

August 1, 2012

Patrick O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature
State Capitol, Room 2018
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

Legislative Bill 821 of the 102nd Legislative Session of 2012 requires the Nebraska Children's Commission to report on its activities to the Health and Human Services Committee on August 1, 2012.

The attached report provides a progress summary regarding the organizational activities the Commission has accomplished. The report includes the meeting agenda and minutes of the first meeting and the meeting agenda and draft minutes of the second meeting.

Sincerely,



Kerry T. Winterer
Chief Executive Officer
Department of Health and Human Services

Attachments

REPORT FOR: Nebraska Legislature, Health and Human Services Committee
REPORT DATE: August 1, 2012
LEGISLATIVE BILL: LB 821
COMMISSION NAME: Nebraska Children's Commission
CONTACT PERSONS: Kerry Winterer, CEO, DHHS, (402) 471-9433
Karen Authier, Chairperson, (402) 898-7754
Beth Baxter, Vice Chairperson, (308) 237-5113

General Information:

LB 821, passed during the 2012 Legislative Session, created the Nebraska Children's Commission. Responsibilities include to:

- Create a statewide strategic plan for reform of the child welfare system programs and services.
- Review the operations of DHHS regarding child welfare programs and services.
- Recommend, either by the establishment of a new division within DHHS or establishment of a new state agency, options for attaining the intent of this act.
- Provide a permanent forum for collaboration among state, local, community, public and private stakeholders in child welfare programs and services.

Also required are a committee to examine state policy regarding the prescription and administration of psychotropic drugs for state wards, a committee to examine the structure and responsibilities of the Office of Juvenile Services, and other committees as necessary.

Progress Summary:

Governor Dave Heineman appointed the 18-member Nebraska Children's Commission.

As outlined by law, the voting members of the Commission include:

CEO of the Department of Health and Human Services: Kerry Winterer.

Director of the Division of Children and Family Services within the Department of Health and Human Services: Thomas Pristow.

The Commission includes the following voting members appointed by Governor Heineman:

Director of a child advocacy center: Gene Klein of Omaha, Executive Director of Project Harmony.

Administrator of a behavioral health region: Beth Baxter of Kearney, Region 3 Behavioral Health Administrator.

Community representative from the southeast service area: Jennifer Nelson of Lincoln, School Psychotherapist with Lincoln Public Schools.

Community representative from the northern service area: Dale Shotkoski of Fremont, City Administrator.

Community representative from the central service area: John Northrop of Hastings, a local business owner.

Community representative from the western service area: Becky Sorensen of Mitchell, a recently retired social worker and counselor.

Community representative from the eastern service area: David Newell of Omaha, Executive Director of Nebraska Families Collaborative.

Prosecuting attorney who practices in juvenile court: Martin Klein of Grand Island, Deputy Hall County Attorney.

Guardian ad litem: Attorney Norman Langemach of Lincoln.

Biological parent currently or previously involved in the child welfare system: Candy Kennedy Goergen of Upland, Executive Director of Nebraska Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health.

Foster parent: Lisa Lechowicz of Omaha, foster parent of two and business owner.

Court-appointed special advocate (CASA) volunteer: Nancy Forney of Scottsbluff, a 6-year CASA volunteer.

Member of the state or local Foster Care Review Board: Susan Staab of Lincoln, a member of the State Foster Care Review Board.

Child welfare service agency that directly provides child welfare services: Karen Authier of Omaha, Executive Director of Nebraska Children's Home Society.

Young adult previously in foster care: Janteice Holston of Wahoo, a Certified Nursing Assistant who spent 17 years in foster care.

Representative of a child advocacy organization: Mary Jo Pankoke of Lincoln, Executive Director of Nebraska Children and Families Foundation.

Additionally, as outlined by law, the Commission includes the following six non-voting ex-officio members:

Chair of the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee: State Senator Kathy Campbell of Lincoln.

Chair of the Legislature's Judiciary Committee: State Senator Brad Ashford of Omaha. Senator Ashford has designated State Senator Colby Coash of Lincoln to serve as the Judiciary Committee's Representative to the Commission.

Chair of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee: State Senator Lavon Heidemann of Elk Creek.

Three persons appointed by the State Court Administrator:

Lancaster Juvenile Court Judge Linda Porter of Lincoln.

Dr. Vicky Weisz of Lincoln, with the Nebraska Court Improvement Project.

State Probation Administrator Ellen Brokofsky of Lincoln.

The Nebraska Children's Commission met on June 7, 2012, at the Hruska Law Center, Lincoln, NE. The meeting agenda and minutes are attached. Karen Authier was elected Chairperson and Beth Baxter was elected Vice Chairperson. The Commission authorized the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and DHHS CEO to hire staff; for DHHS to issue RFP for strategic planning consultant; and for DHHS to issue RFP for Medicaid analyst. As required in Section 3(2)(a) and Section 3(2)(b), two committees were created: Psychotropic Medication Committee and Juvenile Services Committee.

The Nebraska Children's Commission met on July 16, 2012, at the Country Inn and Suites, Lincoln, NE. The meeting agenda and draft minutes are attached. An Executive Committee was created to include the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson (if one) of each of the committees – Psychotropic Medicaid Committee, Juvenile Services Committee, Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee, and the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee for coordination and better communication purposes.

Issues:

The first two meetings were organizational in nature. No issues were brought forward.

Recommendations:

Recommendations are expected in future reports.

NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

First Meeting

June 7, 2012

1:00 – 3:15 PM

Hruska Law Center

635 S 14th Street, Lincoln, NE

- I. Call to Order (Winterer)
 - a. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information
- II. Roll Call
- III. Welcome – Governor Heineman (5 minutes)
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Adopt Procedural Rules
 - a. Roberts Rules of Order
 - b. Rule for publication of public notice
- VI. Presentation on open meetings/public records requirements (5 minutes) (DHHS Legal Counsel)
- VII. Comments – Senator Campbell (5 Minutes)
- VIII. Self-introduction of Commission Members (2 minutes each)
- IX. Overview of Commission duties (Winterer) (10 minutes)
- X. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson (Winterer)
- XI. Background/overview of CFS Division and reform efforts (Pristow) (10 minutes)
- XII. New Business
 - a. Authorize Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and CEO to hire staff (LB821, Sec 2(4))
 - b. Authorize DHHS to issue RFP for strategic planning consultant (LB821, Sec 1(4))
 - c. Authorize DHHS to issue RFP for Medicaid analyst (LB821, Sec 5)
 - d. Create committee to examine use of psychotropic drugs (LB821, Sec 3(2)(a))
 - e. Create committee to examine the structure and responsibilities of the Office of Juvenile Services (LB821, Sec 3(2)(b))
- XIII. General Discussion no action item (15 minutes)
- XIV. Future Meeting Dates (All times 9:00 am-12:00 pm)
 - a. Monday, July 16
 - b. Tuesday, August 14
 - c. Friday, September 14
 - d. Friday, October 19
 - e. Tuesday, November 20
- XV. Adjourn (3:15 PM)

Nebraska Children's Commission

First Meeting
June 7, 2012
1:00-3:15 pm
Hruska Law Center
635 S 14th Street, Lincoln, NE

Minutes

Call to Order

Kerry Winterer called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. The Open Meetings Act information is posted in the back of the meeting room as required by state law.

Roll Call

Commission Members present: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer.

Commission Members absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Senator Lavon Heidemann, Hon. Linda Porter, and Kelli Hauptman representing Vicky Weisz.

Also in attendance: Governor Dave Heineman; Vicki Maca, Sara Goscha, Terri Nutzman, Chris Hanus, Wes Nespor, Kathie Osterman, Russ Reno, and Bonnie Engel from the Department of Health and Human Services; Jeremiah Blake from the Governor's Policy Research Office; and Elton Larson from the Department of Administrative Services Budget Division.

Welcome – Governor Heineman

Governor Heineman welcomed members and thanked them for agreeing to serve on the Children's Commission. He stated they have a special responsibility and an opportunity to make a real difference for children and families in Nebraska and to assist the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in the development of a strategic plan and structure of the Division of Children and Family Services. He encouraged the Commission to be very open and fully transparent in all discussions and ideas, no secret offline conversations with only a few members.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Thomas Pristow to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by John Northrop. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen,

Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Adopt Procedural Rules

Roberts Rules of Order

A motion was made by Gene Klein to adopt Roberts Rules of Order, seconded by Thomas Pristow. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Rule for publication of public notices

A motion was made by Thomas Pristow to give published notice of meetings to members of the Commission by regular United States mail or e-mail and to the public by posting to the Nebraska Government Website public meeting calendar, seconded by Candy Kennedy-Goergen. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Presentation on open meetings/public records requirements

Wes Nesor, Deputy Administrator, DHHS Legal Services, provided a presentation on the general guidelines for open meetings and public records requirements. By default quorum for the Commission is 13 members and for simple motions to carry, a majority of voting members present in the quorum is required.

Comments – Senator Campbell

Senator Campbell thanked Governor Heineman and Kerry Winterer for their remarks, echoed the Governor's thanks to members for their willingness to serve on the Children's Commission, and the importance of setting a strategic direction. Copies of the *Health and Human Services Committee LR 37 Report – December 15, 2011* was provided to members. Senator Campbell encouraged members to be honest in the problems when discussing, share among all their concerns and questions, to be honest about the solutions, and to work collaboratively to find honest answers in building the future.

Self-introduction of Commission Members

Commission members introduced themselves giving a brief overview of their background.

Overview of Commission duties

Kerry Winterer provided an overview of the Commission's duties. The Nebraska Children's Commission was created as a high-level leadership body to create a statewide strategic plan for reform of the child welfare system programs and services, review the operations of DHHS regarding child welfare programs and services and recommend options for attaining legislative intent of LB821. LB821 also mandates the Commission to select a chairperson and vice-chairperson, hire staff, hire a consultant to provide assistance in developing the statewide strategic plan, and provide direction to DHHS in issuing an RFP for Medicaid analyst. The Commission will also create committees to examine state policy regarding the prescription of psychotropic drugs and the structure and responsibilities of the Office of Juvenile Services. The Title IV-E Demonstration Project Committee and the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee will become a part of the Commission. The Commission shall provide a written report to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature on the status of its activities on or before August 1, 2012, September 15, 2012, and November 1, 2012. The Commission shall complete the statewide strategic plan and provide a written report to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature and the Governor on or before December 15, 2012.

The Commission will terminate on June 30, 2014, unless continued by the Legislature.

Members of the Commission will be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses as members in accordance with State employee reimbursement guidelines. To be reimbursed completion of the Direct Deposit Enrollment Form, Form W-4 (2012) and the Expense Reimbursement for Non-State Employees form are to be completed.

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

David Newell nominated Karen Authier to be Chairperson. No other nominations were received and nominations were closed. A motion was made by David Newell to appoint Karen Authier as Chairperson, seconded by Gene Klein. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Candy Kennedy-Goergen nominated Beth Baxter for Vice Chairperson. No other nominations were received and nominations were closed. A motion was made by Candy Kennedy-Goergen to appoint Beth Baxter as Vice Chairperson, seconded by John Northrop. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Background/overview of CFS Division and reform efforts

Thomas Pristow presented an overview of the Division of Children and Family Services and reform efforts.

New Business

Authorize Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and CEO to hire staff (LB821, Sec 2(4))

A motion was made by Gene Klein to authorize Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and CEO to move forward to get staff in place, seconded by John Northrop. A motion was made by Thomas Pristow to amend the previous motion to allow for one or two Commission members to provide input into the hiring decision and for the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and CEO to do the actual hiring, seconded by Lisa Lechowicz. Candy Kennedy-Goergen and Lisa Lechowicz volunteered. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

The Commission then voted on the main motion as follows: Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Authorize DHHS to issue RFP for strategic planning consultant (LB821, Sec 1(4))

A motion was made by Candy Kennedy-Goergen to authorize DHHS to issue RFP for strategic planning consultant, seconded by Kerry Winterer. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Volunteering to serve on committee to provide input are Lisa Lechowicz, David Newell, Gene Klein, Dale Shotkoski, Karen Authier, and Beth Baxter. Thomas Pristow set the timeline to have comments by Friday, June 15.

Authorize DHHS to issue RFP for Medicaid analyst (LB821, Sec 5)

A motion was made by Gene Klein to authorize DHHS to issue RFP for Medicaid analyst with members who want to participate in the development, seconded by Jennifer Nelson. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Volunteering to serve on committee are Jennifer Nelson and Beth Baxter. Karen Authier asked Beth Baxter to take the lead in gathering input. Thomas Pristow set the timeline to have comments by Friday, June 15.

Create committee to examine use of psychotropic drugs (LB821, Sec 3(2)(a))

Create committee to examine the structure and responsibilities of the Office of Juvenile Services (LB821, Sec 3(2)(b))

A motion was made by Gene Klein to create both committees and populate within next few weeks, each committee to have no more than ten members (can be non-members of Commission), and Chair and Co-Chair of committees be Commission members for a total of 12 members on each committee, seconded by Candy Kennedy-Goergen. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, Thomas Pristow, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, John Northrop, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Janteice Holston, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Susan Staab. Motion carried.

Committee regarding psychotropic drugs: Jennifer Nelson volunteered to Chair, and Candy Kennedy-Goergen volunteered to Co-Chair; Beth Baxter, Norman Langemach, and Vicky Weisz volunteered to serve on Committee.

Committee regarding Office of Juvenile Services: Martin Klein volunteered to Chair and Ellen Brokofsky volunteered to serve on Committee.

General Discussion no action item

Future Meeting Dates

Next meeting is July 16, 9:00-12:00pm, location to be determined.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Gene Klein to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jennifer Nelson. The meeting adjourned at 3:24pm.

NEBRASKA CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

Second Meeting

July 16, 2012

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Country Inn and Suites, Lighthouse Room

5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

- I. Call to Order (Karen Authier)
 - a. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of June 7, 2012, Minutes
- V. Chairperson's Report (Karen Authier)
 - a. Progress on hiring staff
 - b. Web site
 - c. Status of RFP's
 - d. Opportunity for public comment
 - e. Committee structure
- VI. Review of Commission Meeting Schedule (Karen Authier)
- VII. Review of Commission Responsibilities (Karen Authier)
- VIII. Approval of Committee Membership
 - a. Psychotropic Medication Committee (Jennifer Nelson)
 - b. Juvenile Services Committee (Marty Klein)
- IX. Committee Reports
 - a. Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (Thomas Pristow)
 - b. IV-E Demonstration Project Committee (Sara Goscha)
- X. Organizational History of Child Welfare in Nebraska (Chris Hanus)
- XI. Child Welfare System Overview (Panel)
- XII. New Business
 - a.
- XIII. General Discussion no action item
- XIV. Next Meeting Date
 - a. Tuesday, August 14
- XV. Adjourn (12:00 PM)

Nebraska Children's Commission

Second Meeting
July 16, 2012
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Country Inn and Suites, Lighthouse Room
5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

Call to Order

Karen Authier called the meeting to order at 9:05am. The Open Meetings Act information is posted as required by state law.

Roll Call

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

Commission Members absent: Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski.

Ex Officio Members present: Ellen Brokofsky, Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Lavon Heidemann, Hon. Linda Porter, and Vicky Weisz.

Ex Officio Members absent: Senator Colby Coash.

Also in attendance: Governor Dave Heineman; Vicki Maca, Sara Goscha, Terri Nutzman, Chris Hanus, Wes Nespor, Russ Reno, and Bonnie Engel from the Department of Health and Human Services; Jeremiah Blake from the Governor's Policy Research Office; and Elton Larson from the Department of Administrative Services Budget Division.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Gene Klein. A unanimous voice vote of voting members present was received. Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of June 7, 2012, Minutes

A motion was made by Kerry Winterer to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2012 meeting, seconded by Thomas Pristow. A unanimous voice vote of voting members present was received. Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report

Progress on hiring staff

An Administrative Assistant III position to support the Nebraska Children's Commission was posted on Friday, July 13, with a closing date of July 23, 2012. This position will report directly to Kerry Winterer. Karen Authier and Beth Baxter will work with Kerry to interview and hire.

Website

The Nebraska Children's Commission website is up and is a good reference – <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/childrenscommission.aspx>.

Dale Shotkoski arrived.

Status of RFP's

The RFP for Strategic Planning will be released on July 23. The RFP for Cross Divisional Analysis will be released on July 26. The Children's Commission will be involved in the evaluation of proposals received.

Opportunity for public comment

Opportunity for public comment will be as set forth in future agendas. The total amount of time allowed for public comment and time limits for individuals will be announced at the appropriate time. Written comments may be accepted at the Commission's discretion.

Committee structure

A motion was by Mary Jo Pankoke to create an Executive Committee to include the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson (if one) of each of the committees – Psychotropic Medicaid Committee, Juvenile Services Committee, Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee, and the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee for coordination and better communication purposes, seconded by Gene Klein. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Lisa Lechowicz and John Northrop. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke, to create a Strategic Planning Committee to guide the strategic planning process, seconded by Gene Klein. A motion was made by Susan Staab to amend the previous motion to narrow the motion to facilitation of the

selection of the consultant, seconded by Jennifer Nelson. Mary Jo Pankoke withdrew her motion.

Review of Commission Meeting Schedule

The Commission plans to adhere to the original schedule of meeting dates and times at a location in Lincoln. At some point, statewide listening sessions may be included with dates, locations, and focus to be posted on the Commission's website in advance.

Review of Commission Responsibilities

Karen Authier provided a handout titled, *Nebraska Children's Commission Review of Responsibilities Work Plan*.

Approval of Committee Membership

Committee meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act. Decisions/recommendations made by the committees will be brought back to the Commission for discussion and final approval.

Psychotropic Medication Committee

A handout of the proposed membership to the Committee to Examine Prescription of Psychotropic Drugs was distributed. Jennifer Nelson provided background on the individuals who have agreed to serve on the committee.

A motion was made by Jennifer Nelson to increase the size of both committees (Psychotropic Medication and Juvenile Services) to no more than 15 members including Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, seconded by Beth Baxter. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Lisa Lechowicz and John Northrop. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jennifer Nelson to approve the individuals listed to be on the Psychotropic Medication Committee, seconded by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Lisa Lechowicz and John Northrop. Motion carried.

Juvenile Services Committee

A handout of the proposed membership to the Juvenile Services Committee was distributed. Martin Klein and Ellen Brokofsky provided background on the individuals who have agreed to serve on the committee.

A motion was made by Martin Klein to accept the individuals who have agreed to be members of Juvenile Services Committee, seconded by Janteice Holston. A motion was made by Thomas Pristow to amend the previous motion to have Terri Nutzman be a member of the committee, seconded by Gene Klein. Thomas Pristow withdrew his motion. A motion was made by Kerry Winterer to reserve an open slot for the Director of the Children and Family Services Division to appoint a member of his staff to the committee with the name of the staff person provided at the August meeting, seconded by Dale Shotkoski. Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Lisa Lechowicz and John Northrop. Motion carried.

The Commission then voted on the main motion as follows: Voting yes: Karen Authier, Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Janteice Holston, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Lisa Lechowicz and John Northrop. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

Thomas Pristow provided an update on the Foster Care Reimbursement Committee. The Committee has met twice, two sub-committees have been established (Level of Care Assessment Sub-Committee and Rate Structure Sub-Committee), and they have submitted their first progress report to the Health and Human Services Committee. Their next meeting is August 6.

IV-E Demonstration Project Committee

Sara Goscha provided an update on the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee. The Committee met on June 21 and July 31, two sub-committees have been established (IV-E Penetration Rate Sub-Committee and IV-E Waiver Implementation Plan Sub-Committee), and they have submitted their first progress report to the Health and Human Services Committee. Their next meeting is August 8.

Organizational History of Child Welfare in Nebraska

Chris Hanus gave an overview of the organizational history of child welfare in Nebraska and provided a handout titled, *The History of Protection and Safety in Nebraska*. Vicki Weisz recommended the website, partnering4students.org, as a resource for information developed to assist the primary systems involved in the education of children and youth in out-of-home care.

Child Welfare System Overview

The following Commission members provided a brief summary from their respective area of expertise:

Law Enforcement/County Attorney – Martin Klein
Child Advocacy Centers – Gene Klein
NDHHS Children and Family Services – Vicki Maca, Deputy Director, DHHS CFS
Lead Agency (Eastern Service Area) – David Newell
Court System – Judge Porter and Vicki Weisz
Guardian ad Litem – Norman Langemach
Court Appointed Special Advocates – Nancy Forney
Mediation Centers – Debora Brownyard, Director, Office of Dispute Resolution
Juvenile Probation – Ellen Brokofsky
Foster Parent – Leigh Esau, Foster Care Closet
Parent – Candy Kennedy-Goergen
Behavioral Health – Beth Baxter
Schools – Jennifer Nelson
Provider Agency – Karen Authier
Youth – Janteice Holston
Role of Legislature – Senator Campbell – postponed to next meeting

Senator Campbell provided the following handouts: *2012 Session, Summaries of LR 37 Child Welfare Bills 2012 Legislative Session, 2012 Interim Studies Regarding Child Welfare in HHS Committee, and 2012 Interim Studies HHS Committee regarding Children (not including Child Welfare).*

New Business

General Discussion no action item

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is August 14, 9:00-12:00pm, location to be determined.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mary Jo Pankoke to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Janteice Holston. The meeting adjourned at 12:25pm.