

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 102<sup>nd</sup> 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,



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 Rihanek, 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 Assessment 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. 27<sup>th</sup> 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. 27<sup>th</sup> 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**

Commission Members present: Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, Thomas Pristow, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab and Kerry Winterer.

Commission Members absent: Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, Mary Jo Pankoke, and Dale Shotkoski.

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, Janteice 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. Karen Authier, 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**

A motion was made by John Northrop to approve the August 1, 2012, report, seconded by Gene Klein. Voting yes: Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, and Mary Jo Pankoke. Motion carried.

### **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
- Letter of Intent to Contract – September 14, 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
- Letter of Intent to Contract – September 20, 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.

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

### **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.

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

### **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 John Northrop to accept the IV-E Demonstration Project Committee report, seconded by Kerry Winterer. Voting yes: Beth Baxter, Nancy Forney, Candy Kennedy-Goergen, Gene Klein, Norman Langemach, Lisa Lechowicz, John Northrop, Thomas Pristow, Dale Shotkoski, Becky Sorensen, Susan Staab, and Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Martin Klein, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, and Mary Jo Pankoke. Motion carried.

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-

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

## **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 Kerry Winterer to ratify Jana Peterson's appointment to the Juvenile Services Committee, seconded by Thomas Pristow. 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 Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, and Mary Jo Pankoke. Motion carried.

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



Kerry Winterer. No opposition. Absent: Karen Authier, Janteice Holston, Jennifer Nelson, David Newell, and Mary Jo Pankoke. Motion carried.

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.