

Nebraska Family First Prevention Advisory Committee

Nebraska's Child and Family Services Division and Family First Prevention Mission:
Good Life. Safe Families.

Nebraska's Family First Prevention Vision:

Preserve and support families through committed partnerships to expand prevention efforts focused on safe children, strong families, and engaged communities. Families have what they need when they need it to remain safe, together, and thriving in their community.

The "why" behind the vision:

Partnerships, engagement, and infrastructure within communities are critical to ensure families and children have what they need to remain safe, together, and thriving. This requires accountability from all Nebraskans to support each other.

We want to identify and meet the needs of families before a crisis and to reduce the traumatic impact of CFS involvement for an issue that may be a result of poverty or other factors. There will be situations that do require the intervention of CFS. However, current Nebraska data reflects a high number of reports that are screened out or unsubstantiated, possibly indicating that there is a need but not one that rises to the level of abuse or neglect. We recognize the impact the investigation process has on a family and want to ensure that resources are available and that families feel safe asking for help when needed.

Purpose of the Advisory Committee:

The NFFP Advisory Committee will review the current Nebraska prevention and community-based support infrastructures and resources to identify gaps, needs, and community strengths/support. The NFFP Advisory Committee will provide input on statewide FFPSA planning and Community Pathway development, expansion, and sustainability.

The NFFP Advisory Committee will include individuals and groups who have personal and/or professional experience and expertise related to Nebraska's CFS Family First Prevention Services Act Program, Community Pathway development, community-based service provision, program evaluation, and individuals who have been directly affected.

The NFFP Advisory Committee will focus on two tracks: FFPSA Evidence-Based Practices and FFPSA Community Pathway/Warmline. These tracks interact with one another, requiring thought into road maps and coordination.

Members of the NFFP Advisory Committee:

DHHS CFS staff – Camas Holder, Jamie Kramer, Kari Pitt, Justin Carter
Lana Temple Plotz – Nebraska Children’s Home Society
Janece Ferris – APEX
Andi Ashcoff – Christian Heritage
Ivy Svoboda – Children’s Alliance
Jenny Skala - NCFF
Public Health/DBH/MLTC/OEA -
Michelle Nunemaker, Jessica Seberger, Carisa, Michaela Hirschman
Felipe Longoria - Central Plains
Sydney Shead - Maternal/Child Doula and Home Visitation liasion
Lane Carr – NDE /Education
Kodi Bonesteel - Medical (Lancaster Health)
Community Collaborative reps from across the state
Faith Mills (Panhandle), JoAnn Gieselman (Dakota), Marian/Phillip (Douglas)
Monika Gross - FCRO
Deb VanDyke Ries - CIP
Judge Heideman and Judge Paine - Judges (Juvenile and County)
Bri McLarty - County Attorney

Jill Holt - NICWC/Tribal Representation
Jake Dilsaver - Law Enforcement
Corrie Kielty - CASA Sara Quiroz - Juvenile Justice
Providers currently providing FFPSA EBP’s - SixPence, HFA, FCT
Dez Brandt, HFA Panhandle Public Health Department
Sara Howard – First Five
Renee Dozier - Region 5

Dr. Jerry Milner – Family Justice Group
Bill Stanton – Casey Family Programs
Holly Merz – Casey Family Programs

“CPS hotlines are not equipped or designed to effectively deal with the overwhelming number and variety of underlying conditions presented in the reports they receive. As a result, jurisdictions may develop [investigation backlogs](#) and overextend scarce resources on screening and investigating reports that don’t ultimately warrant CPS intervention, rather than focusing on their mandate to keep children truly at risk of maltreatment safe from harm. Subjecting families to unnecessary investigations has detrimental human and socio-economic implications, especially for communities of color.”

- Casey Family Programs