Spain, Hanna Olafson
Susan Thomas
Kitty Washburn

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Dylan Graeve
Monalisa McGee

Sarah Mitchell
Camille Ohri

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Kitty Washburn and seconded by Camas Holder to approve the October 30, 2025 minutes as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (7):

Terry Gibbs
Richard Hasty
Camas Holder
Felipe Longoria-Shinn

Proxy for Sami Spain, Hanna Olafson
Susan Thomas
Kitty Washburn

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Dylan Graeve
Monalisa McGee

Sarah Mitchell
Camille Ohri

MOTION CARRIED

V. Co-Chair Report

Chair Richard Hasty noted the June 30, 2026 sunset date, but the Committee will continue under the direction of the Children's Commission.

VI. Policy Analyst Update

Chloe Fowler, Child Welfare Policy Analyst, noted that due to a \$471M budget deficit, anything with a fiscal note looks unlikely to have movement. She discussed the activation of the NCC Legislative Workgroup, which meets every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. to review relevant bills. She shared an overview of bills being tracked by the Commission:

- **LB 741:** Proposes adding a member of the Nebraska Commission on African American Affairs to the Children's Commission executive commission.
- **LB 734:** Seeks to opt Nebraska out of certain federal work requirements (HR 1), specifically exempting foster youth under 24.
- **LB 928:** Requires DHHS to notify "victim kin" when a child is removed from a home.
- **LB 1032:** Focuses on recognizing tribal customary adoption definitions.
- **LB 668:** Defines "prevention cases" and allows for the use of federal funds (FFPSA) for community-based services to families without active safety threats.

She asked members to reach out if they are interested in joining. Hannah Olafson, Felipe Longoria-Shinn, and Susan Thomas.

Kitty Washburn also shared information regarding LB1032, which looks to accept tribal adoption definitions.

Camas Holder discussed LB668, dealing with prevention, registry, and other prevention characteristics, with the ability to claim federal funds.

VII. Workgroup Discussion

- a. Data and Evaluation Workgroup
 - Adam Anderson noted that workgroup has not met since the last meeting. He added that he will work to schedule a meeting with the Chair.
- b. Sustainability Workgroup
 - Co-Chair Felipe Longoria-Shinn noted that the group has met three times, with many interested.
 - Group has discussed the support connections between B2i Participants and their Independence Coordinators (ICs).
 - Group still defining sustainability but will have recommendations by April or May 2026.
- c. Special Populations Workgroup
 - Richard Hasty noted that Deborah Dancer, Executive Director of the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition, would like to lead the Special Populations Workgroup, but would likely be filtering updates through other members. Deborah Dancer will work with Adam Anderson to set up a meeting.

It was moved by Terry Gibbs and seconded by Susan Thomas to approve workgroups as listed in Item VII of the agenda, which includes: Data and Evaluation Workgroup, Sustainability Workgroup, and Special Populations Workgroup. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (7):

Terry Gibbs

Richard Hasty

Camas Holder
Felipe Longoria-Shinn
Proxy for Sami Spain, Hanna Olafson

Susan Thomas
Kitty Washburn

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Dylan Graeve
Monalisa McGee
Sarah Mitchell
Camille Ohri

VIII. Membership Update

Adam Anderson shared information regarding the membership of the Committee. He noted that Angela Jarecki has moved out of state, and contact has been lost with Mia Pokorny. He stated that the committee is actively seeking young adults with lived experience and a representative from a federally-recognized tribe residing in Nebraska.

IX. DHHS Update

Due to a scheduling announcement error for this meeting DHHS was unable to provide an update.

X. New Business

Brooke Fuhr shared that significantly less, about half as many have been referred to B2i, but only one youth has not accepted.

Terry Gibbs asked about the implementation of records requests from other states is proceeding.

XI. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Tentatively - April 28 2026, in-person time and location TBD.

XII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.