September 14, 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 September 15, 2012.

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

Sincerely,

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

Attachment
REPORT FOR: Nebraska Legislature, Health and Human Services Committee

REPORT DATE: September 14, 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:

The Nebraska Children’s Commission met on August 14, 2012, at the Country Inn and Suites, Lincoln, NE. The meeting agenda and minutes are attached.

Members of the Psychotropic Medication Committee have been named. They are:

Jennifer Nelson, Chairperson; Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Co-Chairperson; Commission members Beth Baxter, Norman Langemach, and Vicky Weisz; Pam Allen, Executive Director, NFAPA; Amanda Blankenship, CASA; Sara Goscha, DHHS Division of Children and Family Services; Carla Lasley, Collaborative Industries; Kayla Pope, M.D., Boys Town National Research Hospital; Blaine Shaffer, M.D., Chief Clinical Officer, DHHS Division of Behavioral Health; Gary Rihaneck, PharmD, Wagey Drugs; Kristi Weber, PRN, VP of Program, Epworth Village; and Gregg Wright, M.D., M.Ed, Center on Children, Families and the Law.
Members of the Juvenile Services Committee have been named. They are:

Martin Klein, Chairperson; Ellen Brokofsky, Co-Chairperson; Kim Culp, Douglas County Juvenile Assessmen: Center Director; Rachel Daughterty, Hall County Public Defender’s Office; Sarah Forrest, Voices for Children; Judge Larry Gendler, 2nd Judicial District/Sarpy County Juvenile Court; Kim Hawekotte, CEO, KVC; Anne Hobbs, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute; Jana Peterson, Administrator, DHHS Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center at Kearney; Ron Johns, Gering Detention Center Director; Nick Juliano, Boys Town; Corey Steel, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Juvenile Services/Office of Probation Administration; and Monica Miles Steffens, Juvenile Detention Alternatives State Director.

Both the Psychotropic Medication Committee and the Juvenile Services Committee are scheduled to meet in late September.

**Issues:**

No issues have been brought forward to date.

**Recommendations:**

Recommendations are expected in future reports.
NEBRASKA CHILDREN’S COMMISSION

Third Meeting
August 14, 2012
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Country Inn and Suites, Lighthouse Room
5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

I. Call to Order (Beth Baxter)
   a. Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of July 16, 2012, Minutes

V. Approval of August 1, 2012, Report to the Health and Human Services Committee

VI. Public Comment
   Public comment will be limited to three minutes per person and fifteen minutes total
   unless otherwise announced by the vice chairperson at the beginning of the public
   comment period. Persons wishing to offer public comment will be asked to provide
   name and address.

VII. Vice-Chairperson’s Report (Beth Baxter)
   a. Progress on hiring staff
   b. Status of RFP’s

VIII. Committee Reports
   a. Psychotropic Medication Committee (Candy Kennedy-Goergen)
   b. Juvenile Services Committee (Marty Klein)
   c. Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (Thomas Pristow)
   d. IV-E Demonstration Project Committee (Thomas Pristow)

IX. Legislative Report (Sen. Campbell)
   a. Legislative role in child welfare
   b. Update on Interim Studies
   c. Expectations regarding the Strategic Plan

X. Children and Family Services Report (Thomas Pristow)

XI. Collaborative Work Process (Candy Kennedy-Goergen)

XII. New Business

   a. 

XIII. General Discussion

XIV. Next Meeting Date

   a. Friday, September 14

XV. Adjourn
Nebraska Children’s Commission

Third Meeting
August 14, 2012
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Country Inn and Suites, Lighthouse Room
5353 N. 27th Street, Lincoln, NE

Call to Order

Beth Baxter called the meeting to order at 9:00am. The Open Meetings Act information is posted as required by state law.

Roll Call


Ex Officio Members present: Senator Kathy Campbell, Senator Colby Coash, Senator Lavon Heidemann, and Hon. Linda Porter.

Ex Officio Members absent: Vicky Weisz and Ellen Brokofsky.

Also in attendance: Governor Dave Heineman; Vicki Maca, Terri Nutzman, Nathan Busch, Wes Nespor, Neleigh Korth, Russ Reno, and Bonnie Engel from the Department of Health and Human Services; and Jeremiah Blake from the Governor’s Policy Research Office.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Candy Kennedy-Goergen to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Gene Klein. A unanimous voice vote of voting members present was received. Karen Authier, Jantiece Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Dale Shotkoski were absent. Motion carried.

Dale Shotkoski and Vicky Weisz arrived at 9:03am.

Approval of July 16, 2012, Minutes

A motion was made by Norman Langemach to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2012, meeting, seconded by John Northrop. A unanimous voice vote of voting members present was
received. KarenAuthier, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, and Mary Jo Pankoke were absent. Motion carried.

Approval of August 1, 2012, Report to the Health and Human Services Committee


Public Comment

Public comment was received.

Vice-Chairperson’s Report

Progress on hiring staff

Interviews for the Administrative Assistant III position to support the Nebraska Children’s Commission were held on August 3, 2012. An offer of employment has been made and accepted with a start date of August 27, 2012.

Status of RFP’s

Strategic Plan – RFP 4079Z1

- Released – July 23, 2012
- Proposal Opening – August 21, 2012, 2:00pm
- Evaluation Period – August 22-September 5, 2012
- Contract Award – September 17, 2012
- Contractor Start Date – September 24, 2012

Cross System Analysis – RFP 4081Z1

- Released – July 26, 2012
- Proposal Opening – August 28, 2012, 2:00pm
- Evaluation Period – August 29-September 12, 2012
- Contract Award – September 24, 2012
- Contractor Start Date – October 1, 2012
Committee Reports

Psychotropic Medication Committee

Candy Kennedy-Goergen provided an update on the members to be appointed to the Psychotropic Medication Committee – Pam Allen and Sara Goscha.


Juvenile Services Committee

Committee update will be taken up when Martin Klein is present at the meeting.

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

Thomas Pristow provided an update on the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee, including a written report.


IV-E Demonstration Project Committee

Thomas Pristow and Vicky Weisz provided an update on the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee, including a written report.


A motion was made by Kerry Winterer to approve Gene Klein’s appointment to the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee and to serve as the Co-Chairperson of the Committee, seconded by Thomas Pristow. Voting yes: Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-

Legislative Report

Legislative role in child welfare

Senator Campbell provided a brief summary of the role of the Legislature.

Update on Interim Studies

Senator Campbell provided an update on the Interim Studies assigned to the Health and Human Services Committee. Several Interim Studies have been scheduled for public hearing.

Expectations regarding the Strategic Plan

Senator Campbell provided a handout titled, Nebraska Children’s Commission.

Martin Klein arrived at 10:04am.

Children and Family Services Report

Thomas Pristow presented on the Strategic Focus of the Division of Children and Family Services Protection and Safety Section.

Committee Reports (continued)

Juvenile Services Committee

Martin Klein provided an update on the Juvenile Services Committee, including a written report.


A motion was made by Gene Klein to accept the Juvenile Services (OJS) Committee report, seconded by Susan Staab. Voting yes: Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Martin Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and

Recessed at 10:25am.

Reconvened at 10:43am with all members present as before.

**Collaborative Work Process**

Candy Kennedy Goergen provided her perspective on collaborative work process.

**New Business**

**General Discussion no action item**

**Next Meeting Date**

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

**Adjourn**

A motion was made by Thomas Pristow to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Becky Sorensen. The meeting adjourned at 11:40am.