

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB790

Hearing Date: Wednesday January 22, 2014
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Howard
One Liner: Require training for case managers as prescribed

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Campbell, Cook, Crawford, Gloor, Howard, Krist, Watermeier
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents: Senator Sara Howard Terry Werner Monika Anderson Theresa Barron-McKeagey Linda M. Cox	Representing: District #9 Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers Nebraska Families Collaborative University of Nebraska at Omaha Foster Care Review Office
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Opponents:	Representing:
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Neutral:	Representing:
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Summary of purpose and/or changes:

The purpose of this bill is to facilitate consistency in training practices for all case managers whether employed by the Department of Health and Human Services (the Department) or by an organization under contract with the Department. Additionally, utilizing a common training program will allow reimbursement of case manager training under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act. Currently the lead agency in the eastern service area pilot provides separate trainings, therefore disqualifying those training costs from Title IV-E funding.

The initial training for all case managers shall be provided by the same entity, whether that entity is the Department or an organization under contract with the Department. If a contractor performs the training required in this bill for all case managers, the Department shall create a formal system for measuring and evaluating the quality of such training.

The curriculum for this training shall include but not be limited to three specific components: (a) an understanding of the benefits of utilizing evidence-based and promising casework practices; (b) the importance of guaranteeing service providers fidelity to evidence-based and promising casework practices; and (c) a commitment to evidence-based and promising family-centered case work practices that utilize a least restrictive approach for children and families.

All case managers shall complete a formal competency assessment process after initial training and before assuming responsibilities as a case manager.

Explanation of amendments:

The Committee Amendment, to improve the quality of employees providing child welfare services, establishes a program to add stipends for undergraduate and graduate social work students who are committed to working in the field of child welfare. The stipends will be paid for with Title IV-E funds. The department and governing boards of colleges providing social work degrees shall develop an application process and shall determine the awards provided to eligible students, based on the amount of funds available.

Additionally, the Committee Amendment removes the requirement that the initial training of all case managers be provided by the same entity to that it shall be provided by the department or one or more contractors.

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson