

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1061

Approved by the Governor July 24, 2020

Introduced by Crawford, 45; Howard, 9.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to children; to amend sections 28-710.01, 43-4331, and 71-3405, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, sections 28-712 and 28-712.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, and sections 28-710, 28-713, and 43-4203, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019; to change the Child Protection and Family Safety Act; to eliminate a committee of the Nebraska Children's Commission; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 28-710, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019, is amended to read:

28-710 (1) Sections 28-710 to 28-727 and sections 6 and 7 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Child Protection and Family Safety Act.

(2) For purposes of the Child Protection and Family Safety Act:

(a) Alternative response means a comprehensive assessment of (i) child safety, (ii) the risk of future child abuse or neglect, (iii) family strengths and needs, and (iv) the provision of or referral for necessary services and support. Alternative response is an alternative to traditional response and does not include an investigation or a formal determination as to whether child abuse or neglect has occurred, and the subject of the report shall not be entered into the central registry of child protection cases maintained pursuant to section 28-718;

(b) Child abuse or neglect means knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child to be:

(i) Placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health;

(ii) Cruelly confined or cruelly punished;

(iii) Deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or care;

(iv) Left unattended in a motor vehicle if such minor child is six years of age or younger;

(v) Placed in a situation to be sexually abused;

(vi) Placed in a situation to be sexually exploited through sex trafficking of a minor as defined in section 28-830 or by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to engage in debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions; or

(vii) Placed in a situation to be a trafficking victim as defined in section 28-830;

(c) Child advocacy center means a community-based organization that (i) provides an appropriate site for conducting forensic interviews as defined in section 28-728 and referring victims of child abuse or neglect and appropriate caregivers for such victims to needed evaluation, services, and supports, (ii) assists county attorneys in facilitating case reviews, developing and updating protocols, and arranging training opportunities for the teams established pursuant to sections 28-728 and 28-729, and (iii) is a member, in good standing, of a state chapter as defined in 34 U.S.C. 20302;

(d) ~~(c)~~ Comprehensive assessment means an analysis of child safety, risk of future child abuse or neglect, and family strengths and needs on a report of child abuse or neglect using an evidence-informed and validated tool. Comprehensive assessment does not include a finding determination as to whether the child abuse or neglect occurred but does determine the need for services and support, if any, to address the safety of children and the risk of future abuse or neglect;

(e) ~~(d)~~ Department means the Department of Health and Human Services;

(f) ~~(e)~~ Investigation means fact gathering by the department, using an evidence-informed and validated tool, or by law enforcement related to the current safety of a child and the risk of future child abuse or neglect that determines whether child abuse or neglect has occurred and whether child protective services are needed;

(g) Kin caregiver means a person with whom a child in foster care has been placed or with whom a child is residing pursuant to a temporary living arrangement in a non-court-involved case, who has previously lived with or is a trusted adult that has a preexisting, significant relationship with the child or with a sibling of such child placed pursuant to section 43-1311.02;

(h) ~~(f)~~ Law enforcement agency means the police department or town marshal in incorporated municipalities, the office of the sheriff in unincorporated areas, and the Nebraska State Patrol;

(i) Non-court-involved case means an ongoing case opened by the department following a report of child abuse or neglect in which the department has determined that ongoing services are required to maintain the safety of a child or alleviate the risk of future abuse or neglect and in which the family voluntarily engages in child protective services without a filing in a juvenile court;

(j) ~~(g)~~ Out-of-home child abuse or neglect means child abuse or neglect

occurring outside of a child's family home, including in day care homes, foster homes, day care centers, residential child-caring agencies as defined in section 71-1926, other child care facilities or institutions, and the community. Out-of-home child abuse or neglect also includes cases in which the subject of the report of child abuse or neglect is not a member of the child's household, no longer has access to the child, is unknown, or cannot be identified;

(k) Relative caregiver means a person with whom a child is placed by the department and who is related to the child, or to a sibling of such child pursuant to section 43-1311.02, by blood, marriage, or adoption or, in the case of an Indian child, is an extended family member as defined in section 43-1503;

(l) Report means any communication received by the department or a law enforcement agency pursuant to the Child Protection and Family Safety Act that describes child abuse or neglect and contains sufficient content to identify the child who is the alleged victim of child abuse or neglect;

(m) ~~(h)~~ Review, Evaluate, and Decide Team means an internal team of staff within the department and shall include no fewer than two supervisors or administrators and two staff members knowledgeable on the policies and practices of the department, including, but not limited to, the structured review process. County attorneys, child advocacy centers, or law enforcement agency personnel may attend team reviews upon request of a party;

(n) ~~(i)~~ Traditional response means an investigation by a law enforcement agency or the department pursuant to section 28-713 which requires a formal determination of whether child abuse or neglect has occurred; and

(o) ~~(j)~~ Subject of the report of child abuse or neglect or subject of the report means the person or persons identified in the report as responsible for the child abuse or neglect.

Sec. 2. Section 28-710.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

28-710.01 (1) The Legislature declares that the public policy of the State of Nebraska is to protect children whose health or welfare may be jeopardized by abuse or neglect. The Legislature recognizes that most families want to keep their children safe, but circumstances or conditions sometimes interfere with their ability to do so. Families and children are best served by interventions that engage their protective capacities and address immediate safety concerns and ongoing risks of child abuse or neglect. In furtherance of this public policy and the family policy and principles set forth in sections 43-532 and 43-533, it is the intent of the Legislature to strengthen the family and make the home, school, and community safe for children by promoting responsible child care in all settings and to provide, when necessary, a safe temporary or permanent home environment for abused or neglected children.

(2) In addition, it is the policy of this state to: Require the reporting of child abuse or neglect in home, school, and community settings; provide for alternative response to reports as permitted by law and the rules and regulations of the department; provide for traditional response to reports as required by law and the rules and regulations of the department; and provide protective and supportive services designed to preserve and strengthen the family in appropriate cases.

Sec. 3. Section 28-712, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

~~28-712 (1) Upon receipt of a report pursuant to section 28-711, the department shall determine whether to (a) accept the report for traditional response and an investigation pursuant to section 28-713, (b) accept the report for alternative response pursuant to section 28-712.01, (c) accept the report for screening by the Review, Evaluate, and Decide Team to determine eligibility for alternative response, or (d) classify the report as requiring no further action by the The department, in consultation with the Nebraska Children's Commission, shall develop an alternative response implementation plan in accordance with this section and sections 28-710.01 and 28-712.01. The alternative response implementation plan shall include the provision of concrete supports and voluntary services, including, but not limited to: Meeting basic needs, including food and clothing assistance; housing assistance; transportation assistance; child care assistance; and mental health and substance abuse services. When the alternative response implementation plan has been developed, the department may begin using alternative response in up to five alternative response demonstration project locations that are designated by the department. The department may begin using alternative response statewide on and after April 28, 2017. The department shall provide a report to the commission and the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature by November 15, 2018. The report shall outline, at a minimum, the challenges, barriers, and opportunities that may occur if the alternative response implementation plan is made permanent. The department shall continue using alternative response until December 31, 2020. Continued use of alternative response thereafter shall require approval of the Legislature. For purposes of this section, demonstration project location means any geographic region, including, but not limited to, a city, a township, a village, a county, a group of counties, or a group of counties and cities, townships, or villages.~~

(2)(a) The Nebraska Children's Commission shall appoint an advisory committee to examine the department's alternative response to reports of child abuse or neglect and to make recommendations to the Legislature, the department, and the commission regarding (i) the receipt and screening of reports of child abuse or neglect by the department, (ii) the ongoing use of alternative response, (iii) the ongoing use of traditional response, and (iv)

~~the provision of services within alternative response and non-court-involved cases to ensure child safety, to reduce the risk of child abuse or neglect, and to engage families. The advisory committee may request, receive, and review data from the department regarding such processes. (2) The department shall provide to the Nebraska Children's Commission regular updates on:~~

~~(a) The status of alternative response;~~

~~(b) The members of the advisory committee shall include, but not be limited to, a representative of (i) the department, (ii) law enforcement agencies, (iii) county attorneys or other prosecutors, (iv) the state chapter of child advocacy centers as defined in 34 U.S.C. 20302, (v) attorneys for parents, (vi) guardians ad litem, (vii) a child welfare advocacy organization, (viii) families with experience in the child welfare system, (ix) family caregivers, (x) the Foster Care Review Office, and (xi) the office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare. Members of the advisory committee shall be appointed for terms of two years. The Nebraska Children's Commission shall appoint the chairperson of the advisory committee and may fill vacancies on the advisory committee as they occur. Inclusion of child welfare stakeholders, service providers, and other community partners, including families, for feedback and recommendations on alternative response;~~

~~(c) Any findings or recommendations made by the independent evaluator, including costs; and~~

~~(d) Any alternative response programmatic modifications, including, but not limited to, proposed changes in rules and regulations.~~

~~(3) The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this section and sections 28-710.01, and 28-712.01, and 28-713. Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, provisions on (a) the transfer of cases from alternative response to traditional response, (b) traditional response; notice to families subject to a comprehensive assessment and served through alternative response of the alternative response process and their rights, including the opportunity to challenge agency determinations, (c) ÷ the provision of services through alternative response, and (d) ÷ the collection, sharing, and reporting of data; and the alternative response ineligibility criteria.~~

Sec. 4. Section 28-712.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, is amended to read:

28-712.01 (1)(a) ~~The department may assign a report for alternative response consistent with the Child Protection and Family Safety Act (1) This section applies to alternative response demonstration projects designated under section 28-712.~~

~~(b) No report involving any of the following shall be assigned to alternative response but shall be immediately forwarded to law enforcement or the county attorney:~~

~~(i) Murder in the first or second degree as defined in section 28-303 or 28-304 or manslaughter as defined in section 28-305;~~

~~(ii) Assault in the first, second, or third degree or assault by strangulation or suffocation as defined in section 28-308, 28-309, 28-310, or 28-310.01;~~

~~(iii) Sexual abuse, including acts prohibited by section 28-319, 28-319.01, 28-320, 28-320.01, 28-320.02, 28-322.01, 28-322.02, 28-322.03, 28-322.04, 28-322.05, 28-703, or 28-707;~~

~~(iv) Labor trafficking of a minor or sex trafficking of a minor as defined in section 28-830;~~

~~(v) Neglect of a minor child that results in serious bodily injury as defined in section 28-109, requires hospitalization of the child, or results in an injury to the child that requires ongoing medical care, behavioral health care, or physical or occupational therapy, including a growth delay, which may be referred to as failure to thrive, that has been diagnosed by a physician and is due to parental neglect;~~

~~(vi) Physical abuse to the head or torso of a child or physical abuse that results in bodily injury;~~

~~(vii) An allegation that requires a forensic interview at a child advocacy center or coordination with the child abuse and neglect investigation team pursuant to section 28-728;~~

~~(viii) Out-of-home child abuse or neglect;~~

~~(ix) An allegation being investigated by a law enforcement agency at the time of the assignment;~~

~~(x) A history of termination of parental rights;~~

~~(xi) Absence of a caretaker without having given an alternate caregiver authority to make decisions and grant consents for necessary care, treatment, and education of a child or without having made provision to be contacted to make such decisions or grant such consents;~~

~~(xii) Domestic violence involving a caretaker in situations in which the alleged perpetrator has access to the child or caretaker;~~

~~(xiii) A household member illegally manufactures methamphetamine or opioids;~~

~~(xiv) A child has had contact with methamphetamine or other nonprescribed opioids, including a positive drug screening or test; or~~

~~(xv) For a report involving an infant, a household member tests positive for methamphetamine or nonprescribed opioids at the birth of such infant.~~

~~(c) The department may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to (i) provide additional ineligibility criteria for assignment to alternative response and (ii) establish additional criteria requiring review by the Review, Evaluate, and Decide Team.~~

(d) A report that includes any of the following may be eligible for alternative response but shall first be reviewed by the Review, Evaluate, and Decide Team prior to assignment to alternative response:

(i) Domestic assault as defined in section 28-323 or domestic violence in the family home;

(ii) Use of alcohol or controlled substances as defined in section 28-401 or 28-405 by a caregiver that impairs the caregiver's ability to care and provide safety for the child; or

(iii) A family member residing in the home or a caregiver that has been the subject of a report accepted for traditional response or assigned to alternative response in the past six months.

(2) The Review, Evaluate, and Decide Team shall convene to review reports intakes pursuant to the department's rules, regulations, and policies, to evaluate the information, and to determine assignment for alternative response or traditional response. The team shall utilize consistent criteria to review the severity of the allegation of child abuse or neglect, access to the perpetrator, vulnerability of the child, family history including previous reports, parental cooperation, parental or caretaker protective factors, and other information as deemed necessary. At the conclusion of the review, the report intake shall be assigned to either traditional response or alternative response. Decisions of the team shall be made by consensus. If the team cannot come to consensus, the report intake shall be assigned for a traditional response.

(3) In the case of an alternative response, the department shall complete a comprehensive assessment. The department shall transfer the case being given alternative response to traditional response if the department determines that a child is unsafe or if the concern for the safety of the child is due to a temporary living arrangement. Upon completion of the comprehensive assessment, if it is determined that the child is safe, participation in services offered to the family receiving an alternative response is voluntary, the case shall not be transferred to traditional response based upon the family's failure to enroll or participate in such services, and the subject of the report shall not be entered into the central registry of child protection cases maintained pursuant to section 28-718.

(4) The department shall, by the next working day after receipt of a report of child abuse or neglect, enter into the tracking system of child protection cases maintained pursuant to section 28-715 all reports of child abuse or neglect received under this section that are opened for alternative response and any action taken.

(5) The department shall make available to the appropriate investigating law enforcement agency, child advocacy center, and county attorney a copy of all reports relative to a case of suspected child abuse or neglect. Aggregate, nonidentifying data regarding reports of child abuse or neglect receiving an alternative response shall be made available quarterly to requesting agencies outside the department. Such alternative response data shall include, but not be limited to, the nature of the initial child abuse or neglect report, the age of the child or children, the nature of services offered, the location of the cases, the number of cases per month, and the number of alternative response cases that were transferred to traditional response. Other than No other agency or individual except the office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare, the Public Counsel, law enforcement agency personnel, child advocacy center employees, and county attorneys, no other agency or individual shall be provided specific, identifying reports of child abuse or neglect being given alternative response. The office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare shall have access to all reports relative to cases of suspected child abuse or neglect subject to traditional response and those subject to alternative response. The department and the office shall develop procedures allowing for the Inspector General's review of cases subject to alternative response. The Inspector General shall include in the report pursuant to section 43-4331 a summary of all cases reviewed pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. 5. Section 28-713, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019, is amended to read:

28-713 (1) Unless a report an intake is assigned to alternative response, upon the receipt of a call reporting child abuse and neglect as required by section 28-711, it ÷ (a) It is the duty of the law enforcement agency to investigate the report, to take immediate steps to protect the child, and to institute legal proceedings consistent with section 43-247 if the child is seriously endangered in the child's surroundings and immediate removal is necessary for the protection of the child. if appropriate. In situations of alleged out-of-home child abuse or neglect if the person or persons to be notified have not already been notified and the person to be notified is not the subject of the report of child abuse or neglect, the law enforcement agency shall immediately notify the person or persons having custody of each child who has allegedly been abused or neglected that such report of alleged child abuse or neglect has been made and shall provide such person or persons with information of the nature of the alleged child abuse or neglect. The law enforcement agency may request assistance from the department during the investigation and shall, by the next working day, notify either the hotline established under section 28-711 or the department of receipt of the report, including whether or not an investigation is being undertaken by the law enforcement agency. A copy of all reports, whether or not an investigation is being undertaken, shall be provided to the department. ÷

~~(b) In situations of alleged out-of-home child abuse or neglect if the~~

~~person or persons to be notified have not already been notified and the person to be notified is not the subject of the report of child abuse or neglect, the department shall immediately notify the person or persons having custody of each child who has allegedly been abused or neglected that such report of alleged child abuse or neglect has been made and shall provide such person or persons with information of the nature of the alleged child abuse or neglect and any other information that the department deems necessary. The department shall investigate for the purpose of assessing each report of child abuse or neglect to determine the risk of harm to the child involved. The department shall also provide such social services as are necessary and appropriate under the circumstances to protect and assist the child and to preserve the family;~~

~~(c) The department may make a request for further assistance from the appropriate law enforcement agency or take such legal action as may be appropriate under the circumstances;~~

~~(2)(a) When a report is assigned for traditional response, the department shall utilize an evidence-informed and validated tool to assess the safety of the child at the time of the assessment, the risk of future child abuse or neglect, the need for services to protect and assist the child and to preserve the family, and whether the case shall be entered into the central registry pursuant to section 28-720. As part of such investigation, the department may request assistance from the appropriate law enforcement agency or refer the matter to the county attorney to initiate legal proceedings.~~

~~(b) If in the course of an investigation the department finds a child is seriously endangered in the child's surroundings and immediate removal is necessary for the protection of the child, the department shall make an immediate request for the county attorney to institute legal proceedings consistent with section 43-247.~~

~~(3) When a report contains an allegation of out-of-home child abuse or neglect, a law enforcement agency or the department shall immediately notify each person having custody of each child who has allegedly been abused or neglected that such report has been made unless the person to be notified is the subject of such report. The department or the law enforcement agency shall provide such person with information about the nature of the alleged child abuse or neglect and any other necessary information. The department shall also provide such social services as are necessary and appropriate under the circumstances to protect and assist the child and to preserve the family.~~

~~(4) (d) The department shall, by the next working day after receiving a report of child abuse or neglect under this subsection of this section, make a written report or a summary on forms provided by the department to the proper law enforcement agency in the county and enter in the tracking system of child protection cases maintained pursuant to section 28-715 all reports of child abuse or neglect opened for investigation and any action taken. ; and~~

~~(5) (e) The department shall, upon request, make available to the appropriate investigating law enforcement agency and the county attorney a copy of all reports relative to a case of suspected child abuse or neglect.~~

~~(6)(a) (2)(a) In addition to the responsibilities under subsections subsection (1) through (5) of this section, upon the receipt of any report that a child is a reported or suspected victim of sex trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor as defined in section 28-830 and without regard to the subject of the report, the department shall:~~

~~(i) Assign the case to staff for an in-person investigation. The department shall assign a report for investigation regardless of whether or not the subject of the report is a member of the child's household or family or whether the subject is known or unknown, including cases of out-of-home child abuse and neglect;~~

~~(ii) Conduct an in-person investigation and appropriately coordinate with law enforcement agencies, the local child advocacy center, and the child abuse and neglect investigation team under section 28-729;~~

~~(iii) Use specialized screening and assessment instruments to identify whether the child is a victim of sex trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor or at high risk of becoming such a victim and determine the needs of the child and family to prevent or respond to abuse, neglect, and exploitation. On or before December 1, 2019, the department shall develop and adopt these instruments in consultation with knowledgeable organizations and individuals, including representatives of child advocacy centers, behavioral health providers, child welfare and juvenile justice service providers, law enforcement representatives, and prosecutors; and~~

~~(iv) Provide for or refer and connect the child and family to services deemed appropriate by the department in the least restrictive environment, or provide for safe and appropriate placement, medical services, mental health care, or other needs as determined by the department based upon the department's assessment of the safety, risk, and needs of the child and family to respond to or prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation.~~

~~(b) On or before July 1, 2020, the department shall adopt rules and regulations on the process of investigation, screening, and assessment of reports of child abuse or neglect and the criteria for opening an ongoing case upon allegations of sex trafficking of a minor or labor trafficking of a minor.~~

~~(7) (3) When a preponderance of the evidence indicates that a child is a victim of abuse or neglect as a result of being a trafficking victim as defined in section 28-830, the department shall identify the child as a victim of trafficking, regardless of whether the subject of the report is a member of the child's household or family or whether the subject is known or unknown. The child shall be included in the department's data and reporting on the numbers~~

of child victims of abuse, neglect, and trafficking.

Sec. 6. (1) In all non-court-involved cases in which a child lives temporarily with a kin caregiver or a relative caregiver until reunification can be safely achieved:

(a) A parent shall have the right to have his or her child returned to such parent's home upon demand unless the child is seriously endangered by the child's surroundings and removal is necessary for the child's protection; and

(b) The kin caregiver or the relative caregiver shall have temporary parental authority to exercise powers regarding the care, custody, and property of the child except (i) the power to consent to marriage and adoption of the child and (ii) for other limitations placed on the delegation of parental authority to the kin caregiver or the relative caregiver by the parent.

(2) If a child is seriously endangered and removal is necessary, the department shall inform the parent that he or she may be referred for a court-involved case or for a petition to be filed pursuant to subdivision (3)(a) of section 43-247.

(3) The department may reimburse a kin caregiver or a relative caregiver for facilitating services for the child and shall notify such caregiver if such caregiver is eligible for the child-only Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program established in 42 U.S.C. 601 et seq., and any other public benefit for which such caregiver may be eligible, and shall assist such caregiver in applying for such program or benefit.

(4) In all non-court-involved cases, the department shall provide a written notice of rights to any parent, and, if applicable, to any kin caregiver or relative caregiver, that complies with due process and includes notice (a) of the specific factual basis of the department's involvement, (b) of the possibility that a petition under section 43-247 could be filed in the future if it is determined that the safety of the child is not or cannot be assured, and (c) that the participation of the parent, kin caregiver, or relative caregiver in receiving prevention services could be relevant evidence presented in any future proceedings.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the otherwise existing rights of a child or parent who is involved in a non-court-involved case.

Sec. 7. (1) The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations consistent with this legislative bill and shall revoke any rules and regulations inconsistent with this legislative bill by July 1, 2021.

(2) The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations regarding (a) the maximum time allowed between receiving a report of child abuse or neglect and an assigned caseworker making contact with the affected family, (b) the maximum amount of time between receipt of a report and the completion of an assessment or investigation, (c) the transfer of cases from alternative response to traditional response, (d) the criteria and process to be used by the Review, Evaluate, and Decide Team, and (d) the process used to accept and categorize reports, including the operation of the hotline established under section 28-711.

(3) The department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations describing the process for non-court-involved cases, the right of any child, parent, kin caregiver, or relative caregiver to an administrative appeal of any department action or inaction in a non-court-involved case, and the process for finding that a child is seriously endangered.

Sec. 8. Section 43-4203, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019, is amended to read:

~~43-4203 (1) The Nebraska Children's Commission shall create a committee to examine state policy regarding the prescription of psychotropic drugs for children who are wards of the state and the administration of such drugs to such children. Such committee shall review the policy and procedures for prescribing and administering such drugs and make recommendations to the commission for changes in such policy and procedures.~~

(1) (2) The Nebraska Children's Commission commission shall create a committee to examine the Office of Juvenile Services and the Juvenile Services Division of the Office of Probation Administration. Such committee shall review the role and effectiveness of out-of-home placements utilized in the juvenile justice system, including the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers, and make recommendations to the commission on the juvenile justice continuum of care, including what populations should be served in out-of-home placements and what treatment services should be provided at the centers in order to appropriately serve those populations. Such committee shall also review how mental and behavioral health services are provided to juveniles in residential placements and the need for such services throughout Nebraska and make recommendations to the commission relating to those systems of care in the juvenile justice system. The committee shall collaborate with the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the Center for Health Policy at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the behavioral health regions as established in section 71-807, and state and national juvenile justice experts to develop recommendations. The recommendations shall include a plan to implement a continuum of care in the juvenile justice system to meet the needs of Nebraska families, including specific recommendations for the rehabilitation and treatment model. The recommendations shall be delivered to the commission and electronically to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature annually by September 1.

(2) (3) The commission shall collaborate with juvenile justice specialists of the Office of Probation Administration and county officials with respect to

any county-operated practice model participating in the Crossover Youth Program of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University.

(3) (4) The commission shall analyze case management workforce issues and make recommendations to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature regarding:

- (a) Salary comparisons with other states and the current pay structure based on job descriptions;
- (b) Utilization of incentives for persons who work in the area of child welfare;
- (c) Evidence-based training requirements for persons who work in the area of child welfare and their supervisors; and
- (d) Collaboration with the University of Nebraska to increase and sustain such workforce.

(4) (5) The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee created pursuant to section 43-4216, the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act Committee created pursuant to section 43-4716, and the Bridge to Independence Advisory Committee created pursuant to section 43-4513 shall be under the jurisdiction of the commission.

(5) (6) The commission shall work with the office of the State Court Administrator, as appropriate, and entities which coordinate facilitated conferencing as described in section 43-247.03.

(6) (7) The commission shall work with administrators from each of the service areas designated pursuant to section 81-3116, the teams created pursuant to section 28-728, local foster care review boards, child advocacy centers, the teams created pursuant to the Supreme Court's Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative, community stakeholders, and advocates for child welfare programs and services to establish networks in each of such service areas. Such networks shall permit collaboration to strengthen the continuum of services available to child welfare agencies and to provide resources for children and juveniles outside the child protection system.

(7) (8) The commission may organize subcommittees as it deems necessary. Members of the subcommittees may be members of the commission or may be individuals who have knowledge of the subcommittee's subject matter, professional expertise to assist the subcommittee in completing its assigned responsibilities, or the ability to collaborate within the subcommittee and with the commission to carry out the powers and duties of the commission. A subcommittee shall meet as necessary to complete the work delegated by the commission and shall report its findings to the relevant committee within the commission.

(8) (9) No member of any committee or subcommittee created pursuant to this section shall have any private financial interest, profit, or benefit from any work of such committee or subcommittee.

Sec. 9. Section 43-4331, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

43-4331 On or before September 15 of each year, the Inspector General shall provide to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature, the Supreme Court, and the Governor a summary of reports and investigations made under the Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare Act for the preceding year. The summary provided to the committees shall be provided electronically. The summaries shall detail recommendations and the status of implementation of recommendations and may also include recommendations to the committees regarding issues discovered through investigation, audits, inspections, and reviews by the office that will increase accountability and legislative oversight of the Nebraska child welfare system, improve operations of the department, the juvenile services division, the commission, and the Nebraska child welfare system, or deter and identify fraud, abuse, and illegal acts. Such summary shall include summaries of alternative response cases under alternative response ~~demonstration~~ projects implemented in accordance with sections 28-710.01, 28-712, and 28-712.01 reviewed by the Inspector General. The summaries shall not contain any confidential or identifying information concerning the subjects of the reports and investigations.

Sec. 10. Section 71-3405, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

71-3405 For purposes of the Child and Maternal Death Review Act:

- (1) Child means a person from birth to eighteen years of age;
- (2) Investigation of child death means a review of existing records and other information regarding the child from relevant agencies, professionals, and providers of medical, dental, prenatal, and mental health care. The records to be reviewed may include, but not be limited to, medical records, coroner's reports, autopsy reports, social services records, records of alternative response cases under alternative response ~~demonstration~~ projects implemented in accordance with sections 28-710.01, 28-712, and 28-712.01, educational records, emergency and paramedic records, and law enforcement reports;
- (3) Investigation of maternal death means a review of existing records and other information regarding the woman from relevant agencies, professionals, and providers of medical, dental, prenatal, and mental health care. The records to be reviewed may include, but not be limited to, medical records, coroner's reports, autopsy reports, social services records, educational records, emergency and paramedic records, and law enforcement reports;
- (4) Maternal death means the death of a woman during pregnancy or the death of a postpartum woman;
- (5) Postpartum woman means a woman during the period of time beginning

when the woman ceases to be pregnant and ending one year after the woman ceases to be pregnant;

(6) Preventable child or maternal death means the death of any child or pregnant or postpartum woman which reasonable medical, social, legal, psychological, or educational intervention may have prevented. Preventable child or maternal death includes, but is not limited to, the death of a child or pregnant or postpartum woman from (a) intentional and unintentional injuries, (b) medical misadventures, including untoward results, malpractice, and foreseeable complications, (c) lack of access to medical care, (d) neglect and reckless conduct, including failure to supervise and failure to seek medical care for various reasons, and (e) preventable premature birth;

(7) Reasonable means taking into consideration the condition, circumstances, and resources available; and

(8) Team means the State Child and Maternal Death Review Team.

Sec. 11. Original sections 28-710.01, 43-4331, and 71-3405, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, sections 28-712 and 28-712.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2018, and sections 28-710, 28-713, and 43-4203, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2019, are repealed.