

**Health and Human Services Committee
Confirmation Hearing – Doug Weinberg
January 28, 2016**

**Doug Weinberg, Director
Division of Children and Family Services
Department of Health and Human Services**

Good afternoon, Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Doug Weinberg (D-O-U-G W-E-I-N-B-E-R-G) and I'm the Director of the Division of Children and Family Services within the Department of Health and Human Services. I've had the privilege to now serve in this role for the last five months.

I appreciate the opportunity to be before the Committee today regarding my confirmation as well as the opportunity I've had to meet all of you during my time here. I am very impressed with your commitment to the safety and well-being of Nebraskans.

I will begin by sharing a little about my background and then talk about how I believe we can move forward together.

My career really consists of two distinct components. The first part included various finance and corporate development roles in private industry in the energy sector.

The second, beginning in 2001, in health and human services. Since then, two great mentors have strongly influenced my second career. Dave Bundy, CEO of Children's Home Society of Florida, where I served as CFO; and Judge Jim Payne, Director of the Indiana Department of Child Services, where I served as Deputy Director of Finance & Administration. Both gave me the opportunity to spread my wings far beyond finance and learn the program and services side of health and human services from the bottom up. It was their encouragement and guidance, along with what I learned in those positions, which broadened my experience and gave me the best preparation for this job.

In Nebraska, we have a team of dedicated and talented professionals within the Division who are eager to develop ways to improve the delivery and effectiveness of services to the children and families of Nebraska. As you know, the Division encompasses child protection and safety, adult protection and safety, economic assistance, child support enforcement and juvenile services.

Looking forward, I could go on about my vision.....keeping children safe and helping families achieve self-sufficiency and success.....but what I would really like to discuss is how I can make a difference in how we get to where we want to go:

- True public/private partnerships;
- Holding our partners accountable while providing our full support;
- Holding ourselves accountable;
- Providing open and transparent communication; and
- Creating a truly collaborative, win-win environment for all stakeholders.

We will only succeed as a Division if our partners are successful. The tasks and challenges ahead of us are far too great to overcome alone. There will need to be a collaborative effort of all stakeholders.

Our priorities for the coming year include:

- Reducing out-of-home placements in Protection and Safety through new interventions such as a Rapid Response Team pilot with NFC in the Eastern Service Area and a re-tooled Intensive Family Preservation program;
- Expansion of Alternative Response;
- Implementation of strategies to reduce Protection and Safety caseworker turnover;
- Introduction of a new collaborative case management pilot in our Employment First Program; and
- Continued process improvements in ACCESSNebraska.

I am excited about the future and look forward with great excitement and optimism to working with you as we strive to ensure that the citizens of Nebraska have the supports they need to live safe and stable lives.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.