

This report details efforts taken to facilitate a DHHS Citizen Review Panel, as required by CAPTA. The Young Adult Citizen Review Panel consists of youth and young adults with child welfare or/and juvenile justice system experience. This report describes projects for FY 2021-22.

Young Adults Citizen Review Panel Year-End Report FY 21-22

Prepared by Nebraska Children

This report addresses the actions taken to satisfy the scope of services for the facilitation of a Citizen Review Panel (CRP) as outlined in the agreement between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and Nebraska Children and Families Foundation. This report includes activities undertaken to facilitate and maintain a CRP as part of the duties of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation Advisory Board. These activities are described in more detail below.

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

Nebraska Children provides staff support to facilitate all activities of the CRP. This support includes partnering with CRP members to arrange meetings locations, dates, times and agendas; and, providing lodging, meals, and transportation, as needed. By working with CRP members to plan and facilitate meetings, young adults receive professional experience with meeting facilitation and leadership, in addition to the opportunity to share their perspectives as members.

The Youth Adult CRP is funded through braided public and private dollars, including those provided under this grant. This strategy maximizes the youth’s ability to apply their voice and experience without asking for too much travel and enhances the opportunities and supports that Nebraska Children can provide to remove any barriers to participation while staying within funding stream parameters.

Additionally, support staff provides informal coaching to young adult CRP members throughout the year. Areas of coaching include conflict resolution, disagreeing respectfully, meeting facilitation, presentation development, among other soft skills. Such support is provided via one-on-one conversations before, during, and after meetings; and, to the entire group during meetings, when needed.

Of final note is the number of CRP members who are parenting. To ensure that parenthood is not a barrier to participation, we provide a childcare stipend for members. Plus, the CRP meetings are open to children. If needed, additional support staff were recruited to provide childcare during meetings. By providing a safe, supervised space for children, CRP members were able to focus on the meeting agenda. We believe that these supports help ensure the panel is inclusive.

Scope of Work: Provide support for meetings that occur at least once every 3 months.

The Young Adult Citizen Review Panel (CRP) continued to meet monthly to help increase productivity and follow-through from meeting to meeting. While we resumed our in-person meetings but kept a virtual option for people to attend in case they encountered logistical issues.

<i>In-Person Meetings</i>
October 17, 2021 – Omaha
November 7, 2021 – Lincoln
December 5, 2021 – Omaha
January 9, 2022 – Lincoln
February 6-7 – Ashland
March 20, 2022 - Lincoln
April 10, 2022 – Omaha
May 15, 2022 – Lincoln
June 12, 2022 – Ashland
July 30-31, 2022 – Hickman
August 28, 2022 – Lincoln
September 11, 2022 – Omaha

The group's first meeting happened on October 17 in Omaha at the Project Everlast offices. We kicked off the year by starting with a teambuilding activity designed to highlight the expertise and insights each person brings to the group. The group welcomed Anna from Foster Youth in Action for updates on that organization's happenings and opportunities to participate in work at the national level. After lunch the group revisited the final recommendations before they were submitted to DHHS and reviewed group norms and expectations. To close out the meeting, we did a year-long planning of events and projects for the year.

The second meeting happened on Nov. 7 in Lincoln at the Nebraska Children offices. The group started the meeting with another team building activity where they each won a hypothetical \$1 million but had to spend it immediately. They then met with Joe DiCostanzo, who oversees the Connected Youth Initiative's education work. Joe talked about his work and partnerships and ideas he's excited about. After lunch, the group reviewed the new CYI website www.neconnectedyouth.org. They also reviewed a potential partnership with Opportunity Youth United and what could be gained from working with them. The meeting closed with work on Legislative Days by reviewing last year's evaluations and discussing big picture ideas.

Our third meeting during the quarter happened on December 5 in Omaha at the Project Everlast offices. Brittany Williams started the day with CPI training on de-escalation training. The group plans to use these lessons during their roles as facilitators during Legislative Days and other events. After lunch, the group welcomed Claire Hoff to review the CYI Coaching Survey results. The members provided feedback from what they learned from the data and also other information they would like to see. Finally, the group wrapped up the day by working on Legislative Days and assigning roles for the event.

The group's first meeting happened on January 9. The focus of the meeting was preparation for Legislative Days. The meeting kicked off with discussions of the previous year's CRP recommendations with several representatives from DHHS. The group provided more background on their recommendations and their rationale. The group spent the rest of the meeting working on Legislative Days after they decided to move to a virtual format. They also made assignments on who would contact senators and invite them to the luncheon on Monday. They walked through the weekend and went over expectations for the members during the event.

Around 20 young people attended the annual Legislative Day from February 5-6. Those youth represented the young people from around the state that are part of the Connected Youth Initiative (CYI). The Youth Advisory Board planned and facilitated the event and aimed to connect youth from diverse backgrounds around civic engagement and provide an opportunity for them to have a voice. Because Omicron variant surge of the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to host the event online. To try to avoid screen burnout, we limited the daily sessions to just three hours each day.

During the first day, the youth heard a presentation from Amy Peters, an attorney in Lincoln who works with young people in the system, and attended training topics included the legislative process, public speaking, grass-roots advocacy, and how to have solution-focused, non-confrontational discussions about issues about which they are passionate. Among all the skill development, youth discussed current legislation impacting young Nebraskans and selected five bills to capture in brief presentations. Members then created, practiced and recorded their presentations on Sunday.

On Monday, they young people met with Judge Lawrence Gendler, a retired juvenile court judge. The youth shared their bill presentations with senators over lunch and in an afternoon meeting with Governor Ricketts. The group presented on five bills about limiting confinement of youth in correctional facilities, wearing tribal regalia on school grounds, providing feminine hygiene products to incarcerated individuals, providing mental health training for secondary school staff and redefining child abuse in statutory code. The full presentations and their supporting documents can be viewed here: <https://www.nebraskachildren.org/what-we-do/connected-youth-initiative/2022-youth-legislative-day.html>

Our third meeting during the quarter happened on March 20 in Lincoln. The group debriefed from Legislative Days and reviewed the evaluations. They met with Mariana Munoz de Schell from Nebraska Children to talk about how they could include a more diverse population group in their events. They also received an update about national opportunities from Foster Youth in Action and participated in a burning wall activity. They also had a short discussion with Claire Hoff about the CYI coaching survey and recapped the CRP discussion from January. Finally, they began looking forward to the summer event and brainstormed location ideas.

The group's first meeting of the third quarter happened on April 10 in Omaha. The group kicked off the meeting with a team building activity designed to help illustrate the different perspective they each bring and how their past experiences influence who they are today. They then began prep work on the LEAD the Summer event examining past evaluations. During the afternoon they started work and looked at facilities available for the event. For the part of the afternoon, the group talked with representatives from Embrace Families about how young people in the child welfare system face challenges obtaining their drivers license.

On May 15, the group met in Lincoln. They spent the morning working on the agenda for LEAD the Summer and finalizing other details. The afternoon kicked off with a discussion with Deanna from DHHS about pandemic recovery and ongoing needs. The members brought up topics such as medical bills/healthcare, struggles with employment and the technology challenges of an online world. Sara Riffel joined the group to kick off the CRP discussions. The group talked about mental health, sibling visitation and training for natural hair care.

The group gathered at Mahoney on June 12 for the last meeting of the quarter. The meeting started with a discussion of CRP recommendation topics. The members reviewed recommendations from the last several years. Some of the ideas brought up include transportation issues, summer programs to learn about life skills, connections to peer support, mental health first aid training to state workers. In the afternoon, the group met with Theresa Cusic and Stephanie Volkmer from the Court Improvement Project. They reviewed the court questionnaire and made recommendations on how to improve it. They wrapped up the meeting working on the final details for the LEAD the Summer event.

The group kicked off the fourth quarter with a quick prep call on July 25 before hosting the LEAD the Summer event on July 30-31. The event focused on goal setting, identifying core values and developing a personal mission statement that can help them identify their advocacy issues. The weekend also included social time as the young people were able to build connections with each other.

The August meeting focused on a picking back up the CRP discussions and finalizing the topics for the recommendations. The group decided on four areas and picked issues in each of those to provide recommendations. The members also reviewed a slide for DHHS about training. They also debriefed from LEAD the Summer and the Opportunity Youth United convening the members attended in Miami.

The last meeting of the year happened on Sept. 26. The group finalized the CRP recommendations and began writing the language for the recommendations. They then went over the Language Access Plan with Mariana and participated in a guided discussion provided by Race Forward. They wrapped up by looking ahead to the new year and selected a new member to join the group from the submitted applications.

The minutes for all the meetings are in Appendix A.

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

The Young Adult Citizen Review Panel consists of 14-26-year-old unconnected young people. These are young adults with direct experience in Nebraska's child welfare, juvenile justice and/or homeless systems. Members have experienced a variety of placements, services, permanency objectives and, in some cases, multiple state

systems. Members serve at their discretion and cannot be required to participate under any case plan, court order or other obligatory order, making membership completely voluntary.

The group consists of 11 members who were selected via an application and represents the communities of Omaha, Lincoln, Bellevue, Fremont, Crete, Columbus and Beatrice. Each of the young people serves renewable one-year terms. Membership is capped at 15 members and they will seek new members in February and August.

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 group signed confidentiality agreements for the 2021-22 CRP year. The CRP does not review individual child protection cases as part of their work. However, they do gather the feedback of their 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 of Work: Assure that the CRP provides for public outreach and comment to assess the impact of current procedures and practices upon children and families in the community to meet its obligations.

As previously described, CRP members are involved in local youth leadership, youth-serving programs, and/or peer groups with other alumni or current participants of the child welfare system. They also reach out to groups that have specific expertise on their projects to capture additional perspective. Further, the CRP is open to any youth with experience in child welfare or related systems to participate. These strategies help provide the opportunity for additional feedback on CRP activities and recommendations.

Scope of Work: Assure that at least one member of the CRP attends the annual Citizen Review Panel Conference.

The National CRP Conference happened from May 23-25, 2022, in California. Fatuma Hassan and Lincoln Arneal travelled to Monterey to represent the group at the event. They attended sessions to learn about the recommendations of from other states and the processes they go through. They enjoyed connecting with CRP administrators and members from other states and enjoying the California coastline.

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.

The Project Everlast Citizen Review Panel (PE CRP) formulated four recommendations based on their lived experience as well as their interactions with other young people at Legislative Days and our LEAD the Summer event. The recommendations are also impacted by the current state of child welfare in the state and

After our discussions, the panel focused their work on four recommendations: to provide for better environments during sibling visits, to address transportation issues foster youth face including driver's education access and obtaining insurance, requiring employees to go through mental health first aid training and offering summer programming to educate and inform young people in foster care.

Recommendation 1: Improving Sibling Visitations Locations

Sibling connections are essential for maintaining family relations and improving siblings' overall self-esteem, sense of connection to home, and social engagement. Conversely, limited or inconsistent sibling visitations, such as social withdrawal, decreased self-esteem, and self-destructive behaviors, are detrimental. Thus, the current visitation standards for siblings must be improved.

The first step is for DHHS and visitation organizations to shift away from the office to more youth-friendly environments. Currently, visitations occur in office-like settings, which are not positive environments for sibling interactions. In addition, these spaces can be re-triggering for siblings because when they first enter the Child Welfare System, they experience rigorous interviews and evaluations in office-like settings.

A better solution would be for visitations at parks, zoos or other public spaces. These areas are more natural environments and allow for normal sibling interactions. The shift towards more family-friendly environments will help improve and strengthen the sibling bond. Also, DHHS should encourage siblings to attend team-building/sibling bonding activities such as Camp Catch Up, which creates positive core memories while in the Child Welfare System.

DHHS should hold visitation organizations accountable to ensure visits are consistent and meaningful for siblings. DHHS can increase its support for visitation organizations by helping with recruitment efforts and opening lines of communication. For example, engaging foster parents in sibling meetings will help consistency. Many foster parents are willing to step in if asked, but no one is reaching out to them.

Recommendation 2: Address Transportation Issues for Foster Youth

Wards of the state are often presented with more barriers to obtaining transportation. Some of these include costs for driver's education, lack of a reliable vehicle for their driving test, inability to be insured after obtaining a driver's permit, and expenses for public transportation such as bus fares. These barriers can adversely impact their transition to independent adults to get to work or school.

Often the youth cannot obtain funding for driver's education, and it may be the circumstance that driver's education is their only outlet for learning how to drive. Driver's education must be accessible for these youth because not only does it provide some normalcy, but it also allows them to be more insurable. Additionally, participating in driver's education may eliminate the issue of not having a reliable vehicle, as a student vehicle is often provided during driving times. In some cases, passing the driver's education program grants youth their license directly, eliminating the obstacle of getting to the DMV.

The NCFY youth advisory board strongly recommends that the state provides funding for driver's education for all youth in its care. We recognize that this is an additional cost. Still, the benefits will heavily outweigh the downside as this funding will eliminate many obstacles youth face when trying to obtain their license.

Another solution could be having a state-run driver's education program exclusively for state wards. With a state-run program, access to the program and a vehicle becomes a non-issue. However, transportation to and from this program may present an issue as many wards are spread out geographically.

For those who rely on public transportation, it is often the youth's responsibility to pay for bus fares to get to work. This can be unrealistic for youth in school and extracurriculars, who may be unable to work and have some form of income. Therefore, we recommend that the state provides funding for public transportation to all youth in its care.

Finally, we recommend DHHS work to prevent insurers from excluding foster children. Unfortunately, many youths fall into limbo where they cannot be insured because they are a liability. They are not covered by their

foster parents and cannot afford coverage on their own. Youth who have passed their driver's education program and have sufficient driving practice should not be held in any lesser regard than those without a state ward for insurance.

Recommendation 3: Require mental health first aid training for professionals who interact with system-involved youth (case workers, probation officers, foster parents, foster care agency representatives etc.)

We recommend mental health first aid training become standard for professionals who directly interact with system-involved youth in the juvenile justice and foster care systems.

As seen in LB 852, passed into law in the spring of 2022, it is beneficial to recognize the need for behavioral health points of contact for school districts to provide mental health first aid training. However, we want to see this go one step further and require mental health first aid training for those interacting with system-involved youth. We recognize that youth with system involvement are more likely to experience mental health-related issues. Professionals with the tools necessary to understand and better help the youth would provide more consistently positive outcomes.

We strongly encourage mental health first aid training for professionals. We suggest training be provided in collaboration with lived experience experts as trainers to give a complete perspective.

Recommendation 4: Offer Summer Programming to Foster Youth

We recommend a summer camp that provides foster youth with resources available specifically for them. Currently, limited camps in Douglas and Lancaster counties prioritize youth with these resources. The current camps in the area are faith-based, while we desire to see something more inclusive. Several resources are available for youth in the foster care system, but few people know about these resources.

We recommend a one-week program where youth can have the opportunity to stay overnight. Each day would focus on a new topic, for example, car ownership, what a healthy relationship looks like and signs of an unhealthy one, and more. In addition, there could be a day solely focused on resources and organizations available for youth and how to connect with people in the community, such as Central Plains coaching, opportunity passport, etc. This camp will prepare youth for their future and encourage them to dive deeper into what makes them unique.

A camp like this would allow young people to develop positive relationships with peers who experienced foster care. In addition, this camp could teach young people about self-advocacy because often they don't know how to ask for help or where to go. As a bonus, they can also develop connections with peers and organizations.

Youth must discuss these topics because they often don't hear about them at home or school. As a result, children frequently feel isolated and confused. Building a community would help mitigate those feelings by connecting youth with peers. They will also be able to explore their goals and passions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these recommendations. We feel these four topics would positively impact hundreds of foster youths in Nebraska. We look forward to continuing the conversation about these recommendations.

Appendix A: Meeting Minutes:

NCFE Advisory Board

October 17, 2021

Attendance: Emma, Jessica, Nicole, Tyeisha, Nick, Nedhal, Fatuma, Sebastian, Nyaliet, Grey, Michayla

Excused: Dom, Hannah,

Meeting Minutes

10 a.m. – Welcome and introductions

10:20 p.m. – Icebreaker and Teambuilding Activity

- Did activity where we played 20 questions, and everyone was assigned an expertise based on the questions and answers. The takeaway was we all have our own expertise and different perspective. When we don't know expertise from others then we lose their input and perspective.

11:30 p.m. – Foster Youth in Action update – Anna

- What do you bring to the board?
- Learned about opportunities from FYA, including a couple of paid internships.
- Leadership for change will be next spring

Noon – Lunch

1 p.m. – CRP Review

Went through recommendations:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/16_F2r44VoUvaJWNomxLwVanvCaKWj-TOWPkYH2TVcD0/edit?usp=sharing

1:30 p.m. – NCFE Advisory Board norms and expectations

- Briefly reviewed
- Talked about importance of in-person meetings. Make it if you can, plans should be around meetings; Zoom should be a last resort and not because you don't want to drive
- We will be more flexible about mixing in Zoom only meetings

2:00 p.m. – Year-Long planning and 2020-21 Celebration

Oct Guests: Sara, Claire, Joe, Sixto	Nov. 7 Leg Day Brainstorm - list of guest speakers
Dec CPI training Leg Day - Shirts - Sway	Jan Leg Days Prep Lead Location

June CRP	July LEAD the Summer
Aug CRP	Sept New Member Review CRP

<u>Feb 5-7</u> Legislative Days	March New Member Review
April team Building lead prep work	May Social trip CRP
L4C	CRP Conference

3 p.m. – Wrap up and adjourn

November Meeting Minutes:
November 7, 2021
215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68508

Attendance: Nyaliet, Nicole, Michayla, Fatuma, Tyeisha, Jessica, Grey, Emma, Sebastian, Nick, Nedhal

Meeting Minutes

10 a.m. – Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. – Team building activity

- You May Have Already Won!
 - They won a \$1 million but had to spend it immediately
 - Then they had to decide how to spend it as a group
 - Youth with system involvement are resource hoarder
 - Either don't spend it on themselves and
 - Or spend it quickly and on luxury items
 - Being vocal about your interests and passions
 - Don't be afraid to share your opinion, even if it is contrary

11:00 – Meet Joe DiCostanzo, jdiconstanzo@nebraskachildren.org

- live and learning community
- Using the Recovery Funds
- How teachers connect with children in foster care
 - School social worker
- Wanted a former foster youth space
- Talked about his personal history
 - Wanted to be an attorney, changed paths and then worked at Benson
 - Got into administration to implement programming
- EdReDesign – edredesign.org/home
 - Partnerships with schools to ensure each child has a team of kids
- The key to figure out is how to tailor education model to meet the needs of each child

- Including parents and teachers on how to teach social/emotional education and not just brain lessons (Paths programs)
- CRP recommendations
 - Working with social workers in schools to distribute information
 - California has a brochure about state and federal resources for foster youth
 - NCCF connected with school guidance counselor association
- Tyeisha shared about her RSO at UNL foster youth and how they
- A Search for Common Ground; Fredrick Hass and Pedro Noguera
 - Book about the conversation about hot topics
- Look for continued conversation about the education system
 - Hired a specialist focusing on education in institutionalized systems

Noon – Lunch

1 p.m. – CYI Website review – neconnectedyouth.org

- Want more color contrast, with backslap
- Training Overview – doesn't have side menu on the page on the overview page; hard to navigate
- Make sure Android is tested
Very basic; fewer stock photos
- Graphic
 - Financial assistance, money for bills and utilities
 - Odd photo choice. Where is the guy's right arm?
 - Training opportunities and youth leadership into – leadership opportunities
 - Parenting information – Support for young parents
 - Central Navigation access – Hub for community resources
- Google
 - Scholarship for foster youth
 - Foster youth assistance
 - Foster care financial support
 - Paying for college as foster child

- Medical care/mental care after aging out
- Foster care programs for aged out
- What happens when you age out of foster care?

1:30 p.m. – OYU Overview and Discussion - oyunited.org

- Looked at website and discussed what we could gain from a partnership
- Opportunity to grow LEAD the summer event

2:00 p.m. – Legislative Days Overview & 2019-20 review

2:15 p.m. – Legislative Days Brainstorming and work time

Committees

Agenda/Curriculum – Emma, Grey, Nyaliet, Michayla

Public relations/merch – Nedhal, Jessica, Tyeisha, Nicole

Outreach/invites – Sebastian, Nick, Fatuma

3 p.m. – Wrap up and adjourn

December Meeting Minutes:
December 5, 2021
314 South 26th St, Omaha, NE 68131

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8167190738?pwd=ejJlNFNOQ2paSzNKQ3E1Rm9XZdUZVQT09>
+1 346 248 7799
Meeting ID: 816 719 0738
Passcode: NCFE
One tap mobile - +13462487799,,8167190738#

Attendance: Jessica, Emma, Nick, Sebastian, Michayla, Fatuma, Grey, Nedhal, Hannah, Tyeisha, Nicole, Jennifer, Brittany, Lincoln.

Agenda

10 a.m. – Welcome and introductions

10:15 a.m. – CPI Training with Brittany Williams

- De-escalation training
 - o Crisis Development – Attitudes/Approaches
 - Anxiety – Supportive
 - Defensive – Directive
 - Risk Behavior – Safety Interventions
 - Tension Reduction – Therapeutic Rapport

12:15 p.m. – Lunch

1 p.m. – CYI Coaching Survey results – Claire Hoff

- Initial survey administered in October 2021 and heard from 367 young adults
- Most agree that they have a good coaching relationship
- Mixed results for life milestones – not very worrisome results
- Reviewed open ended questions about what advice they would give to others working with coaches.
- Reviewing survey results with providers 9-12 on Zoom.

2 p.m. –Legislative Days Brainstorming and work time

- Icebreakers: Jessica & Emma
- Check-in: Sebastian, Tyeisha, Nick
- Welcome and Overview: Sebastian
- Kahoot & Summarize: Nick, Michayla
- Leadership Activity: Nick & Emma
- Sunday overview: Grey
- Breakouts:
- Public Speaking: Grey & Michayla
- Unicameral Overview: Nedhal & Fatuma
- Legislative Bill Overview: Lincoln & Nick
- Animal Group: Sebastian, Emma, Hannah, Tyeisha, Jessica, Nyaliet
- MC Senator Luncheon: Nick & Nyaliet

3 p.m. – Wrap up and adjourn

- Next meeting is January 9 in Lincoln with DHHS

January Meeting Minutes

NCFE Advisory Board

January 9, 2022

215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68508

Agenda & Minutes

10 a.m. – Welcome and introductions

10:15 a.m. – CRP Discussions with DHHS visitors

- Discussion was phenomenal with DHHS, all were engaged in the conversation and made an impact with their experiences and perspectives. DHHS was glad to be a part of the discussion and offered for us to reach out if we would like updates on the progress in the future.
- There was some concern shared after DHHS left the meeting about the efficiency of their offices and the decisions sometimes made by higher up individuals who often do not take action according to the expressed views and position of those who do attend meetings from the DHHS office. Future discussion may be had on this topic when Lincoln can be part of the meeting.

11:30 a.m. – Break & Annie Casey Questions:

- In what ways did young people have an equal or more say in working with adults during the past year
 - o Some believe there is no difference in the amount of say young people have in working with adults, some believe it is better but only for those young people who are participating in Youth Advisory or Project Everlast, and some believe that it only happens when young people take the initiative to get involved and find their own opportunities to use their voice.

Noon – Legislative Days Brainstorming and work time

- Making plans for virtual event
- Reaching out to speakers and senators
 - o Link to Senator email list:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WCZmVsfaSw3vpG9LEvINh865Q-Yy2V-QrE6R4guE1_Q/edit?usp=sharing
 - o Fatuma 1-5
 - o Michayla 6-10
 - o Grey 11-15
 - o Nyaliet 16-20
 - o Hannah 21-25
 - o Tyeisha 26-30
 - o Nedhal 31-35

- Sebastian 36-40
- Nicole 41-45
- Jessica 46-50

- The above list also reflects those who attended the meeting today. As a group we decided to assign Senators to email to those who were in attendance since there were changes made to the email, and individuals who did not attend today would not be confused. Everyone plans to send the emails by end of day today, but no later than Friday this coming week.

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- Agenda & Responsibility Overview

- Saturday Feb 5th
 - Ice Breaker by Jessica and Emma
 - Welcome by Sebastian
 - Keynote speaker 1
 - Break-out presentations
 - Reconvene & Summarize by Michayla and Nick
 - Wrap-up/Adjourn by Grey

- Sunday Feb 6th
 - Ice Breaker in breakout groups by Hannah and Nyaliet
 - Keynote speaker 2
 - Review Legislation and vote
 - Break into groups and plan
 - Presentation work time
 - Wrap-up/adjourn by Tyeisha and Jessica

- Monday Feb 7th
 - Luncheon – hosts are Nyaliet, Nick, & Fatuma
 - Evaluate and Debrief by Lincoln and Jen W.

- Facilitation Overview

2 p.m. – Wrap up and adjourn

Legislative Days Agenda:

LEGISLATIVE DAYS AGENDA 2022



ZOOM LINK FOR THE WEEKEND: [HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/8167190738](https://zoom.us/j/8167190738)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022

1 P.M.
Welcome and Overview

1:15 P.M.
Ice breakers

1:30 P.M.
Keynote
Amy Peters

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

UNICAMERAL OVERVIEW
PRESENTERS: NEDHAL & FATUMA

PUBLIC SPEAKING
PRESENTERS: MICHAYLA & GREY

LEGISLATION OVERVIEW
PRESENTERS: LINCOLN & NICK

2 P.M.
Break

2:10 P.M.
Breakout Session 1

2:40 P.M.
Breakout Session 2

3:15 P.M.
Breakout Session 3

3:45 P.M.
Kahoot Review Game

4:00 P.M.
Wrap up and adjourn

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022

1 P.M.
Welcome and Ice breaker

1:20 P.M.
Review legislative and vote on bills

1:45 P.M.
Break up into groups and plan

2:00 P.M.
Presentation work time

4:00 P.M.
Practice/record presentations and adjourn

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2022

NOON
Senator Luncheon

2:30 P.M.
Judge Lawrence Gendler,
retired Sarpy County Separate Juvenile Court Judge

4 P.M.
Evaluation and debrief

4:30 P.M.
Meeting with Gov. Pete Ricketts

March Meeting Minutes:

NCFE Advisory Board

March 20, 2022

215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68508

Attendance: Julia, Sebastian, Emma, Nyaliet, Jessica, Nedhal, Fatuma, Nicole, Sebastian, Michayla, Tyeisha, Grey, Hannah. Jen.

Agenda & Minutes

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. Inclusive event planning and cultural outreach with Mariana

- Mariana told us about her backstory and how she came from Mexico City to Nebraska. She came on a tourist visa and began working as a Spanish tutor, and then eventually began working for a company that was expanding to Mexico City. She found work and has stayed. She's worked in insurance, Talent+ and with the Food Bank. At Nebraska Children, initially started working with Preschool Development Grant, and expanded that work to all ages groups
- Share information, but issue is at times can understand trying purpose and certain words might not translate.
- At other employment, children translate information for their parents. Communicate directly with parents in their native language. It's not just the child's job to inform the parents
- Is translation in real-time a possibility at Legislative Days? How do they hear from other constituents that do not speak English?
- Sharing that their voice is important, we need to be more proactive and seek out those voices
- Events
 - o Having captions on for reading to help with understanding
 - o Allow time for understanding and
 - o Include that for registration to help with translation to ask (written vs oral/audio difference)
 - o Using one of our groups,

- Where are we putting information? Expanding and collaborating with PALS coach. We are stuck with people that are always with us and expanding those places would help.

11:30 a.m. Foster Youth in Action updates with Anna and Haas

- Overview of group. 20 total statewide groups focused on grassroots activism
- <https://linktr.ee/fosteryouthaction>
- Next quarterly meeting is April 8, 2-5 central
- Participated in Burning Wall activity
 - Sharing issues about issues during/after foster care
 - All the walls: <https://www.mentimeter.com/s/cf8cb69fc3321b589b735d7d50e323ca>

12:15 Lunch

1:15 p.m. Legislative Days Review and Recap

- Zoom makes it harder get in proper headspace
- Let team members know if you aren't operating a full capacity (either mental or physical) They can help out and carry on.
- Utilize previous presentations to show an example what the goal is

1:45 p.m. LEAD the Summer ideas and location

- Timberlake Ranch - Hannah
- Leadership Center - Tyeisha
- Gretna 4H Camp - Sebastian
- Kitaki - Sebastian
- Camp Jefferson - Jessica
- Outreach: Tyeisha, Jessica, Hannah, Sebastian
- Curriculum: Michayla, Fatuma
- Activities/SWAG: Grey, Nicole, Nedhal, Julia

2:00 p.m. CYI Coaching Survey questions with Claire

- Worked on language around family planning and sexual health questions
- How to close the loop?

2:20 p.m. Membership review

- Kept Nedhal and Nicole on the board until September. Dom's term was pushed back to start in April

2:30 p.m. CRP Time

- January DHHS discussion recap
 - o Liked having say in topics and having conversations with them.
 - o It was good to give them backstories
- Working with Dr. Alger Studstill
 - o Tyeisha (Hair care or education)
 - o Michayla (Hair care or education)
 - o Julia (Any)
- National Conference, May 23-25
- Tyeisha, Hannah, Fatuma, Grey
- Plan for 2021-22 recommendations

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- Next meetings
 - o April 10, Omaha
 - o May 15, TBD

April Meeting Minutes

NCFE Advisory Board

April 10, 2022

2610 Harney Street | Omaha, NE 68131

Agenda

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

- Michayla, Nyaliet, Jessica, Hannah, Grey, Fatuma, Nedhal, Nicole, Sebastian, Lincoln, Jen

10:30 a.m. Leadership and Teambuilding Activity

- Did an activity about windows and how our past shaped our world. Also talked about shutters and what we use to block out parts of us that we don't want to share

11:30 a.m. LEAD the Summer prep work

- The day after our event what will make our event a success?
 - o Double-digit attendance
 - o Networking and connections
 - o Photography
 - o Great food
 - o Introductions
 - o Meaningful activities
 - o Better power points
 - o Creative/interactive presentations
 - o Brainstorming with action items
 - o Ran through events beforehand
 - o Fun group activities
 - o Balance between education/social activities
 - o Show Legislative Days presentation
 - o Great venue with outdoor activities

12:00 Lunch

1:00 p.m. Embrace Families visit time

- Talked about driver's license and permits
- Keystoindependencefl.com
- Talked about experiences of obtaining permits; barriers
- What could be done to make drivers education more accessible
- Is finding a car a challenge/for driving test?
- Reach out to Kendall – Kendal.seifert@embracefamilies.org – with additional thoughts or feedback

2:00 p.m. LEAD the Summer group work

- Options left:
- Leadership Center - Tyeisha
- Platte River State Park?
- Lincoln will try to find other options

- Outreach: Tyeisha, Jessica, Hannah, Sebastian
- Curriculum: Michayla, Fatuma, Nyaliet
 - o What is advocacy discussion
 - Kahoot
 - How to write a personal mission statement
 - Passion project
 - Self-Identify
 - Self-reflection
- Activities/SWAG: Grey, Nicole, Nedhal, Julia
 - o 1. Trace hands and write or draw things you want to let go of on one hand, and things you want to hold on to, on the other hand.
 - Need card stock and markers
 - o 2. Tie dye tapestries.

- Need tie dye kits and white cotton fabric and sharpies
- 3. Play the Game of Things..
 - Need to borrow the game from Jen Wallage or buy one.
- 4. Yoga
- 5. Paint terracotta pots.
 - Need pots and paint and paint brushes.

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

**May Meeting Minutes:
NCFE Advisory Board**

May 15, 2022

211 Centennial Mall South | Lincoln, NE 68131

Attendance: Julia, Sebastian, Hannah, Michayla, Nedhal, Nicole, Jessica, Grey, Fatuma, Jen,

Agenda

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. LEAD the Summer Event Planning

- Outreach: Tyeisha, Jessica, Hannah, Sebastian
- Curriculum: Michayla, Fatuma, Nyaliet
- Activities/SWAG: Grey, Nicole, Nedhal, Julia

11:30 a.m. LEAD Agenda Setting

Saturday

10:30 - Arrive

11:00 - Welcome and Icebreaker (Jessica & Grey)

- Self-Introductions
- Get To Know You Bingo
- Scavenger Hunt Icebreaker

12:00-Lunch

1:00- Curriculum: What is Advocacy? (Fatuma & Michayla)

- Discussion
- Kahoot

2:00- Break

2:15-2:45-Self-Identifying/ Core Values Activity (Sebastian & Nyaliet)

2:45-3:30- Tie Dying Tapestry (Grey & Hannah)

3:45 -4:50-Passion Projects and Develop Mission Statements Activity (Fatuma & Michayla)

5:00- Dinner

6:00-7:00-Free Time

7:00-9:00 Games and Social Activities

- Positivity Collage (Jess& Juila)
 - Board Games, Volleyball, Go on a Walk, etc
- 9:00- Free Time or Camp Fire

Sunday

9:00 Breakfast

9:30-10:00- Policy and Action Activity (Sebastian& Hannah)

10:00-10:30- Debrief

10:30-11:00 Pack up and Depart

Guaranteed Attendance for Event: Fatuma, Jessica, Grey, Sebastian, Michayla, Lincoln, Jen, Hannah

Maybe: Nedhal, Julia,

No: Nicole

Unknown: Nyaliet, Tyeisha, Nick

12:00 Lunch

1:00 p.m. DHHS Discussion - Pandemic recovery and ongoing needs

- Medical bills mounted up; young people didn't want to go to doctor
- Lost health insurance, hours got cut
- Eviction moratorium ended plus end of ERA funds, hurt
- Stagnant Wages and the cost of living has gone up
- Harder to break into lucrative career paths, especially ones that require college degrees – Find jobs for more than \$10
- Even with stimulus, young people aren't necessarily using it proper for long-term benefits
 - Cash assistance could be an answer;
 - During pandemic, they bought physical items to entertain them since they couldn't go anywhere.
- Lessons from B2i worker and PALS worker helped

- \$1 million
 - Buy them devices, broadband access
 - Mental health services
 - Peer-support programs that employ youth advocates next to professionals
 - Sibling park or gathering spot
 - Older Youth Mall
 - Decorating rooms for foster youth
- How do we go about implementing and scaling these ideas?
 - Mental Health – dealing with trauma
 - Frequent support meetings and group therapy
 - More productive than Better Help
 - Virtual component to reach statewide; plus one-on-one
 - Encourage foster youth to take career path
 - Foster gathering
 - A place for foster meeting to happen;
 - Partnerships with public facilities for visitations;
 - normalizing visits in public places
 - Devices and broadband
 - Blue Valley has several programs. Collecting refurbished ideas
 - Where can we reach young people? (Instagram, social media, food delivery, laundry mat)
 - Example: DuLingo TikTok
 - Social media influencers

2:00 p.m. Citizen Review Panel idea generation – Sara

- Provide mental health first aid training for case workers, B2i ICs, CYI (Chafee) coaches, other DHHS professionals statewide
- Sibling visitation normalcy practices

- Provide access to training/education for foster parents and kinship placements and group home staff for natural hair care (offer foster parent continuing education credits and pay group home staff to attend the training)
 - RE: natural hair care event in Omaha

CRP Action items:

- Lincoln will send out the past few years of CRP recommendations
- Need to collect demographic identification for members of advisory committee/CRP
- Confidentiality agreements needed
- More CRP feedback needed during the LEAP summer event

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

Retreat planning:

Gray, Fatuma, Jessica, Sebastian, Julia

June Meeting Minutes:

NCFE Advisory Board

June 12, 2022

Mahoney State Park, 28500 W Park Highway, Ashland, NE 68003

Attendance: Hannah, Nyaliet, Fatuma, Julia, Sebastian, Michayla, Nedhal, Jessica

Excused: Nicole, Tyeisha,

Absent: Nick

Agenda

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. Citizen Review Panel idea generation

- Review past year's recommendation
- Idea generation and theme identification
 - o State should pay for all youth in its care to go through Drivers Education
 - o State running their own program to provide driving cars
 - o Address cosigners at 19 when signing a lease? (Maybe using B2i as a supplement)
 - o Transportation stipends (encouraging state to eliminate bus fares for public transport)
 - o Duffle bags, not trash bags
 - o Summer programs for foster you to learn about life skills
 - o Being able to incorporate voice from juvenile justice
 - o Provide connections to peer support/community supports by informing caseworkers of resource available

- o Faster response from workers, seeing people that work with kids in person more often, more details recorded of foster parents and/or the kids' well-being
- o Provide mental health first aid training for case workers, B2i ICs, CYI (Chafee) coaches, other DHHS professionals statewide
- o Sibling visitation normalcy practices
- o Change age of majority to 18?

12:00 Lunch at Mahoney

1:00 p.m. CIP Court Questionnaire review – Theresa Cusic & Stephanie Volkmer

- work with foster care, juvenile justice and link them up with judges
- Focused a lot on education
- Reviewed court questionnaire which is reviewed when they make court appearances; gave ideas to Theresa and Stephanie
- CIP meeting in Kearney, Sept. 13-14; let Lincoln know if you're interested in attending

2:00 p.m. LEAD the Summer Event Planning

- Recruitment
 - o Share with local groups and anyone eligible
- Meals
 - o Will work with Jen to plan the meals
- Agenda details
 - o All set for agenda and who is doing what sections

- Outreach: Tyeisha, Jessica, Hannah, Sebastian
- Curriculum: Michayla, Fatuma, Nyaliet
- Activities/SWAG: Grey, Nicole, Nedhal, Julia

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- talked about membership and expectations
- Next meeting will be phone call July 25 at 7:30 p.m.



AGENDA

SATURDAY

- 10:30** Arrive
- 11:00** Welcome and Icebreaker (*Jessica & Grey*)
 - Self-Introductions
 - Get To Know You Bingo
 - Scavenger Hunt Icebreaker
- 12:00** Lunch
- 1:00** Curriculum: What Is Advocacy? (*Fatuma & Michayla*)
 - Discussion
 - Kahoot
- 2:00** Break
- 2:15** Self-Identifying/ Core Values Activity (*Sebastian & Nyaliet*)
- 2:45** Tie Dying Tapestry (*Grey & Hannah*)
- 3:45** Passion Projects and Develop Mission Statements Activity (*Fatuma & Michayla*)
- 5:00** Dinner
- 6:00** Free Time
- 7:00** Games and Social Activities
 - Positivity Collage (*Jess & Juila*)
 - Board Games, Volleyball, Go on a Walk, etc.
- 9:00** Free Time or Camp Fire

SUNDAY

- 9:00** Breakfast
- 9:30** Policy and Action Activity (*Sebastian & Hannah*)
- 10:00** Debrief
- 10:30** Pack up and Depart

NCFF Advisory Board

August 28, 2022

NCFF Omaha Offices

Minutes

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. LEAD the Summer recap and review

- Overall went well; lots of people gave presentations and in front of the group
- Adult supporter buy-in is key; they can provide transportation
- Resources and programs
- Publicity and news media awareness
- Tie our discussions from LEAD into CRP recommendations

11 a.m. Language Access Plan with Mariana

11:30 a.m. DHHS feedback slide

- Would be helpful to have more context how it fits in whole training; who are these questions directed toward
- Are these questions as part of an intake?
- Second question is bad: dehumanizing questions and there are a lot of assumptions going on there.
- Will they know what a value system? Or identity?
- Sound like asking adults these questions and not asking youth?
 - What is home to foster youth?
 - Like “how do I focus on future” question

- What is this photo? It doesn't fit the context?
- OYU Conference in Miami
 - Michayla and Sebastian shared lessons and insights from the gathering
 - Human trafficking hotline (Talk to Lauren Ward)
 - Sealing of juvenile records
 - Color run?
 - Working with the public schools
 - Connecting more with adult supporters to build the relationships

12 Noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. Citizen Review Panel discussion with DHHS

- State should pay for Drivers Education for youth in care
 - Who should be covered under the umbrella of youth in care?
 - Where does the money come from?
 - Sometimes PALS coaches or PEO offers services
 - 10 percent emergency fund to use for program
 - Could the foster parent organization arrange for drivers education?
 - Job Corps provides driving tests and vehicles
 - Refugee Empowerment training center has driving simulation program
 - Add/Remove foster children from foster parents insurance?

- Sibling Visitation
 - Change location and places where they happen
 - Usually the expenses fall on the parents (dinner/outings)
 - Work towards getting visits in the home
 - DHHS contracts with providers for sibling visits
 - Develop training for case workers (Cedars, etc)
- Summer programs
 - B2i; financial literacy, mental health, cooking, basic living skills
 - Camp Catch-up
 - Advocacy that teaches you the questions to be asking
 - Camp vs weekly program
 - Empowerment Network; every day 12-4
 - Summer programming like Cedars
- Mental Health first aid training for all those who work with youth in care
 - Similar to bill just passed for teachers and educators

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- New Member applications due Sept. 2
- Membership renewal calls during the next two weeks

PASSION PROJECTS FROM LEAD

- More support for post-secondary education
- Better sibling visitations and sibling rights
- Peer Support/relationships/mentoring
- Positive case reports from case managers
- More programs for gaps in services
- Parenting-breaking cycle of generations in foster care/ pregnancy planning
- Better deescalating techniques
- More Youth connected to the community- volunteering at senior homes and fun activities
- Child Abuse awareness and resources
- More youth leadership and development opportunities
- Myself

CRP IDEAS FROM JUNE

- o State should pay for all youth in its care to go through Drivers Education
- o State running their own program to provide driving cars
- o Address cosigners at 19 when signing a lease? (Maybe using B2i as a supplement)
- o Transportation stipends (encouraging state to eliminate bus fares for public transport)
- o Duffle bags, not trash bags
- o Summer programs for foster you to learn about life skills
- o Being able to incorporate voice from juvenile justice
- o Provide connections to peer support/community supports by informing caseworkers of resource available
- o Faster response from workers, seeing people that work with kids in person more often, more details recorded of foster parents and/or the kids' well-being
- o Provide mental health first aid training for case workers, B2i ICs, CYI (Chafee) coaches, other DHHS professionals statewide
- o Sibling visitation normalcy practices
- o Change age of majority to 18?

NCFE Advisory Board

September 11, 2022

NCFE Offices – 215 Centennial Mall South; #200; Lincoln, NE 68508

Minutes

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

- Sebastian, Julia, Fatuma, Michayla, Tyeisha, Grey, Hannah, Nedhal, Jessica.

10:30 a.m. CRP Recommendation Writing Worktime

- Transportation
- Sibling Visits
- Mental Health First Aid Training
- Summer Programming

12 Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Language Access Plan with Mariana

- Working to get NCFE website in Spanish
- Talked about how they are building team of translators and interpreters
- Working to find ways to deal with different dialects
- What are the group's priorities?
 - o Making application in another language?
 - o Offering our events in multiple languages

1:45 p.m. Guided Discussion with Race Forward

- See below

2:15 p.m. New member application review

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- Retreat possible dates: Oct. 9, Nov. 6

- Agenda and outcome review
- Food for retreat: Qdoba with sprite
- Leaders for Change, Nov. 10-13

Discussion Guide for Advisory Committee

Purpose: Identify the ways young people want to be supported by their coach in order to build the capacity of coaches in the Nebraska LEAP team network. This will inform the coaching plan.

Framing for young people: We are going to ask you a few questions because we want to hear about the ways you like to be supported by your coaches. We will take notes so that we can remember what you said, but we will not add your names into the notes. And these notes will not be shared with the coaches, just a small team who are helping the coaches. Do you have any questions?

- How many members have a coach or have had a coach in the past? If you have no experience with having a CYI coach, please think about a close relationship similar to a coach.
 - Five yes; Four no

Question 1: Qualities of people they trust and feel supported by

- Think about the person you trust most in life and who you turn to confide in. What about that person makes you trust them? (This could be a friend, a teacher, a mentor)
 - They are reliable
 - They don't set expectations
 - That are not judgmental; supportive; consistent
 - They focus on positives, acknowledge if you make a mistake, but allow you room to grow
 - Considerate, understanding and encouraging
 - Ask your opinion and point of view
 - Humble
 - Listen, do not fix
 - Transparent

Question 2: Comfort level of young people in talking about their identities and experiences with coaches

- Are you able to freely talk about your identities (race, gender, sexuality, religion, etc.) and experiences (at home, in school, with family and friends) with your coaches? If not, what makes it hard to talk to your coach about these things? If so, how does that impact you?
 - Mostly yes
 - Makes you feel accepted and not judged and you don't have to censor yourself
 - No coach, even with people who helped with my lived experience, gender isn't something that isn't understood by older generations, but it's not a fun conversation to have; they could be encouraging, but still have qualms about gender identity; as a result couldn't be as open as I could be
 - Assigned coaches create hierarchy and it causes you to present yourself as who they want you to be rather than who you are.
- What do you wish coaches understood about you?
 - Even if coach has similar experience, everyone is different

- Treat everyone as an individual
- What identities and experiences do you feel comfortable talking about? And which ones do not feel comfortable sharing more about?
 - Everything
 - It changes with time as you get more comfortable as you get to know them over time
 - Depends on the relationship with the coach
 - Not comfortable
 - Past trauma

Question 3: The ways young people like experiencing support

- In what ways do you feel supported by your coach? And in what ways would you like more support from your coach?
 - They look out what is best for you and what is in your interest
 - They find new opportunities
 - Connecting with other resources
 - More
 - Responding to texts
 - Playing phone tag; consistent communication (finding the best way to communicate)
 - Financial?

Question 4: How young people would design a program

- If you could design a coaching program that supports young people, what would it look like?
 - Who would run it? What would you discuss? How often would you meet with your coach?
 - Meet with coach once of month minimum; Look like population served; bilingual; passionate and full-trained employee. Some have lived experienced
 - Peer supported; more voluntarily meeting
 - Once every month; consistent;
 - Run by a non-profit entity; grant funded and flexible based on the community its offered in
 - Meet where young people feel comfortable;
 - If person is a parent, meeting in kid-friendly environment;
 - Transparent coaching;