

## **Nebraska Children's Commission**

Eighth Meeting  
January 16, 2013  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
DHHS – Gold's Building, Room 534  
1033 O Street, Lincoln, NE

### **Call to Order**

Karen Authier called the meeting to order at 9:07am and noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the room as required by state law.

### **Roll Call**

Commission Members present: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Marty Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer.

Commission Members absent: Jennifer Nelson and John Northrop.

Ex Officio Members present: Hon. Linda Porter, and Vicky Weisz.

Ex Officio Members absent: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, and Senator Heath Mello

Also in attendance: Sara Goscha, Vicki Maca, Wes Nespor, Russell Reno, and Leesa Sorensen from the Department of Health and Human Services.

### **Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Beth Baxter to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Mary Jo Pankoke. A voice vote of the members present was taken. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Marty Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

### **Approval of December 11, 2012, Minutes**

A motion was made by Gene Klein to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2012, meeting, seconded by Pam Allen. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney,

Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Marty Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson and John Northrop were absent. Motion carried.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Karen Authier provided the committee with information on the Executive Committee call that took place on December 14, 2012. Karen noted that the Executive Committee was asked to provide input on the agenda and direction for the Commission to move forward on Phase II of the Strategic Plan. Karen noted that the agenda for the day and the bulk of the meeting would be devoted to a discussion on the direction to take with phase II of the strategic plan. Karen then provided the list of reports to be considered by the Commission and provided possible questions that the members might want to address as a part of the general discussion.

### **Legislative Update**

Sheila Page, Legislative Aide for Senator Colby Coash, provided an update on legislation that Senator Coash plans to introduce related to Alternative Response (Differential Response) and kinship care. The Commission members were given the opportunity to ask questions on the details provided on each bill.

Commission members also provided updates on information they had on legislation that might be introduced by other Senators. The Commission members had a brief discussion on how the Nebraska Children's Commission should handle upcoming legislation.

### **System of Care Presentation**

Beth Baxter and Candy Kennedy-Goergen gave a presentation on Systems of Care to provide Commission members with general information on the key components of Systems of Care. The group had a brief discussion on the importance of the key components of System of Care as a framework for the decisions that will be made and work that will be done in Phase II of the Strategic Plan.

### **Phase II Strategic Planning General Discussion**

The Commission members discussed various aspects of the Phase II Strategic Planning process including a proposed work plan, the need for additional committees, the need for using a facilitator, how to document other work that is being done in Nebraska on the Phase I recommendations, and how to prioritize the work. Beth Baxter recorded the Commission suggestions.

The Commission determined that the decisions on the structure of DHHS and Lead Agencies should be handled apart from the work on the other recommendations. Judge Porter suggested that NFC and DHHS provide written information regarding the lead agency pilot and the

operations and structure of DHHS child welfare programs and services for Commission members to read and consider in advance of the February 22 meeting. The Commission members then asked that discussion of that information be included on the February agenda so that follow up questions on could be posed to NFC and DHHS.

There was agreement that the discussion groups established for the virtual discussions in Phase I planning reconvene to answer the following questions as they relate to each of the four goals in the Phase 1 Strategic Plan: 1) Who is involved across the state?; 2) What is the urgency of the issue?; 3) What is the priority?; 4) What are the challenges & opportunities related to this issue? A goal was set to compile Phase II recommendations by July 1, 2013.

In discussion about the process of handling upcoming legislation and how the Children's Commission should respond to requests to provide input on pending legislation, there was agreement that the Commission would not take a formal position on legislation introduced in this session. While members might take positions and comment as individuals the Commission would provide only neutral testimony that could include history and process information on the Nebraska Children's Commission.

### **Phase II Strategic Planning Action Item**

A motion was made by Gene Klein to designate the Nebraska Children's Commission Chair and Co-Chair as the spokespersons for the purpose of providing Commission history and process information, but not an opinion, about legislation policy and legislation endorsement. The motion was seconded by Norman Langemach. Voting yes: Pam Allen, Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. Voting no: none. Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Marty Klein, Jennifer Nelson, John Northrop and Thomas Pristow were absent. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

#### **General Discussion no action item**

#### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is February 22, 2013, 9:00am-12:00pm. The place has not yet been determined.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Kerry Winterer to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Janteice Holston. The meeting adjourned at 12:05pm.