



# **Nebraska LB 1173 Child and Family Well-Being Working Group Kickoff**



# Agenda

- Welcome
- Remarks
  - Senator Ben Hansen, Chairperson of Health and Human Services Committee
  - Hon. Michael G. Heavican, Chief Justice Nebraska Supreme Court
  - Dannette Smith, Chief Executive Officer, DHHS
- Overview LB 1173
- Child and Family Well-Being Working Group/Next Steps
- Engagement sessions
- Public Comment

# Remarks



DHHS CEO  
Dannette Smith



Senator  
Ben Hansen



Chief Justice  
Michael G. Heavican

<https://youtu.be/vSdZ6uTIYbw>.



# Reimagine **Well-Being**

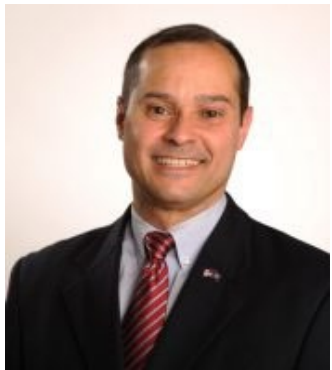




# The Stephen Group Team

## *Outside Consultant*

Legislatively mandated outside consultant with expertise in child welfare system hired by DHHS to assist the work group with the development of a written framework for the practice and finance model.



**John Stephen**  
Managing Partner

*Founder and CEO, The Stephen Group. Former NH Commissioner of Health and Human Services and Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Safety. Led child welfare transformation projects in several states. Annie E. Casey Foundation consultant*



**Sharon Williams**  
Senior Consultant

*Former CEO of Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, Juvenile Justice services organization, Assistant Director Detroit Head Start, subject matter expert for health policy interpretation & operationalization*



**Richard Kellogg**  
Senior Consultant

*Former Commissioner, Deputy Director, and Director of Health and Human Services in Virginia, New Hampshire, Tennessee, and Washington. Led child welfare projects in several states, including Nebraska. National behavioral health expert. Annie E. Casey Foundation consultant*



**Brooke Holton**  
Senior Consultant

*Former COO in the nonprofit human service sector and 20 years in state and municipal government in the areas of Human Resources, Public Safety and Justice System*



**John Cooper**  
Senior Consultant

*CEO of a child welfare not-for-profit lead agency. Former Assistant Secretary of Operations for Florida CPS. Led child welfare projects in a number of states, including Nebraska. FFPSA national trainer*

# Legislative Bill 1173



# OVERVIEW



# LEGISLATIVE BILL 1173

- Establish an **intersectoral** child welfare practice model work group;
- Establish appropriate strategic leadership and guidance for **practice and finance model development** from across the three branches of government; and
- **Appropriate funds** for contractual support to build the practice and finance model for Nebraska.



# LEGISLATIVE BILL 1173

The Legislature has determined that this comprehensive transformation will require an **integrated model** addressing all aspects of the system and strong partnerships among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and **community stakeholders**.



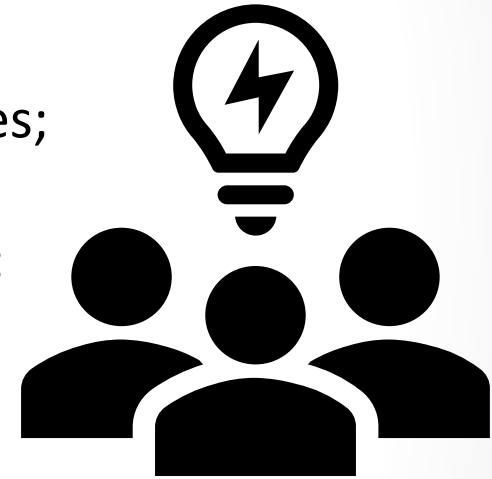


# LEGISLATIVE BILL 1173

## The Establishment of an Intersectoral child welfare practice model workgroup

### Membership (DHHS):

- The Director or designee of Div. of Behavioral Health;
- The Director or designee of Div. of Children and Family Services;
- The Director or designee of Div. of Developmental Disabilities;
- The Director or designee of Div. of Medicaid and Long-Term;
- The Director or designee of the Div. of Public Health;

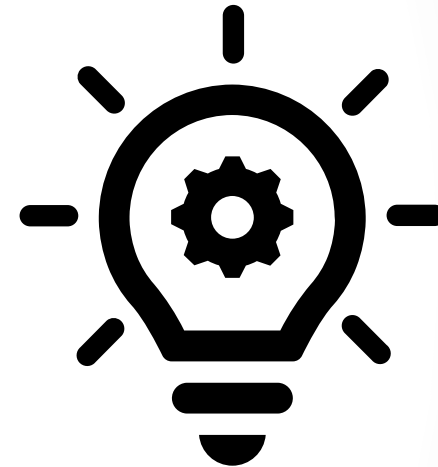




# LEGISLATIVE BILL 1173

## Intersectoral child welfare practice model work group membership:

- The Commissioner of Education or designee;
- The State Court Administrator;
- A representative of the state judicial branch; and
- Representatives from each federally recognized Indian tribes





# LEGISLATIVE BILL 1173

## Intersectoral child welfare practice model work group task:

Develop a **practice and finance model** for child welfare system transformation in Nebraska, with consultation from **key stakeholders**, judges from separate juvenile courts and judges of county courts sitting as juvenile courts, private child welfare providers, individuals with lived experience in the child welfare system, the Nebraska Children's Commission, the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare, the Foster Care Review Office, child advocacy centers, law enforcement, and county attorneys.



# LEGISLATIVE BILL 1173

**The practice and finance model shall include, but not be limited to:**

- Development of a statewide mission and vision for the child welfare system in Nebraska;
- Development of values and practice priorities for the child welfare system in Nebraska;
- Development of statewide program goals and a practice and finance model for child welfare system case management and service delivery;
- Development of engagement strategies to support community involvement in child welfare system transformation;
- Development of strategies that strengthen relationships across the court system, probation, executive branch agencies, the State Department of Education, and community partners;

# LEGISLATIVE BILL 1173



## **The practice and finance model shall include, but not be limited to (cont.):**

- Development of strategies that support integration across agencies;
- Development of accountabilities across the entire child welfare system;
- Evaluation of the state's Title IV-E claiming practices and identification of appropriate steps to optimize federal reimbursement for child welfare system expenditures;
- Opportunities and financial mechanisms for providers to pilot innovative solutions to meet program goals; and
- Development of a strategy for data collection and outcome monitoring.



# LEGISLATIVE BILL 1173

## **Strategic Leadership Group**

The strategic leadership group shall be a nonvoting group that exists for purposes of receiving updates on the work group's activities.

### **The Strategic Leadership Group shall consist of:**

- The chairperson of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature;
- The chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature;
- The Chief Justice or the Chief Justice's designee; and
- The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health and Human Services.



# LB 1173 Stakeholders

## *Child and Family Well-Being Stakeholder Working Group*

Voluntary key stakeholder group integral to the development of the 1173 Child Welfare Practice and Finance model framework. Participants include judges, private child welfare providers, individuals with lived experience in the child welfare system, the Nebraska Children's Commission, the Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare, the Foster Care Review Office, child advocacy centers, law enforcement, and county attorneys.



## *LB 1173 Work Group*

Legislatively mandated group required to participate in the development of the Child Welfare Practice and Finance Framework. Members include participation from DHHS, DOE, Court Administrator, state judicial branch, and representatives from each federally recognized Indian tribe, appointed by each tribe's Tribal Council or Executive Committee. Responsibilities include:

- Submitting monthly reports of progress to the Strategic Leadership group
- Deliver the Child Welfare Practice and Finance model framework transformative report by 12/1/2023



## *Strategic Leadership Group*

Legislatively mandated nonvoting group that exists for purposes of receiving updates on the work group's activities.

Membership:

- Chairperson of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature;
- Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature;
- Chief Justice or the Chief Justice's designee; and
- Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or such officer's designee.



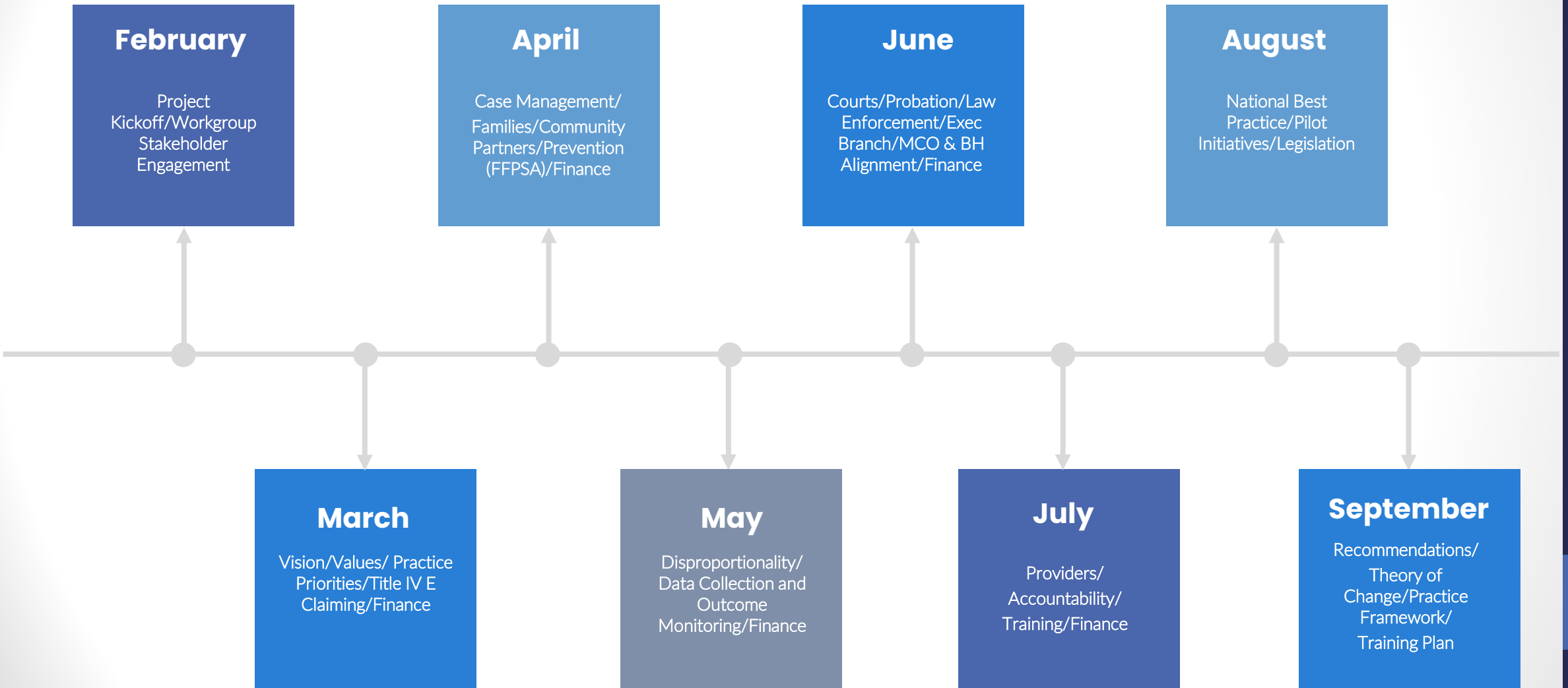
# Workgroup Deliverable

**On or before  
December 1, 2023,  
the work group shall  
electronically submit  
the written practice  
and finance model  
framework to the  
Health and Human  
Services Committee  
of the Legislature.**





# LB 1173 Workgroup Meeting Focus and Timeline



Proprietary and Confidential



# What will be happening outside Workgroup meetings

- Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Surveys
- Continuous Stakeholder Engagement Sessions
  - Omaha (Feb.)
  - Columbus (April)
  - Kearney (June)
  - North Platte (August)
  - Lincoln (Sept.)
  - Scottsbluff (October)
- Legislative committee presentation



# Communication

- DHHS Website
  - Meeting times, locations and topics of interest
  - Ability for stakeholders to offer comments
  - Frequently asked questions
  - Materials of interest
  - Monthly update reports
  - Survey link
  - Key contact
- Public/stakeholder community engagement sessions
- DHHS Provider Newsletter
- Court Improvement Project Newsletter
- Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Newsletter

# Breakout Engagement Session Objective

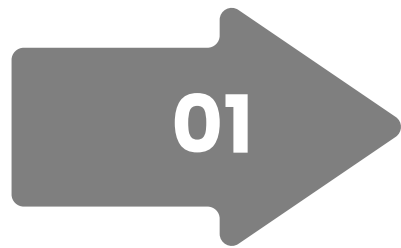


1. Understand the problem
2. Ideate on the vision for the new child welfare system
3. Identify priority areas for system reform
4. Begin to build the solution framework



# Design Thinking

A method for innovation, a human-centered framework, that guides innovators through deeply understanding problems, to collaboratively and iteratively developing ideal solutions



## **Empathize**

Understand the problem



## **Ideate**

Identify a vision for change and develop priorities for change



## **Imagine and Build**

Iterating on solutions that are possible



# Establishing the Framework Design Challenge

## What can be

- Process begins with identifying and understanding a complex problem – the design challenge
- Begin to develop “What can be”
- “What can be” should be broad enough to allow for creative solutions, yet not so broad that they are unachievable

***“How might we create a future child welfare practice and finance model that promotes the best services and supports across the state that ensure all children, youth and families receive top-quality service?”***



# PUBLIC COMMENT



# Empathy Discussion

## Group Participation

- Participants will have 30 minutes to address each of the following questions:
  1. What are some of the emerging child welfare issues in Nebraska?
  2. What are some of the challenges to address these emerging issues?
  3. What work has already been done or considered that could be useful in designing a new and transformative child welfare system in Nebraska?
- The purpose of this activity is to understand the experiences and perspective you have all had in relation to the “current state” child welfare practice and finance model





# Ideate

In this stage, participants will apply the empathy they have gained and use their imagination to start to discuss a vision for the new child welfare practice and finance model. Participants will take 30 minutes to answer the following question and put their ideas on a flip chart:

**What are some of the key solutions that you would want included in your future vision for the new child welfare practice and finance model in Nebraska?**

When considering this question, do not be afraid to think about ideas that are novel, new and that have not been done before.

When complete, participants will begin to prioritize solutions.



# Imagine and Build



*In this stage, participants will address specific focus area for the child welfare practice and finance model of the future that were contained in LB 1173 and address the following question:*

*Using solutions that were identified in the visioning session, address each of the nine areas on the next slide and identify one or two items that will need to change in the current system to achieve the new vision and future state?*



# Imagine and Build (What should it look like?)

1. Strategies that support integration across agencies
2. Child welfare case management services
3. Prevention Services
4. Physical, behavioral health and other community-based services
5. Promoting equitable services and access for all children and families
6. Youth rehabilitation/treatment
7. Adoption and guardianship assistance
8. Services post adoption, guardianship and transitions from foster care, including youth transitioning to independence
9. Public or private education and training services



# WRAP UP

- What are the biggest themes of the discussion today?
- What is the most important take away for the day?
- What do you want to make sure is communicated to the workgroup going forward?

