

**DHHS – Parent and Caregiver Citizen Review Panel
Annual Report: October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022
Submitted: October 1, 2022**

This report addresses the actions taken to satisfy the scope of services for facilitation of the Parent and Caregiver Response Citizen Review Panel (CRP) as outlined in the agreement between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCFF). This report fulfills the annual reporting requirement of the 2021-2022 contract cycle, and includes activities undertaken to facilitate and maintain the Parent and Caregiver CRP recommendations from 2021 and implemented from Oct 1, 2020, to September 30, 2021.

Scope of Work: Provide administrative support to the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) Citizen Review Panel for Parent and Caregivers.

Nebraska Children provides staff support to facilitate meetings of the Parent and Caregiver CRP. This support includes arranging meeting locations, dates, times, agendas, minutes, copying and arranging for childcare when necessary. This support also involves working with local community collaboratives recruitment and support of family and caregiver participants.

Scope of Work: Assure that the Panel is composed of volunteer members who are broadly representative of the diversity in the state and includes members how have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect and may include adult former victims of child abuse and neglect.

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation continues to be grateful for the opportunity to administer the Caregiver Citizen Review Panel (CRP) and provide recommendations to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). This year we administered one community-based CRP group, a model that comprised of four total meetings in a community. This was our fourth year of administering a community-based group after working in Norfolk in 2019, Schuyler in 2020 and Columbus in 2021.

The benefit of the local, community-owned format is the ability to have a comprehensive, cross-cutting team of the variety of sectors serving the local area. There is also an opportunity for the direct recruitment of community caregivers who can speak to their experiences in the area. There is also the opportunity for local DHHS offices across all divisions to have the opportunity to hear from their specific regional community voices on how to connect and serve these areas.

This year, we continued to learn from this community-based work and partnering with one of our Thriving Families communities in Dakota County. They have conducted events to strengthen the supports and resources in their community and had a lot of information available to aid in the development of the recommendations.

From a community perspective, the feedback has been very positive about this process. There is an opportunity within the local collaborative partnerships to provide resources and assistance for the work that starts as a Caregiver CRP to grow into a local advisory group or network of providers to allow the community collaborative and have a greater impact on local initiatives and priorities. Also, the collaborative work done by the group will build connections and help communities reach more people who need supports.

While the recommendations in this report are specific to the Dakota County, many of these takeaways could be generalized for other parts of the state. We also propose partnering with each DHHS service area to identify communities within which to hold a Caregiver CRP and gather specific, relevant feedback and recommendations.

Scope of Work: Provide Support for meetings that occur at least once every three months.

Starting in the winter of 2021 and through early summer of 2022, residents and providers of Dakota County met to discuss issues facing the community with the goal to provide recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services. The group includes representatives from the education, human services, health department, community organization and residents with lived experience.

The group met five times starting in November 2021 and wrapped up in June 2022 and help administer a newcomer survey during the winter months. The group met virtually each time with meetings on Nov. 22, Feb. 23, March 30, May 11 and June 15.

The minutes for the first four meetings can be found in Appendix A. Minutes were not kept for the June 15 meeting as the work consisted solely of editing the recommendations.

Scope of Work: Assure that the CRP examines the policies and procedures and practices of the State and local agencies and where appropriate, specific cases, evaluate the extent to which the State and local child protection system agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities in accordance with state plan, the child protection standards and any other criteria that the panel considers important to ensure the protection of children, including a review of the extent to which the State and local child protective services system is coordinated with the foster care and adoption programs.

Starting in November of 2021, residents of Dakota County met to discuss issues facing the community with the goal to provide recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services. The group includes representatives from the education, human services, health department, community organization and residents with lived experience.

Based on the discussions and input from a newcomers survey administered in Dakota County to non-English speaking residents who moved to the community recently, the Citizen Review Panel group is making the following recommendations:

- Review and streamline the background check policy for approving familial childcare providers.
- Review the Title 20 process for reimbursement, looking to Iowa as a more efficient model.

- Increase awareness of services available, especially for non-English speaking residents.
- Provide more supports for youth aging out of Foster Care in rural areas of Nebraska.

Below is more rationale and reasoning for each of the recommendations.

Fingerprinting/Background check process: When hiring new staff, childcare facilities are required to have them complete the following:

- 1) Child/adult abuse registry check: Completed online by a new employee and comes with a fee of \$3. The employee receives their results and the childcare facility requests those results to be forwarded via email or a printed copy.
- 2) Childcare fingerprint criminal history check application: This application is emailed to DHHS.
- 3) Report of law enforcement contact form: This is held in the employee file and updated annually.
- 4) Fingerprint card: Applicant/employee will go get fingerprinted and pay \$10 for the fingerprinted card. This is mailed off the Nebraska State Patrol along with a payment of \$45. Once processed, the facilities receive a letter of eligibility. This process usually takes 30-45 days to obtain on average.

While the background check is important and vital in hiring any new employee, childcare facilities are missing opportunities to hire some valuable teachers due to the lengthy and timely process. Asking a potential new employee to wait at least a month to start working while their paperwork is processed can create a financial burden for them and stretch existing staff thin as they cover for a staff shortage. This can also cause issues for parents as their ability to work outside the home can also be limited.

One potential solution is to look at the system set up in Iowa. They allow its providers to run their potential new hires through a system called SING which runs the employees through a quick criminal background check and child and sex abuse registry check. If a search returns no results, a person is allowed to start immediately, but there are also additional steps to take if further research is required. This cost is just \$15 per search and the funds for these searches are deducted from a prepaid billing account. There is no need to wait weeks for paperwork to be mailed between agencies and the additional fees and time of getting fingerprinted.

It is important for childcare providers to hire qualified employees who can care for young people in a safe environment. The providers understand the need for background checks to be run on potential hires, but the current system puts too much burden on the employee and makes them wait more than a month before they can begin working. This creates a pinch point for providers and hinders their ability to create a safe space for childcare. A new system similar to what Iowa operates would keep the protections in place but do so in a timely fashion that would help both employees and childcare providers.

Title 20 Process:

When a family is already approved and enrolled in childcare assistance through the Department of Health and Human Services, they contact their DHHS worker and add the childcare agency as their current provider. Once added into the system the family can view their eligibility coverage, co-pays and dates of enrollment. This information is generally mailed to the provider up to 30 days later.

The slow communication also impacts providers when care ends. If a child has been unenrolled from state subsidy, the provider will receive a notice in the mail. However, depending on the time when the family is not enrolled, the provider may not be aware. When a child is no longer authorized for care and could remain in attendance, but the provider will be unable to bill the state for the care already provided in the interim. Sometimes it can take up multiple weeks for the letter to arrive after they have already been removed. It would benefit all parties if an electronic notification was sent out immediately and was followed by mailed correspondence.

Once a family is in the system, the provider is able to bill the state for childcare. In order to do this, the provider tracks each enrolled child's attendance on paper forms. At the end of the month, the provider then totals up the hours using the DHHS instructions and enters them into the website for payment. The provider then deducts the copay from the child for which it applies. This payment is automatically deposited into our account approximately 4-7 days after approval.

Several providers in Dakota County serve children and families in both Iowa and Nebraska. In comparing the two systems, Iowa has simplified this process and has created less room for errors. They have a system that providers log in to and will enter in attendance for a two-week period and submit directly online. Providers do not have to use paper calendars or total hours based on their rate and submit to the state in a separate form. Iowa's system is also beneficial because it is billed out every other week and paid out every two weeks – as opposed to monthly in Nebraska. Providers can also view the child's coverage as well through their online system, which eliminates lag time in communication. Providers believe this is a much smoother process and is critical for directors and owners to operate a successful business.

Increase awareness of services available, especially for non-English speaking residents.

Dakota County welcomes many new residents every year. Integrating them into the community is a priority to make sure they have access to services and supports they need to feel at home in the community. While many establish themselves with careers and family life, they do encounter issues and a lack of awareness over the following services that could further help them thrive in Dakota County.

- Many residents have young children and require daycare while they are at work. Many do not know or are aware of the fact that through Access Nebraska they can locate the daycares in the area where they can receive assistance. While the website is available in a multitude of languages, Access Nebraska is only available in English and Spanish, and this most directly impacts the Somali community in Dakota County.
- The pandemic heightened concerns about vaccines in the community, but the issues extend beyond COVID. In general, people are unaware about where to access vaccines for yellow fever and rabies.
- Medical information is also lacking about Medicare, especially within the Hispanic community. Many people do not know how to apply for Medicare, how to change plans and what benefits are available to them once they are enrolled.

DHHS could help address these issues by making all its documents available in multiple languages, and not just English and Spanish. This could mean either translating documents or allowing technology to allow organizations to translate on their own.

Supports are necessary for youth aging out of Foster Care in Rural areas of Nebraska

*AR CRP Annual Report to DHHS
Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
October 1, 2022*

On December 31, 2021, the Foster Care Review Office reported that 10 of the 32 youth aged 13-18 with a permanency objective of Independent Living live-in services areas of Nebraska outside the metro areas of Omaha and Lincoln. While Omaha and Lincoln have some programs for assisting youth aging out of foster care, the more rural areas of the state are severely underserved.

Youth aging out of foster care in rural areas of Nebraska have unique challenges not found in the Metro areas including no access to public transportation, limited access to mental health services, limited access to Medicaid-approved health providers, employment Shortages – transportation problems with getting to employment or school, limited access to libraries or resource centers for job/schools and limited access to social engagement opportunities

Intact families easily overcome these limitations unique to rural areas, but a 19-year-old youth with no support system, no saved financial resources, no stability in their housing situation, no mental health care and no transportation faces a quite discouraging future.

To help address these issues and challenges, the group developed the following recommendations:

- Reevaluate the implementation of the PALS program. Foster youth in rural areas are often referred for services through PALS and never hear anything from a PALS representative and therefore, do not benefit from the program. Also, the program should be offered consistently throughout the state rather than service pockets here and there.
- DHHS should engage in collaborative conversation and planning, with financial support, about how rural churches/legions/auxiliaries, VFW, etc. could get involved to assist youth in their communities prepare to live independently and offer that informal support.
 - Letters of Agreement for mileage reimbursement for assisting youth in regular work/school attendance, job searches, medical and mental health appointments, etc.
 - Provide educational resources to facilitators to help teach budgeting, interpersonal skills, self-care, internet safety, relationship boundaries, resume writing, interview skills, etc.
 - Build a network of “Host Families” – volunteers to provide a family-like environment for youth to learn these skills and get on their feet. These volunteers would not be parenting this youth/young adult, but rather providing shelter, food, life coaching and acceptance to willing participants.

Scope of Work: Inform the members and staff of the CRP that they shall not disclose to any person or government official any identifying information about any specific child protection case with respect to which the Task Force is provided information and shall not make public other information unless authorized by State statute. This assurance shall be documented by the completion of a confidentiality statement.

The CRP does not review individual child protection cases as part of their work. However, they do gather the feedback of their community peers and utilize their own stories of system involvement. Confidentiality of the stories shared by CRP members and their peers or families during meetings is captured within the group’s values of confidentiality and safe space. No personal stories are captured in meeting minutes or documents without the direct permission of the owner of that story.

Scope off Work: Assure that the CRP provides for public outreach and comment in order to assess the impact of current procedures and practices upon children and families in the community and in order to meet its obligations.

The Dakota County Community CRP were both open to the public and welcomed new members during the process. Nebraska Children worked with the Growing Community Connections collaborative to recruit community members as well as people with lived experience and expertise.

Appendix A: Meeting Minutes from Caregivers CRP

Parent & Caregiver Citizen Review Panel

Dakota County

Monday, November 22, 2021

Attendance: JoAnn Gieselman, Growing Communities Connections; Kathy Moller, Early Childhood Connections; Nancy Oates, Equus Workforce Solutions; Rita Drieling, SSC schools, K-5 counselor; Tyler Switalski, DHHS regional supervisor; Janie Snieder, mental health provider; Stacy Gritten, case manager; Sandra Braasch, Salem Lutheran church, Dakota City; Tony Bauman, Building Blocks Foster Care; Jennifer Jackson, Heartland Counseling; Erica DeLeon, One Siouxland; Jennifer Wallage, NCFE; Lincoln Arneal, NCFE

Lincoln provided overview of citizen review panel

- What the purpose is: provide recommendations to DHHS to help policy or address issues in state
- Provided a timeline overview and purpose for each of the five meeting with the group

Past recommendations from Citizen review panels:

- Affordable housing
- Transparency and threshold for reporting abuse and neglect to the department. Reporters wish to be informed of the outcome of their reporting efforts.
- Make better efforts to know and understand the cultures in the local community.
- Picture and photo representations to be used in situations where language is a barrier.

Community Survey

- YMCA is directing and funding a survey to gather local input in South Sioux and Dakota counties with people whose first language
- Discussion about overlap of survey being created called “Newcomer Engagement in Thriving Families”
 - This program is addressing:
 - Personal safety
 - Health
 - Education
 - Economic Stability
 - Quality of Life
 - This program will focus on responses from individuals who speak the following languages:
 - Somali
 - Oromo

- Spanish
 - Vietnamese
- Public health is also conducting a survey that will collaborate with “Newcomer Engagement in Thriving Families” regarding specific health related questions.
- Survey will be conversational with interviews done by interpreters
- Discussion about involving houses of worship to reach the target populations
- Goal is to complete by the end of January

Discussion on community issues

- EBT cards would not work at grocery stores (system was down)
- Put pressure on the Medicaid system to increase financial compensation for dental and vision centers in order to incentivize their efforts to work with families who receive Medicaid benefits.
- Childcare subsidies
 - Childcare credentialing and timely fashion of payments for childcare when the provider is an individual as opposed to a licensed facility.
 - Relatives and friends aren’t approved to be provider
 - Length of time for process and payment
 - COVID allowed review to be expedited
 - Iowa has a better system! Only enter hours instead of payment
 - Nebraska childcare roster given to families should include out-of-state childcare options that are credentialed with the State of Nebraska.
 - Make better connections with Iowa to consider the methods they use that are more efficient than our current Nebraska systems.
 - Nebraska Childcare Network is available, but not utilized
- Social Worker supports
 - Train social workers and case workers in areas of compassion so they approach each case from a place of support.
 - Increase number of case workers so that each person is not too overwhelmed to come from a place of support when working with families and individuals.
 - Find solution or checks/balances that can remedy the issue when human error mistakes are made in data entry for individuals applying for assistance.
 - Discussion was had about limited time on visitation for families when case workers need to travel to accommodate the family visits. During open discussion it seems this may already have been addressed on the state level.
- Quality and affordability of housing in South Sioux. Many families are unable to access appropriate housing based on cost.
 - Potential to add questions of this topic to the Newcomer Engagement survey.
- There is a lack of grace given to those who need to reschedule appointments when evaluating their housing eligibility with Section 8.
- Access to technology for individuals
 - Potential to add questions of this topic to the Newcomer Engagement survey.

What's Next

- Work to finalize the survey by mid-December
- Lincoln will work with JoAnn and others to figure out distribution plan for English speakers
- Will send out Doodle poll on December 15 to find date for the next meeting.

Minutes recorded by Jennifer Wallage

email: jwallage@nebraskachildren.org

Please email with any additions or corrections to be included.

Welcome/Introduction- Valarie Uken, Urban Native Center; Odessa Cooley, GCC Dakota Elementary School, Nancy Oates, Equuas Workforce Solutions; Janie Snieder, mental health therapist; Ed Mahon SSC PD; Amy Munderloh, NENCAP; Rita Drieling, Elementary Counselor; Tonya Bauman, Building Blocks Foster Care; Jennifer Jackson, Heartland Counseling; Erica DeLeon, One Siouxland; Kenzie Rouw, NCCFF; Lea Ann Johnson, NCCFF consultant; Lincoln Arneal, NCCFF; Mandy Engel-Cartie, Girls Inc Sioux City; Ashley Schmit, Thriving Families; JoAnn Giessleman, Growing Community Connections; Bobbi Taylor, Lived Experience Consultant

Lincoln reviewed- that the purpose of the Citizens Review Panel is to allow for meaningful public participation in child protection policy and practice. The Panel is an opportunity for citizens to engage in a rewarding process to assist the DHHS child protection system in being more responsive to the family and community needs. Working together to share ideas on how to improve and support DHHS. We are on 2 of 5 meetings

Tonya reviewed a survey that was shared with immigrants that have come to our community, it was closed with 302 data sets completed. Responded covered a variety of native countries which included: Mexico, Nicaragua, East Africa, Guatemala, Vietnam, Laos, South Sudan. There was a healthy mix of those who identified as male and female with most respondents being between the ages of 25-54. Deep dive into analyses hasn't happened yet. We tracked both the language that was interviewed in and their preferred language. Some of the questions asked were:

- Do you like your job - 81% responded yes with a follow up question of what barriers were there if you wanted to change jobs
- Do you like your current housing situation - 85% responded with yes, some respondents reported they'd maybe move if there were more affordable houses to purchase
- How do you feel about your personal health - most responded to being healthy/very healthy, main concerns are cancer, diabetes, COVID? Are there barriers to receive care - insurance or don't seek out doctor visits.

- 76% of the responses indicated those surveyed feel safe calling 911 for emergency help. They feel that the community offers appropriate faith-based centers, places to socialize, and activities to participate in. For youth, cost is a barrier to participate in sports or gym memberships. Most feel they have support and know who to contact.

Lincoln opened up the floor for questions, thoughts and concerns

- How many of those surveyed are employed, does the survey cover that question? No, it didn't, it specifically asked if they were happy with where they worked whether that is in home or out
- Did the survey ask what level of education the respondents had? No, that information can be found elsewhere, and the survey focused on wants, such as are they happy with their job and what barriers if any were there
- Affordable/Safe housing is profound for families to thrive
- Child Care - are the families just making do with what options there are? Are they making choices without knowing the sacrifices?
- Activities for youth - cost, options, more than sports
- Language barriers -daycare options during education or language learning
- Short term daycare
- Diverse and equity in daycare providers - make sure communities have representation
- Teach languages in early childhood programs - opens communication with child friends that are non-native speakers
- Are there DHHS policies that create barriers?
- Many more reports in the last year regarding safety of children - young children being left home alone. Do we need to have open dialogue with parents/caregivers regarding concerns with leaving children unattended?
- Several mentioned challenges with Title 20 placement with relatives and getting people approved as childcare providers with background checks and payments - process too long, difficult, takes too long for verification and or compensation
- Parents come together with professionals to have lived-in discussions and open engagement to work together for solutions

Review of results

- Are there any trends?

- No real surprises as most issues were known
- Lack of available and affordable housing
- What are the major takeaways?
 - Complimentary of the community and quality of life
 - Cost of Child activities
 - When schools have late start, leads to huge absent rate
 - No childcare from 730-10 or no transportation
 - Offering intramurals at schools
 - Girls wrestling state champion!
 - What opportunities does YMCA provide for young people?
 - Also need opportunities beyond sports – choir or social activities
 - Childcare issues
 - People might be hesitant to comment on childcare because they wonder what it
 - Length of time needed after childbirth is a year away from work
 - Fear of COVID is real, leads to hesitance to place children in day care
 - Language Barrier reflected at daycares
 - Daycares do not provide translation for people and often want people they can communicate daily
 - If child is going to take a spot, not just two hours at a time
 - Colleges to help respond for childcare
 - Grants to childcare providers to learn additional languages
 - NENCAP is working to support Little Bambinos
 - Need provide education about not leaving your child behind alone
- Do the results match what we know about the community?
 - Matches well
- What information do we not have?
 - Tyson hasn't had classes since COVID
 - Hearing from childcare providers
 - Learn more about what the YMCA offers for child activities

- Who do we need to hear from before we make any decisions?
 - Yesica from Dakota County Health
 - Daycare providers organization? (Kathy Muller, GCC)
 - How can we help you overcome language barrier?
 - Education in general about different cultures
 - Family input as well from people who struggle with these issues
 - State reimbursement and caregiver approval paperwork takes too long (Title 20 – placement with relative)

At the next meeting we will invite Yesica from the Dakota County Health Dept. to attend and share from their Health survey, someone from Simpco to talk about the status of their housing survey, and ask Kathy the GCC Early Childhood Coordinator to survey local daycare providers/families regarding language barriers, and also ask if they would like education regarding other cultures, faiths, traditions to help transition new children into their programs.

Next meeting March 30, 2022, at 9:00am

Dakota County Citizens Review Panel

March 30, 2022

9 am

Present: Janette McFee, Sandra Braasch, Nancy Oates, Michelle Parker, Stacey Schunk, Rachel Lundgren, Melissa Sanchez, Yesica Saldana, Erica DeLeon, Mandy Engel – Cartie, Shelli Rawson, Dawn Kimmel, Nikki Pierce, Lee Ann Johnson, Ashley Schmitt, Lincoln Arneal, Rita Drieling, JoAnn Gieselman, Kathy Moller

- Decide on 2- 3 Recommendations –
 - Child Care
 - Title 20 Placement
 - Survey
 - Health Survey
 - Housing Survey
 - Newcomers Survey
- Newcomers Survey –
 - Opened it back up – to try and get more representation from Somali
 - Able to get 20 Somali and also 34 Afghan
 - Survey Results
 - Would like activities for kids that are affordable and know where to find them
 - Requests for outdoor activities
 - Safe places for children to play
 - Afghan community- Started coming in January
 - 100% transportation barriers
 - Own a house someday
 - Job preference – language barriers
 - Health – Covid information from social media
 - Where they came from – Facebook could be the most trusted source. – Government information not coming in other languages. – Have to rely on social media for translation
 - Rachel is now analyzing the data from the survey and will be able to share full results soon
 - Questions from group-
 - Are the Afghan community all working with resettlement agency?
 - Not all if settled.
 - Afghan community promised a lot of things that are not happening – frustration
 - Many are being dropped from resettlement agencies because they are so overwhelmed.
 - Child Care needs?
 - Woman staying home – not all families are here yet – only a few working

- Des Moines piloting a Home-Based program to get Afghan mother’s licensed to provide care for other Afghan families
- Yesica shared information about Housing Study
 - “Happy Housing – Happy Kids”
 - Dakota County Housing Survey
 - 219 responses
 - Flyer available – English and Spanish
 - Will be in hot topics
 - Timeline through April/May
 - Full Report should be ready in September
- Yesica shared Health Survey
 - Address health equity
 - Minority
 - Received some but not a lot
 - Closing 3/31/22 – Met Goal!
- Yesica shared Listening sessions held
 - Child Care concerns
 - Not Aware of where to go
 - Not Aware of assistance
- Kathy shared information about Child Care Language/Culture Survey
 - Reviewed data from providers
 - 8 responses
 - 50% comfortable enrolling children that speak a different language
 - Majority feel equipped to meet the needs of different cultural beliefs
 - 62.5% interested in professional development opportunities
 - Resources or materials needed
 - Community resources to refer families
 - Books
 - Bilingual materials, bilingual teachers
 - Zoom trainings
 - Staff training
 - Help with translation paperwork
 - Sheets with common phrases
 - Created other survey for parents to find out what types of childcare they are using if any
 - Would like to provide Professional Development opportunities for Friends and Family care (Kinship care) and those unlicensed so that they are still able to provide quality
 - Nancy shared concern of Kinship care not being approved for subsidy
 - Seems to be dropped
- Melissa shared Child Care concerns
 - Burn out
 - Staffing - having to reduce capacity due to being short staffed
 - Subsidy – information about changes not timely- have to do by hand, time consuming, Iowa seems to have better system
- Closed with ideas for recommendations

- ✓ with Title 20 placement with relatives and getting people approved as childcare providers with background checks and payments - process too long, difficult, takes too long for verification and or compensation
- ✓ extra time and support for case workers involved with safety and health of children
- ✓ Child Care concerns families Not Aware of where to go or aware of assistance they could get
- ✓ *Finger printing for new employees takes a long time and employees can't wait without a job, who and how do we address that*
- ✓ *Supports for youth ageing out of Foster Care- smaller rural communities don't have the connections to support youth.*
- ✓ *Subsidy – information about changes not timely- have to do by hand, time consuming, Iowa seems to have better system.*
- ✓ *Provide the Access Neb system in different languages.*

Next meeting May 11th at 9 am

Note recommendations for DHHS any in italics came from the TFSC group

Dakota County Citizens Review Panel Notes

5/11/22

9:00 am

Present: Lincoln Arnell, Ashley Schmit, Stacy Shenk, Melissa Sanchez, Tyler Switalski, Carie Jo Ahgrim, Erica DeLeon, Rita Drieling, Mandy Engel-Cartie, JoAnn Gieselman, Kathy Moller

- Welcome-introductions
- Review the path/thoughts we have had so far and determine what we have left to do
- Last meeting, we closed with these ideas for recommendations:
 - ✓ With Title 20 placement with relatives and getting people approved as childcare providers with background checks and payments - process too long, difficult, takes too long for verification and or compensation
 - ✓ Extra time and support for case workers involved with safety and health of children
 - ✓ Child Care concerns families Not Aware of where to go or aware of assistance they could get
 - ✓ *Finger printing for new employees takes a long time and employees can't wait without a job, who and how do we address that*
 - ✓ *Supports for youth ageing out of Foster Care- smaller rural communities don't have the connections to support youth.*
 - ✓ *Subsidy – information about changes not timely- have to do by hand, time consuming, Iowa seems to have better system.*
 - ✓ *Provide the Access Neb system in different languages.*
- We took these seven suggestions down to four. Then we figured out which ones might fit together under one recommendation, and which need to be submitted individually.
 - 1) Combine the following as one suggestion:
 - With Title 20 placement with relatives and getting people approved as childcare providers with background checks and payments - process too long, difficult, takes too long for verification and or compensation - **Nancy**
 - *Finger printing for new employees takes a long time and employees can't wait without a job, who and how do we address that – **Melissa and Kathy***

- *Subsidy – information about changes not timely- have to do by hand, time consuming, Iowa seems to have better system. – **Melissa and Kathy***
 - 2) Extra time and support for case workers involved with safety and health of children – **Nancy/Eva- lived Experience**
 - 3) *Supports for youth ageing out of Foster Care- smaller rural communities don't have the connections to support youth. -**Tonya***
 - 4) Child Care concerns families Not Aware of where to go or aware of assistance they could get – **Yesica**
- We add one more Citizens Review panel meeting to review our recommendations and then take them to the TFSC group and the large GCC group to see if there is any final input? **Next meeting June 15th.**
 - To present our suggestions, we asked for volunteers from our panel who would be willing to write up the specific recommendations on one or more of the suggestions. They don't need to be super long (a few paragraphs or a page each should do). Lincoln suggested this might be a better approach than him writing it up. **Lincoln can also provide stipends to help cover the time needed to write these up.** Lincoln can edit, and help guide anyone interested, but it might be more meaningful if the recommendations come directly from our community members. **The following have been asked to write a little information and their thoughts on different suggestions, and have their information sent to Lincoln or JoAnn Gieselman and she will get it to Lincoln by June 8-**
 - Title 20 placement with relatives- *Nancy, /Finger printing - **Melissa and Kathy**, /Subsidy- **Melissa and Kathy**, /Extra time & support for caseworkers- **Nancy-Eva**, / Support for youth again out of Foster Care- **Tonya**, / Finding needed assistance- **Yesica***
 - Next meeting/last meeting- **June 15th 9am**
 - *Thank you again for your time, sharing and support!*