

Member Nomination Report

Report to the Nebraska Children's Commission

August 11, 2026

The following individuals have been nominated for membership on identified Committees as noted below.

Alternative Response Advisory Committee

- Representative of county human services
 - **Sara Hoyle, new appointment (Voting)** – Director, Lancaster County Human Services
- Representative of attorneys for parents
 - **Hazell Rodriguez, new appointment, replaces Pat Carraher (Voting)** – Attorney, Legal Aid of Nebraska
- Representative of the Department of Health and Human Services
 - **Jacie Boelts, reappointment (Voting)** – Program Specialist, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services
- Representative of the Foster Care Review Office
 - **Monika Gross, reappointment (Voting)** – Executive Director, Foster Care Review Office
- Representative of the state chapter of child advocacy centers
 - **Ivy Svoboda, reappointment (Voting)** – Executive Director, Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers
- Representative of the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare
 - **Jennifer Carter, reappointment (Voting)** – Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare, Office of Inspector General of Child Welfare
- Representative of county attorneys or other prosecutors
 - **Heather Sikyta, reappointment (Voting)** – County Attorney, Sherman County Attorney's Office
- Representative of a child welfare advocacy organization
 - **Susan Thomas, reappointment (Voting)** – Court Appointed Special Advocate, Nebraska CASA Association

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Subcommittee

- Foster parent who contracts with a child welfare agency
 - **Dwand Hall, new appointment (Voting)** – Foster Parent, OMNI
- Representative from a child advocacy organization that supports young adults who were in foster care as children
 - **Roger Keaton, new appointment (Voting)** – Chief Financial Officer, Child Saving Institute

Juvenile Services Committee

- Representative of DHHS, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care
 - **Kendra Bishop, replaces Bethany Nelsen (Non-voting Resource)** – DHHS Program Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care