# Member Nomination Report

Report to the Nebraska Children's Commission
November 17, 2026

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

## Alternative Response Advisory Committee

- Representative of law enforcement agencies
  - **Lt. Michelle Herweh, new appointment (Voting)** – Commander of Special Victims Unit, Lincoln Police Department
- Representative of guardians ad litem
  - **Lisa Gonzalez, new appointment (Voting)** – Attorney, Johnson and Pekny, LLC

## Juvenile Services Committee

- Representative of DHHS, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care
  - **Kendra Bishop, replaces Bethany Nelson (Resource)** – DHHS Program Coordinator, Medicaid and Long-Term Care
- Representative of Juvenile Probation
  - **Amoreena Brady, reappointment (Voting)** – Director, Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, Juvenile Services Division
- Judge Representative
  - **Judge Denise Kracl, reappointment (Voting)** – County Court Judge, Fifth Judicial District
- Defense Attorney Representative
  - **Dennis Marks, reappointment (Voting) –** Attorney, Sarpy County Public Defenders' Office
- Advocate Group Representative
  - **Tammy Sassaman, reappointment (Voting) –** Executive Director, Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association
- Group Home/Shelter Representative
  - **Vicky Smith, reappointment (Voting) –** Service Director, CEDARS Youth Services
- Representative of the Department of Education
  - **Grant Norgaard, new appointment (Voting) –** Assistant Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Education

## Strengthening Families Act Committee

- Representative of executive branch of government
  - **Deanna Brakhage, reappointment (Voting)** – Program Specialist, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services
- Young adult currently or previously in foster care
  - **Payne Ackerman, reappointment (Voting)** – Former Foster Youth
- Professional who has relevant practical experience
  - **Stephanie Bizzarri, reappointment (Voting)** – Foster Care Review Specialist, Foster Care Review Office
- Representative of a child care institution
  - **Ron Giesselmann, reappointment (Voting)** – Executive Director, Masonic-Eastern Star Home for Children
- Representative from an agency providing independent living services
  - **Bailey Perry, reappointment (Voting)** – Transitional Living Manager, Omaha Home for Boys, Jacob's Place
- Young adult currently or previously in foster care
  - **Ayebami Imani, reappointment (Voting)** – Former Foster Youth
- Professional who has relevant practical experience

- **Carissa Kollath, replaces Crystal Aldmeyer (Voting)** – Senior Lead, Prevention Network Older Youth Pathways, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation