

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 2022-23.

# Young Adults Citizen Review Panel Year-End Report FY 22-23

Prepared by Nebraska Children

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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 meeting 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>2022-23 Meetings</i>
October 9, 2022 – Omaha
November 6, 2022 – Virtual
December 4, 2022 – Lincoln
January 8, 2023 – Omaha
February 11-13, 2023 – Ashland
March 5, 2023 - Lincoln
April 16, 2023 – Omaha
May 21, 2023 – Lincoln
June 4, 2023 – Omaha
July 29-30, 2023 – Aurora
August 20, 2023 – Lincoln
September 24, 2023 – Omaha

The group's first meeting happened on October 9 in Omaha at the Project Everlast offices. We kicked off the year by reviewing the bylaws and doing a group goal setting activity. We welcomed one new member and discussed group expectations and how we wanted to accomplish during the next year. The group revisited the final recommendations before they were submitted to DHHS. For the afternoon, the group welcomed the rest of the Connected Youth Initiative staff. They did a leadership activity together about working together and building trust. They then engaged in a conversation about the older youth work and how they can help each other be more effective in our respective roles.

The second meeting happened on Nov. 6 in a virtual meeting. The group started the meeting by approving the bylaws that were reviewed at the last meeting. They then began work on Legislative Days and divided up into work groups. They wrapped up by reviewing the biographies on the website and how to update them. The meeting was limited to just the morning after a late cancellation by our afternoon guests.

Our third meeting during the quarter happened on December 4 at the Nebraska Children offices in Lincoln. They kicked off the morning by working in small groups on Legislative Days and finalizing details for the event. The merchandise was ordered, and activities set. They then had photos taken by the marketing department and finished writing biographies. In the afternoon, the group met with representatives from the Department of Health and Human services to go over the 2021-22 CRP recommendations. They talked about family visitation, transportation issues, mental health training for professionals and summer programming for foster youth.

The group's first meeting of the second quarter happened on January 8. The focus of the meeting was preparation for Legislative Days. The meeting kicked off with everyone sharing their goal for the new year. They also discussed the new Community Well-Being statewide plan. They identified several topics where they can contribute and help implement the plan. The group spent the rest of the meeting working on Legislative Days. 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 11-13. 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. For the first time in three years, we hosted the event in-person

During the first day, the youth build connections between each other and attended training topics including the legislative process, public speaking, advocacy and bills currently in front of the legislature. They also participated in a leadership activity about how to take control of their story. 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. They also heard from a panel of people who have lived experience that translated their passion into careers.

On Monday, the young people met with Supreme Court justice Stephanie Stacy. The youth shared their bill presentations with senators' staff and NCFE partners over lunch and in an afternoon meeting with Governor Pillen. The group presented four bills about expanding the Bridge to Independence program to include youth involved with the juvenile justice system, making gender identity and sexual orientation a protected class, expecting victims of sexual/domestic abuse from medical bills and a package of bills about food security. The full presentations and their supporting documents can be viewed here: <https://www.nebraskachildren.org/what-we-do/connected-youth-initiative/2023-legislative-day.html>

Our third meeting during the quarter happened on March 5 in Lincoln. The group debriefed from Legislative Days and reviewed the evaluations. They reviewed the data from the haircare survey from DHHS. They planned

for an upcoming conference for the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association. Finally, they selected three new members and began looking forward to the summer event and brainstormed location ideas.

The group's first meeting of the third quarter happened on April 16 in Omaha. The group kicked off the meeting by welcoming three new members and going over expectations, best practices and the bylaws. They then did a team building activity that examined how the team worked together and what roles everyone plays in the group. After lunch, Foster Youth in Action met with the Board virtually to give updates about their organization and opportunities they have for involvement. The group then started planning for the LEAD the Summer event. They identified several themes and divided them up into work groups to brainstorm ideas. The meeting closed talking about several summer conference opportunities for members to attend.

On May 15, the group met in Lincoln. They started the day with an overview of the Citizen Review Panel structure and process. That was followed by a Burning Wall activity where they described issues they've seen with foster care/juvenile justice and then ideas for their dream system. The afternoon was spent focusing on prep work for the LEAD the Summer event. They were scheduled to have a speaker talk about intersectionality, but they were forced to cancel at the last minute.

The group met at the Nebraska Children offices in Omaha on Jun 4 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 guardianship ending at 18, living in separate domiciles than foster parents, medication, strength-based notations for caseworkers, using lived experiences in foster parent training, notice of vacating when nearing the age of majority, and group therapy for healthy lifestyles. In the afternoon, the group met with Liam Heerten-Rodriguez, who is an assistant professor at UNO. He gave a presentation about intersectionality and identity. The group will use this information at our event next month. 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 23 before hosting the LEAD the Summer event on July 29-30. The event focused on intersectionality and how everyone's identities impact how they view the world. After determining the major identities of each of the attendees, they talked about how they can utilize them for advocacy and policy work. The weekend also included social time as the young people were able to build connections with each other.

The August meeting was a guest heavy meeting as the board met with three different people. The day started off by debriefing from LEAD the Summer and what we can do to improve on for next year. The group then talked with Stephanie and Theresa from the Court Improvement project about experiences with guardian ad litem, court-appointed special advocates and dealing with judges. After lunch, we talked about our recommendations with Jarren and Judy from DHHS. They provided feedback and helped brainstorm ideas. The day rounded out with a conversation from Maralee, who is a member of the Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts. She asked about how young people were able to get their documents as they existed care and how they maintained relationships with former foster parents.

The last meeting of the year happened on Sept. 26. The group selected new members to join the board. They spent most of the meeting working on writing and editing the recommendations. They wrapped up the day by celebrating the end of our year and everything that was accomplished.

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 16-26-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 14 members who were selected via an application and represents the communities of Omaha, Lincoln, Fremont, Kearney, Crete and Columbus. 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 2022-23 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 did not happen this year. A host was not selected in time for the conference be put on. The conference will be offered during 2024 in San Diego.

**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 three 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 encourage caseworkers to use strength-based notations in case files, involving young people more in decisions are mental health-care decisions and what services they are receiving, and upholding the right to a notice to vacate for foster youth you are either approaching or recently past the age of majority.

### **Recommendation 1: The Impact of Strength-Based Notation for Caseworkers**

Words have a significant amount of power, especially when it comes to youth. Going to court can be traumatic for a system-involved youth as they listen to a caseworker take the stand in front of many strangers. Caseworkers often rely upon the case file, which is negative with labels such as troublemaker, delinquent, etc. Most of the time, nothing in the report highlights positive skills, goals, or achievements. Eventually, they will age out of the system and review their records and case notes. Typically, most of the comments are negative and condescending. Despite leaving the system, the impact of those words will continue to affect their sense of self.

Case notes provide detailed records of interactions between caseworkers and clients. Many times, these notes include historical information about the client, etc. and any updates or concerns the caseworker may have. Caseworkers need to be mindful of who may read this document because it just might be the youth. Inadequate and negative case notes can result in poor decision-making and adverse youth outcomes due to the stigma of the labels placed. The bias created from these documents will impact how the youth is treated in the system by judges, foster homes, probation officers, etc.

Shifting case notes towards the strengths-based models allows for caseworkers to have a sense of care and hope for the youth. Caseworkers will begin to recognize the resiliency and courage the youth have despite their setbacks while navigating their trauma. The dynamic of the relationship shifts from authoritative to collaborative because caseworkers would help youth identify inner strengths to mobilize the youth towards positive action and empowerment. While it still leaves room to make notes for dangerous or hurtful behavior, it creates the opportunity for the young person to be more than just their worst moments.

The Department of Health and Human Services must implement a strength-based notation model because the magnitude of the words written on these documents leads to biased case decisions against the youth without highlighting positive achievements made by the youth.

### **Recommendation 2: Incorporating youth voice into mental health-related decisions and services**

There are over 391,000 children and youth in foster care in the United States. In Nebraska alone, there are more than 6,000 youth in foster care. Approximately 80 percent of children in foster care have significant mental health issues compared to the general population. Mental and behavioral health is the largest unmet health need for foster youth.

Addressing the mental health needs of youth in foster care requires a holistic approach that prioritizes their well-being. Youth are experts in their own lives. Empowering youth to make informed decisions about mental health treatment is a step in the right direction. This includes allowing them to determine who they receive services from and when they receive them, as well as to improve connections with providers and their outcomes.

Authentic youth engagement doesn't look the same for every young person. For example, if they do not thrive in an individual therapy format, they should be provided with group therapy options. Examples of this include focusing on healthy lifestyles, developing coping mechanisms, unpacking substance abuse-related trauma, and building peer-to-peer relationships. Group therapy based on common interests will help to build connections and create a sense of community as well as provide useful skills they can use to continue to be successful.

### **Recommendation 3: Upholding the right to a notice to vacate for foster youth who are approaching or are past the age of majority**

The National Alliance to End Homelessness reports that up to 46 percent of youth who age out are homeless by age 26. Housing stability is an issue that has been gaining focus and attention for several years. Many laws and programs are doing their best to mitigate homelessness locally as well as at state and national levels. Often unconnected youth are overlooked in many aspects in their journey to gain normalcy. It has become increasingly more common for youth to work on permanency plans with their caseworkers as they are approaching the age of majority and gearing up to leave the child welfare system.

Many times, the youth who are still on good terms with their foster families are under the impression that they will be living in that home after they age out as discussed during permanency planning. Some youth are experiencing situations where they are asked to leave the home that was meant to be their residency with less than 24 hours' notice after the state is no longer involved. This is leaving youth scrambling for a roof over their head, often putting the youth on the streets, couch surfing, or moving into unsafe homes; thus, creating a cycle of instability.

Ensuring a 30-day written notice must be given to youth who have established residency on the premises through their permanency plan would help alleviate some of the obstacles that surround housing instability and homelessness for youth who leave the system. This would allow the youth a reasonable amount of time to access housing resources and acquire a new living situation, creating more permanent and stable housing for youth who have aged out.

While the 30-day notice may seemingly offer more protection for the youth and less protection for the foster parent, there are avenues they could consider if the living arrangements become unsafe that would still provide notice to the youth. As outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 25-21,220 which covers Nebraska's forcible entry and detainer laws, legal action can be taken to require the tenant to leave less than the 30-day period. This includes not upholding their part of the rent or threatening the health and safety of other tenants. These laws also indicate that there still must be at least a three-day warning and that legal action will be taken if they have not vacated the premises within that period. While situations like these are not ideal, utilizing the provisions outlined in the forcible entry and detainer laws may provide protection for the foster family if needed.

Appendix A: Meeting Minutes:

## **NCFE Advisory Board**

October 9, 2022

Attendance: Nyaliet, Nedhal, Fatuma, Jessica, Grey, Karolina, Julia, Sebastian, Michayla, Hannah, Lincoln

Guests: Sara, Crystal, Keenan, Joe, LaDonna

### **Agenda**

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. Icebreakers

11 a.m. Setting the Table for the year

- Bylaw Review and Group Goal Setting
  - o Track what individual members are doing
  - o Reviewed the bylaws. Will make edits to committee section before sending out for vote in November
- Event Planning Setting for 2023 (Legislative Days Feb. 11-13)

11:40 a.m. CRP Final Review

- Review during the upcoming week

12 Noon Large Group icebreaker

12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. CYI Overview

1:15 p.m. Advisory Board overview

1:45 p.m. Team building activity

- Card Sharks activity



2:30 p.m. Conversation about Older Youth Work

- How do we take the next level?
  - o Social media connections
  - o Involved in MyLNK?
  - o How do we balance Advisory Board with other part-time jobs
  - o Add projects in the community to build the group
    - Not just attend meetings
  - o Partner with local chapters and local collaboratives for events
  - o Professionalize the role of the Youth Advisory Board
  - o Policy institute for young people
  - o Start a fellowship as the next step?

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- Future Dates for CYI and Advisory Board gatherings – meet quarterly

**November Meeting Minutes:**

**NCCF Advisory Board**

November 6, 2022

**Agenda**

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

- Fatuma, Sebastian, Karolina, Grey, Nyaliet, Hannah, Michayla, Tyeisha, Nedhal, Jen

10:30 a.m. Bylaw Review and Vote

- Michayla motioned to vote on the bylaws. Nedhal 9-0

10:45 a.m. Legislative Days planning (Feb. 11-13)

- Because of the pandemic, a lot of young adults interactions a lot more awkward
- Focus on social skills and speaking skills
- Open forum/zoom about legislative days
  - o Contact Sarah for Save the date and include
- Marketing/Swag: Karolina, Nedhal, Sebastian
- Educational curriculum: Tyeisha, Nyaliet, Grey
- Social times/icebreakers: Hannah, Fatuma, Michayla
- Karolina has social media presentation for December meeting

11:30 a.m. Bio update and Photo time

- Send in biographies and photos to Lincoln for the Website

**December Meeting Minutes:**  
December 4, 2022

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. Legislative Days planning (Feb. 11-13)

- Committee Work Time
  - Marketing/Swag: Karolina, Nedhal, Sebastian
  - Educational curriculum: Tyeisha, Grey, Julia, Jessica
  - Social times/icebreakers: Hannah, Fatuma, Michayla
- Report out
- What is left to do?

11:30 a.m. Biography update and Photo time

- Brenda took photos and video
- Send biographies to Lincoln

12 Noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. CRP recommendation discussion with DHHS

- Family visitation
  - Frequency and consistency are not steady
  - Visits are done in not family friendly locations
  - Better locations: parks, zoo, natural environment that led to more natural locations
  - Recruiting more parties to participate in visits
  - **Fatuma will send research she has about frequency**

- Contract with YMCA to help with birthday rooms?
  - Scholarship opportunities for memberships
  - Usually not a restriction for location, but could be a court order
  - Getting together at houses or other public
  - We reached out to rural communities via Mona Tarin, she suggested communities center
  - **Normalcy subcommittee on Children's Commission (SFA)**
- Transportation issues
  - Drivers ed cost
    - Nebraska Safety Council offers scholarships for other low-income situations
    - Could also apply to foster youth
  - Access to public transportation and bus fares
    - Discounted bus pass
    - DHHS are looking at options
  - Cost of drivers' license
    - Documents for driver's license
  - Cost of transportation
    - Opportunity Passport
    - 2022 SFA report has information on this issue
- Mental health first aid training for any professional who interacts with system-involved youth
  - Dealing with trauma of the situation

- Providing training through the Regions
- Making sure the diagnosis is done based on the youth
- Revisiting initial assessment and then following up once crisis has been resolved
- Difficult to do with infants and toddlers; do assessment with parents
- CFS will check to see what is currently being offered; they will putting that bid out next year
- Provide Summer Programming for Foster Youth
  - Educational programming for foster youth
    - Provide information on resources, services; learn about life skills and make connections with peer
  - Summer opportunities
- Survey to collect data to back up the recommendations
  - Will work with Advisory Board to develop questions and distribution of questions
- Planning for Youth Engagement Summit in 2023
  - Open for participation
  - Jarren is leading the efforts ([jarren.breeling@nebraska.gov](mailto:jarren.breeling@nebraska.gov)) if you are interested in helping with the planning and work

3 p.m.      Wrap up and dismiss

- Next Meeting will be January 8 in Omaha

## January

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

- Gray – Find a new job
- Jessica – Graduate in December
- Tyeisha – buy a house
- Julia – Get car operational
- Fatuma – graduate in May!
- Michayla – Financial Stability (Find a new job)
- Sebastian – Learn to love myself
- Nedhal – Career opportunities – not allowing myself to listen other opinions of me
- Jen – get into social media
- Lincoln – 2 PR, garden and debt

10:30 a.m. Legislative Days planning (Feb. 11-13)

- Committee Work Time
  - Marketing/Swag: Karolina, Nedhal, Sebastian
  - Educational curriculum: Tyeisha, Grey, Julia, Jessica
  - Social times/icebreakers: Hannah, Fatuma, Michayla
- Report out and timeline
  - What is happening
  - Who is doing what?
  - What do we need? (Personnel and physical items)
  - Any questions?
- What's left to do?

12 Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Facilitation overview

- Members will help facilitate the discussion for

1:30 p.m. [Statewide CWB Plan](#) discussion

- Goal 1, Objective 1
  - lived experienced stakeholder
  - Feedback loop
- Goal 1, Objective 2
  - Increased youth participation in collaboration with child welfare, courts and schools
    - CRP feedback distribution to communities
- What is the definition of robust? The word is used a lot, but not defined (After school programming)

- Goal 2, Objective 4: what about services for college-age students
- Rearrange goals and objectives to make sure they all work together and complement each other
  - i.e., Make sure communities are working on infrastructure and then collaboration

2:30 p.m. Future planning

- Buffalo County Advisory Board – Jan. 15 3 p.m. (Zoom) Fatuma, Michayla, Tyeisha
- Norfolk meeting – Jan. 23 (Zoom) Tyeisha, Grey, Julia(?)
- NJJA Conference presentation

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- Next Meeting will be Legislative Days
- LEAD the Summer, July 29-30 – Camp Solaris
- Prep call Feb. 5 11-12
- March 5 – Lincoln
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Legislative Days Agenda:

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**  
Carol Jay Halling Camp  
27416 Ranch Road  
Ashland, NE 68003

**SUNDAY**  
Nebraska State  
Capital Building

**SATURDAY, FEB. 11**

## EVENT SCHEDULE

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

FEB. 11  
SATURDAY

**TOPICS**

**UNICAMERAL OVERVIEW**  
NEDHAL & JEN  
BILL OVERVIEW  
LINCOLN

**ADVOCACY**  
MICHAYLA & FATUMA  
PUBLIC SPEAKING  
GREY & JESSICA

**5:00 PM** | Review and Summarize

**5:30 PM** | Free Time

**6:00 PM** | Dinner

**7:00 PM** | Leadership Activity

**7:50 PM** | Sunday Overview/  
Evaluations

**8:00 PM** | Free Time/Game Night/  
Movie Time

**11:00 PM** | In Rooms

**7:30 AM** | Breakfast

**8:45 AM** | Energizer

**9:00 AM** | 9:00AM  
Community  
Issue  
Presentation  
Creation

**9:30 AM** | 9:30AM  
Community  
Presentations

**10:00 AM** | 10:00AM  
Bill  
Discussion

**11:00 AM** | 11:00AM  
Break up  
into groups  
and plan

**12:00 PM** | LUNCH

**SUNDAY, FEB. 12**

## EVENT SCHEDULE

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**1:00 PM** | BRIANNA FULL  
OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD MEMBER

**2:00 PM** | PRESENTATION WORK TIME

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

**5:00 PM** | SCHALISHA WALKER  
AARON WEAVER  
SEBASTIAN COOLIDGE

**6:00 PM** | Dinner

**7:00 PM** | Free time/  
Finish presentations/  
Super Bowl Party

**11:00 PM** | In Rooms

**10:30 AM** | 10:30AM  
Check-in

**11:00 AM** | 11:00AM  
Overview  
and  
Welcome

**11:30 AM** | 11:30AM  
Icebreakers  
and meeting  
with small  
groups

**12:00 PM** | 12:00PM  
Lunch with  
table topics

**1:00 PM** | 1:00PM  
Large group  
Icebreaker

**MONDAY, FEB. 13**

## EVENT SCHEDULE

**THIS IS IT!**

**MAIN EVENT**

FEB. 13  
MONDAY

**12:00 PM**  
**SENATOR LUNCHEON**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
1340 K ST  
PARK AT:  
CORNHUSKER SQUARE GARAGE  
1200 L ST, LINCOLN, NE

**1:30 PM** | Honorable  
**Stephanie F. Stacy**  
Nebraska Supreme Court

**3:00 PM** | Meeting with  
**Governor Pillemer**  
Governor's Hearing Room

**3:45 PM** | Evaluation and Debrief

**8:00 AM** | 8:00AM  
Breakfast

**8:45 AM** | 8:45AM  
Pack Up  
Rooms and  
Load Cars

**9:00 AM** | 9:00AM  
Practice  
Presentations

**10:30 AM** | 10:30AM  
Drive to  
Lincoln

**11:00 AM** | 11:00AM  
Visit Senators  
or Capitol Tour

**11:30 AM** | 11:30AM  
Prepare for  
luncheon



**March Meeting Minutes:**

**NCFE Advisory Board**

March 5, 2023

Attendance: Karolina, Grey, Fatuma, Tyeisha, Michayla, Jessica, Sebastian, Hannah, Sebastian, Nedhal. Lincoln

Excused: Julia

**Agenda**

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. Legislative Days debrief

- I had fun.
- It was a lot. They were trying to take part in the event
- More free time.
- Issues with the time machine activity; set up the weekend for failure
  - o Need to setup activity with boundaries more and establish triggers
  - o Review community guidelines before activity
  - o Set it up better
- Set up rooms better for more gender inclusivity
- Parental Group
  - o Negative energy and lack of participation
  - o Need to discuss whether we involve them in the future
- Next year:
  - o Post community agreement; revisit on second day
  - o Keep the new facility
  - o Debrief at the end of the day (Yoga)

12 Noon Lunch

11:30 a.m. Hair Care Survey Results

- Can we get the questions?
- The demographics are skewed, while it represents Nebraska as a state it does not get the input for the targeted population
- Clearly need education and support
- There is interest to learn how to care for hair
- More events needed like one hosted in Omaha
- Q19 – like the statement that hair care is time to bond with children
- No perms without parent consent

- Q14-15: Need help but must rely upon themselves
- Q27: A lot of people need help to find hair care products
- Include hair care as part of foster training overall

Can we look at standards/requirements for foster parent training

1 p.m. Membership Application review

- Mia: YES!
- Chloe: YES!
- Haylee: YES!

2:00 p.m. NJJA Conference planning

- Karolina, Grey, Tyeisha, Hannah and Sebastian – Haylee or Chloe
- Active communication
- Youth at forefront of conversation

LEAD the Summer

- Building communities
- Intersectionality
  - o Tying to civic engagement
- 

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- CRP National Conference
- Next Meeting dates
  - o April 16
  - o May 21

## **NCFE Advisory Board**

April 16, 2023

Attendance: Fatuma, Haylee, Grey, Sebastian, Brandon, Mia, Chloe, Nedhal, Jen, Lincoln

### **Agenda**

- 10 a.m. Welcome and introductions
- 10:30 a.m. Group norms, expectations and planning
- Reviewed the bylaws and talked about expectations for the group
    - o If you have a conflict, let Lincoln know immediately, don't wait until the morning of the meeting
- 11 a.m. Team Building activity
- Survived being stranded in the ocean. Picked which supplies to prioritize. Then figured out what roles everyone plays in a group.
- 12 Noon Lunch
- 1 p.m. Foster Youth in Action presentation
- We will apply to be a chapter again
  - Deadline to apply:
    - o People's Agenda – May 1
    - o Core Team – May 15
- 1:30 p.m. LEAD the Summer planning
- Building communities
  - Intersectionality Tying to civic engagement
  - Workgroups
    - o Curriculum: Grey, Fatuma, Jessica
    - o Social Time: Sebastian, Haylee, Brandon, Mia
    - o Promotions: Karolina, Nedhal, Chloe
- 2:30 p.m. Summer conference plans
- Lots of opportunities will be emailed out
- 3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss
- Next Meeting dates
    - o May 21, Lincoln
    - o June 4 or 11

**May Meeting Minutes:**

**NCFE Advisory Board**

May 21, 2023

Nebraska Children Offices

215 Centennial Mall South #200; Lincoln NE 68508

Attendance – Brandon, Karolina, Grey, Mia, Chloe, Julia, Tyiesha, Nedhal, Michayla, Fatuma, Sebastian, Lincoln, Jen

**Agenda**

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. Citizen Review Panel overview

- Reviewed language in contract and the purpose of the recommendations.
- Talked about the process and meeting structures
- Will invite DHHS to meet with the group

10:45 a.m. Burning Wall activity

- Wrote down issues with the system
- What could be better?
- Wrote down supports that would have been helpful
- What down what would happen in an ideal world
- Clustered common themes for all the notes

12 Noon Lunch

2 p.m. LEAD the Summer planning

- Dates & Agenda setting
  - o Want to host a two-day event at Leadership Center in Aurora
- Intersectionality - tying to civic engagement
  - o Will have speaker next month from UNO
- Group action steps
  - o Worked on agenda
  - o Will order merch soon

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- FYIA Core Member Representative - Sebastian
- People's Agenda Member - Mya
- Next Meeting dates
  - o June 4, Omaha

- Will host prep call before meeting
- July meeting will be our event

**June Meeting Minutes:**

**NCFE Advisory Board**

June 4, 2023

Nebraska Children Offices

2610 Harney Street; Omaha, NE 68131

**Minutes**

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

- Mia, Grey, Sebastian, Julia, Tyeisha, Michayla, Brandon, Chloe, Nedhal, Jessica, Fatuma, Karolina

10:30 a.m. Citizen Review Panel discussion

- Topic Identification
  - o Guardianship ending at 18
    - What are the training requirements for foster parents & guardians
    - Any training or support for kinship?
    - Classes on substance abuse and addiction
    - Focus on behaviors (mental health training?)
  - o Living in separate domiciles than foster parents
    - Living requirements for number of foster youth
    - Extended respite?
  - o Medication
    - Youth input for medication
    - Individual appointments with psychiatrist; not with foster parents in the room
    - Choosing your own psychiatrist/therapist
  - o Strength-based notations for caseworkers
  - o Integrating lived experience into foster parent training

- o Transportation
  - Push [federal bill](#) introduced by Don Bacon?
- o Notice to vacate for foster youth approaching/past age of majority
  - Part of permanency plan?
  - Eviction notice?
  - Legal assistance or protection
- o Forming group therapy focused healthy lifestyles
  - Al-Anon (family members deal with addiction)
  - More peer-to-peer relationship building
  - Work on healthy lifestyle skills
  - Substance abuse therapy for foster youth
- What data/information/current policies do we need?
- Next steps

12 Noon    Lunch

- 1 p.m.    Liam Heerten-Rodriguez, UNO assistant Professor
- Intersectionality developed Kimberle Crenshaw
  - Experiences are different when our identities come together
  - Multiple forces acting on us as individual and the social structures we interact
  - How we see ourselves, but also how the world sees us
  - Systems of oppression aren't separate; they are intertwined
  - Oppression and privilege are not exclusive
  - As a result, marginalization happens, and aspects of their identities are pushed aside
  - Centering - taking people pushed to the margins and allow their voices to lead the change we need
  - Where do we go?
    - o Which identities are salient and relevant?
    - o How can we create a space safe for everyone?

2 p.m.    LEAD the Summer planning

- Finalize Agenda & Curriculum (see attached file)
- Assign tasks and roles
- Set up prep call – July 23, noon

3 p.m.      Wrap up and dismiss

- Foster Youth Voice Month Blog Workshop
- Next Meeting dates
  - o LEAD the Summer, July 29-30, Aurora



Lead the Summer agenda

# LEAD the Summer

July 29-30, 2023

Saturday  
and Sunday

The Leadership Center  
2211 Q Street  
Aurora, NE

Questions?

Contact Lincoln  
at 402-440-3844



## Saturday, July 29

10:30 a

— Arrive and  
Check in

11:00 a

— Welcome and  
Icebreaker  
- Advisory Board  
Overview  
- Self-Introductions  
- Get to Know You Bingo

12:00 p

— Lunch

1:00 p

— Teambuilding  
Activity

1:30 p

— You and  
Intersectionality

2:00 p

— Break

2:15 p

— Russian  
Nesting Doll  
Activity

2:45 p

— Bleach  
Tie Dying

3:45 p

— Identity  
Signs

5:00 p

— Dinner

6:00 p

— Canvas creation  
Activity

7:00 p

— Games and  
social activities  
- Board Games  
- Volleyball  
- Exercise  
- Swimming, etc.

9:00 p — Free Time or Camp Fire

## Sunday, July 30

9:00 a

— Breakfast

9:30 a

— Energizer

9:45 a

— What to do  
with your  
knowledge

10:15 a

— Debrief from  
weekend

10:30 a

— Pack up  
and depart

## **August minutes**

August 20, 2023

Attendance: Fatuma, Chloe, Brandon, Julia, Karolina, Mia, Grey, Michayla, Sebastian, Nedhal.  
Excused: Tyiesha

### **Minutes**

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. LEAD the Summer Review and Recap

- Most valuable
  - Intersectionality, especially the Russian Dolls
  - Everyone participated
- Social Activity
  - The scavenger hunt was good
- Learn from LEAD
  - Importance of being involved; halfway involved in everything. Didn't know what was going on
  - Want more involvement and higher attendance, stronger board relationships.
  - Stickers- merch. Sweatshirts. Maybe we could make anklets next year for an activity.
  - A lot of participants also attended Legislative Days.
  - Loving that feedback!
  - Pool was great and facility was solid
  - BYOB - Bring your own blanket

11 a.m. Court Improvement Project – Stephanie & Theresa

- Focus group on Court Involvement

- Shared experiences with them about GAL, CASA, judges, etc.

12 Noon Lunch

1 p.m. CRP Discussion with DHHS – Jarren & Judith

- How do we get feedback from current foster youth
  - Peer Support
  - Youth Leadership Chapters
  - Something like a Big Brothers/Sisters model
- Medication
  - Better awareness of what medication is being administered
  - Allow the young people to be involved in process
  - What happens when former foster youth age out and lose Medicaid and still require medication
  - Finding a doctor is difficult, especially when you are on Medicaid
  - Tracking medical records when exiting care
- Notice to vacate for foster youth approaching/past age of majority
  - Youth aren't involved in permanency plan
  - Guardianship can create more tricky situations
- Financial literacy
  - Who should oversee teaching?
  - Independent Living
  - Start when you're 16/sophomore
  -

2 p.m. Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts Discussion – Maralee

- Tried to get information on placement information
- Also make it difficult to get documents (for FASFA, medical needs, etc.)
- No one has received their case records
- Can foster parents release information to the youth
- What information do they want:
  - o Psych Evals
  - o School records
  - o Placement information
  - o Medical information
  - o Court reports
  - o Sibling information
  - o Visitation records
  - o Caseworker information (numbers)
- Create an online portal

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- Next Meeting dates
  - o September 24 in Omaha
- Applications due Sept. 1

September 24, 2023

(No minutes because most of the time was work time spent writing and editing the recommendations)

Attendance: Fatuma, Mia, Grey, Michayla, Chloe, Nedhal, Karolina (Brandon and Jen)

### **Agenda**

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. CRP selection and writing recommendations

12 Noon Lunch

1 p.m. CRP edits and review time

2 p.m. New Application Review

2:30 p.m. End of Year Party

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

#### **-Next Meeting dates**

- October 8 - Lincoln
- November 19 - Omaha
- Leaders for Change, Nov. 30-Dec. 3