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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 2023-24.

Young Adults Citizen Review Panel Year-End Report FY 23-24

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 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) met 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 8, 2023 – Lincoln
November 19, 2023 – Omaha
December 10, 2023 – Lincoln
January 14, 2024 – Omaha
February 3-5, 2025 – Ashland
March 4, 2024 - Lincoln
April 14, 2024 – Omaha
May 5, 2024 – Lincoln
June 9, 2024 – Omaha
July 14, 2024 – Lincoln
August 3-5, 2024 – Aurora
September 8, 2024 – Omaha

The group's first meeting of the first quarter happened on October 8 in Lincoln at the Nebraska Children offices. We kicked off the year by starting 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. In the afternoon, the group did a teambuilding activity and talked about the new HHS guidance about supports for child welfare including guidance for kinship care, supports for LGBTQIA+ and access to more resources.

The second meeting happened on Nov. 19 at the Nebraska Children offices in Omaha. The group started the meeting by talking with Michael Fitzgerald of Imprint. They then began work on Legislative Days and divided up into work groups. 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.

Our third meeting during the quarter happened on December 10 at the Nebraska Children offices in Lincoln. They kicked off the morning by talking with Ellen Reilly about her work with trafficking and violence prevention. They then worked in small groups on Legislative Days and finalizing roles for the event. The merchandise was ordered, and activities set. In the afternoon, the group met with representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services to go over the 2022-23 CRP recommendations. They talked about strength-based notations, youth voice in mental health care and housing projects for youth transitioning out of care. The group that attended the Foster Youth in Action conference in New Mexico gave a recap of the conference and what they learned.

The group's first meeting of the second quarter happened on January 21. The focus of the meeting was preparation for Legislative Days. The meeting kicked off with everyone sharing their goal for the new year. The group spent time 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. They then talked with NCFE employee Joe DiCostanzo to learn about the organization's education efforts and bills in front of the legislature. After lunch, they talked about advocacy opportunities before taking a team-building field trip.

Around 18 young people attended the annual Legislative Day from February 3-5. 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 we all have a valuable voice to share in the group. On the second day, the 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 Lincoln City Council member Tom Beckius and DHHS employee Jarren Breeling about how she used her lived experience to build a career.

On Monday, the young people met with Supreme Court justice William Cassel. 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 helping 911 and 988 work better together,

implementing the Summer EBT program, allowing mental health sick days and altering the state's approach to youth detention centers. The full presentations and their supporting documents can be viewed here: <https://www.nebraskachildren.org/what-we-do/connected-youth-initiative/2024-youth-legislative-day.html>

Our third meeting during the quarter happened on March 3 in Lincoln. The group debriefed from Legislative Days, reviewed the evaluations and talked about how they could improve the event for next year. They then reviewed new member applications and looked to the future events and meeting.

The group's first meeting of the third quarter happened on April 14 in Omaha. The group kicked off the meeting by welcoming five new members and going over expectations, best practices and the bylaws. They then did a team building activity that examined how to play the game when you don't know the rules and how that relates to advocacy. After lunch, the group talked about year-long goal setting and what we wanted to accomplish as a group. The group then started planning for the LEAD the Summer event. They identified several themes and divided up into work groups to brainstorm ideas. The group then went over the CRP process and what all goes into it. The meeting closed with talking about several summer conference opportunities for members to attend.

On May 5, the group met in Lincoln. They started the day working on the LEAD the Summer event. They decided to focus the curriculum on healthy relationships. We will be heading back to Aurora to host the event at the Leadership Center. In the afternoon, the group started the Citizen Review Panel work. They brainstormed ideas for feedback and ideas to make the foster care system better. Topics discussed included sibling visitation rights, sex education, data on school/health needs, getting more money to foster youth and foster parent training. The day closed with writing biographies and updating the website.

The group met at the Nebraska Children offices in Omaha on June 9 for the last meeting of the quarter. The meeting started with a discussion of CRP recommendation topics. They started the meeting by recapping the discussion from the previous meeting and then figuring out what recommendations we wanted to focus on. Topics included dealing with foster youth with education/handicap needs, stats on disabled youth, focusing on child's needs and hurdles youth face in foster care to get a job. The group finalized responsibilities for LEAD the summer and then met with Colleen Roth from Project Harmony and Theresa Cusic from the Court Improvement Project to go over the court questionnaire.

The group kicked off the fourth quarter with a meeting in Lincoln on July 14. They went over the agenda for the LEAD the Summer event. Carissa Kollath led a quick discussion about PCHNA and got feedback for the program. In the afternoon, the group welcomed DHHS employee Deanna Brakhage to talk about their ideas for CRP recommendations. The meeting wrapped up by reviewing NCCF's legislative priorities for 2025.

The Advisory Board hosted the LEAD the Summer event on August 3-4. The event focused on healthy relationships. The group learned the characteristics of healthy relationships, the different kinds of relationships and how to build better communication with others. The weekend also included social time as the young people were able to build connections with each other.

The last meeting of the year happened on Sept. 8. The group selected new members to join the board. They spent most of the meeting working on writing and editing the recommendations. They also recorded videos of testimonials on the importance of Foster Care Youth Voice Month and debriefed from LEAD the Summer. 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 13 members who were selected via an application and represents the communities of Omaha, Lincoln, Beatrice, 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 2023-24 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 in San Diego. Three members of the CRP attended – Grey Leffler, Michayla Stawniak and Fatuma Hassan. They led a presentation about building successful relationships with state agencies and talked about the work of the youth advisory board. It was quite well received and led to lots of interest from other states about how to engage young people more. The conference was a success as they learned about how other states operate their CRPs and made connections with other young people and professionals.

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 three recommendations: making the CIP court questionnaire mandatory, start tracking handicap foster youth and make that data available and improve the access to documents and remove other barriers to help employment opportunities.

Recommendation #1 - Making the youth court questionnaire mandatory

The Court Improvement Project Youth Court Questionnaire is currently not a DHHS requirement, but the Citizen Review Panel believes that making it a requirement would greatly benefit system-involved youth in Nebraska by further including them in their outcomes and giving them more agency and control in decision-making.

The Youth Court Questionnaire was designed to inform a judge presiding over a youth's case of their specific situation. All of the information shared on the form is voluntary. The youth is advised to bring the completed form to their next hearing or give it to someone on their team (GAL, case worker, CASA volunteer, foster parents, etc.). It includes questions, comments, and concerns regarding the care a youth gets while living in the system. The questionnaire also asks the youth about their time in school, extracurricular activities, and getting a job.

Requiring the completion of the form ensures that caseworkers and other personnel are held accountable for how they treat the youth. It can also help give the judge insight into how active the youth is in their personal care choices. If the youth isn't comfortable and/or safe sharing their opinions with specific team members, this form helps bridge that gap between them and the judge overhearing their case. The form will ensure everyone is on the same page by lessening misunderstandings and putting the power back in the hands of the youth.

Making the youth court questionnaire mandatory would be a simple step in the court hearing process. It would cater to the youth's needs and teach them that they are their own best advocate.

Recommendation #2 - Logging, analyzing and sharing data on Deaf and Disabled youth

We currently have no concrete numbers on how many Deaf and/or Disabled youth are in the foster care system. Our recommendation is to collect this data so the system can provide quality care and access to accommodations for these youth.

Quality care in the foster care system looks like many things, but it should especially provide individualized plans of action and routines for disabled youth in care. Accommodations and accessibility

should not be approached with a one-size-fits-all perspective; these measures should be implemented in collaboration with the youth. For example, providing Deaf youth with interpreters, access to their primary language, and as an option, giving technological aids like video relay services (VRS) on an iPad or tablet. Accommodations for disabled youth could include but is not limited to: access to service animals, ADA accessibility aids (ramps), or Braille for those with support needs.

This recommendation would require logging all disabilities (e.g. Deafness, Blindness, Cerebral Palsy, Wheelchair Users, Neurodivergent, etc.) as part of the intake process and incorporating them into the appropriate data systems, such as InFocus, as a core descriptor that can be accessed in a report. Gathering this crucial data will allow us to provide specialized resources and mentors and ensure the best quality care for all youth in care.

If DHHS does not have a contract or connection to interpreting services, we recommend contacting the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Nebraska Commission for the Blind, and other local organizations dedicated to disabled individuals and populations. By being intentional about physical disabilities (providing ramps, transportation) and inviting these commissions into conversations about Deaf and/or disabled youth, we can ensure that Deaf and/or disabled youth involved with DHHS receive holistic care and experiences.

Once we have data on impacted youth in care, other avenues to meet their needs can be explored. DHHS can provide foster parents/group homes/placement with information regarding the youth's disability (how to fingerspell, providing ramps and necessary accommodations for wheelchair users and other disabilities either seen or unseen). Additionally, providing access to mentors within their community (Deaf mentors through Nebraska Hands and Voices). Finally, During the annual foster care review, take some time to review the quantity of disabled youth currently in care and how their care is being centered. Reviewing any new accommodation and how they can be implemented.

Recommendation #3 - Addressing the needs of foster youth seeking employment and income security.

Financial well-being and security start with foster youth having autonomy over their earnings. Foster youth are often disproportionately affected by extra barriers to employment opportunities that can contribute to their lack of overall well-being. These can include requesting vital documents and receiving them on time, being "allowed" to have a job, transportation, and accessibility issues with opening a bank account.

Employment contributes to acquiring financial literacy habits, which will additionally provide the experience of learning important life skills. The additional barriers should be addressed, and solutions should be considered before seeking employment. It is the duty of the foster parent and caseworker to devise a plan to support the youth during this process. These barriers will assist in mitigating as many obstacles as possible and should include making the youth aware of their ability to request and receive vital documents in a timely manner, account for transportation needs and consider alternatives to a traditional bank account when obstacles may arise (i.e., needing a cosigner, Venmo, etc.).

Once the youth have obtained employment, it is essential to provide them with autonomy over their earnings. Youth should not be expected or required to pay bills or provide financially for the household needs. This should all be covered under the monthly reimbursement the foster parent receives, as It is not the obligation of the youth to provide for their basic needs. This should be considered when using the scoring tool to decide on the range of \$26 - \$108 of daily allotment for the youth. Additionally, income

such as Social Security from a deceased parent should not be used as a replacement for the monthly reimbursement provided by the state. Alternative uses should be considered, such as setting the youth up for success and security when leaving the system. For example, placing those funds in a trust the youth can access after 18.

Additional support should be provided to foster families who need it. Currently, the cost of living has surpassed the monthly reimbursement rate and an adjustment of a 5% increase has been pushed for in the legislature, according to the annual report published by The Nebraska Children's Commission. There should be a pool of financial aid that foster parents can apply for if they fall on hard times.

In conclusion, youth should always have autonomy over financial earnings. Additionally, youth should be provided with accurate information on how to request and receive vital documents necessary for employment, this will assist in overall well-being as well as their transition into an independent and productive adulthood.

Appendix A: Meeting Minutes:

NCCF Advisory Board

October 8, 2023

Nebraska Children Offices
215 Centennial Mall South, #200; Lincoln, NE 68508

Minutes

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. Icebreakers

11 a.m. Setting the Table for the year

- Bylaw Review
- Group Goal Setting
- Event Planning for 2024 (Legislative Days Feb. 3-5 or 10-12)

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. CRP finalization

- Finished final edits and changes for recommendations

1:45 p.m. HHS Announcement Discussion

- New guidance about access to resources, kinship care and LGBTQIA supports

2 p.m. Teambuilding activity

- Looked at group roles and how we work together

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- Future Dates Advisory Board gatherings
 - Nov. 19 (CYI Team meeting)

- Dec. 3 or 10

November Meeting Minutes:

NCFE Advisory Board

November 19, 2023

Nebraska Children Offices
2610 Harney Street; Omaha, NE 68131

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. Conversation with Imprint – Michael Fitzgerald

- Interview with journalist focusing on national issues about foster care and lived experience
- Shared experiences to help with article about lived experience and issues that are important to them

11:15 a.m. Legislative Days Prep Work

- Feb. 3-5; overview
- What do we want to change?
 - o Be more intentional about activities
 - o provide more prep
 - o Clearly establish group expectations
- Who do we want to invite?
 - o No parents

Noon Lunch with CYI Staff

1 p.m. Teambuilding Activity

Worked with group to get to know each other and work together on project

2 p.m. Discussion of CYI and Advisory Board work

- 476 new enrollments in OPP for the year – 903 total enrolled in OPP at the end of the contract year (September 30th, 2023)
- Participant Savings went up 106% from last year – from \$196k to \$405k
- Vehicle Purchases went up 185% from last year – from 47 to 134

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- Future Dates Advisory Board gatherings

- Dec. 10 with DHHS
- Jan. 14, 2024
- Feb 3-5

**December Meeting Minutes:
NCCF Advisory Board**

December 10, 2023

Nebraska Children Offices
215 Centennial Mall #200; Lincoln, NE 68508

Minutes

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. Ellen Reilly, NCCF Assistant Vice President Trafficking and Violence Prevention

- Working to get protocols implemented; following the standard set for Minnesota
- Hoping to get protocols out there March

11:00 a.m. Legislative Days Prep Work

- Feb. 3-5; overview
- Committee Work Time

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. CRP Conversation with DHHS

Angela Davis, Deanna Brakhage, Jarren Breeling, Kathleen Stolz, Andrew Keck, Laura Opfer

- Strength-based notations
 - o Doesn't accurately reflect who the young person is
 - o Can create bias for people when they look at the file
 - o Promote better self-image to reflect positive accomplishment
 - o DHHS reaction
 - Talking about here and now; sometimes conversations focus on
 - Working on language – it impacts everyone Should work on with parents too.

- Teenagers are going to make mistakes. It's hard to have that documented;
- Common referral system requires some signs of behavior
- Mental health issues can present challenges with how behavior is categorized
- Training a workforce can be a challenge.
- Youth Voice Mental Health Choice
 - Having a voice in therapy and medication
 - Making group therapy to connect them with their peer
 - Having options until you are ready to therapy
 - Most feel that they closed off if they knew that information during therapy could be shared with caseworkers
 - What information is being shared; is it general attendance or progress or is it actual information;
- Housing Protection for Aging out youth
 - Yes! It's a legal matter – could remove DHHS from the picture
 - Education possible about leasing agreements for foster youth and parents
 - Need to talk to legal department about possibilities – might be tax implications for foster parents for additional income
 - Lots of positives with building up rental history and also gets clarity with a legally binding document

2 p.m. FYIA Recap and takeaways

- Great time! Learned a lot and made connections
- Want more celebrations and recognition
-

2:30 p.m. Role assignment for Legislative Days

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- Venmo vs Direct Deposit
- Future Dates Advisory Board gatherings
 - Jan. 7 (quick call)
 - Jan. 21 (full meeting)
 - Feb 3-5

NCCF Advisory Board

January 21, 2024

Attendance: Michayla, Rowan, Grey, Fatuma, Nedhal, Chloe, Julia, Jenn, Lincoln

Minutes

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

10:30 a.m. Legislative Days Final Prep Work

- Feb. 3-5; overview
- Ran through agenda to ensure everyone knew what was happening and who was in charge of each agenda item

11 a.m. NCCF Education Work Update – Joe DiCostanzo

- Reviewed bills in front of Legislature
 - o LB 159 - Full Cost of Attendance
 - Kearney is the most expensive
 - Bill was introduced, had a good hearing, but got caught in the chaos of the year
 - It's going to be a long battle, but it has been started
 - o Talked about what they liked and K-12 and what they would change
 - Like: Stability, Escape, Community, Adult Support, Education and learning, Individualized instruction, advocating by adults, Staying on track and not duplicate, teacher (mental health)
 - Change: Meals, Cultural Inclusion (language), Trauma-informed practices, inclusion practices/policies (physical education), "Adulting," limited academic rigor, bullying-awareness of SEL, adults better understand "the system" experience," keep class size small
 - Community schools (LB1347)

- Caseworker, family services, local businesses, K-12, municipal departments, etc.
 - o Authentic Family Engagement
 - o Integrated student supports
 - o Collaborative Leadership Practices
 - o Expanded Learning Opportunities

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Advocacy Opportunities
 - Foster Care Documents
 - Juvenile Justice Fines & Fees

1:30 Field Trip (In-Person only)

2:45 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss
 - Direct Deposit Form time

 - Future Dates Advisory Board gatherings

- o March 3



LEGISLATIVE DAYS 2024

SAT., FEBRUARY 3

- 10:30** Check-in
- 11:00** Overview and Welcome & Community Agreement
- 11:30** Icebreakers and meeting with small groups
- 12:00** Lunch with table topics
- 1:00** Large group icebreaker
- 1:30** Breakout sessions
 - 1:30-2:10 – Session 1
 - 2:15-2:55 – Session 2
 - 2:55-3:10 – Break
 - 3:10-3:50 – Session 3
 - 3:55-4:35 – Session 4
- (Public Speaking, Legislation 101, Advocacy, Bill Overview)*
- 4:35** Break
- 4:45** Review and Recap Sessions
- 5:30** Free time
- 6:00** Dinner
- 7:00** Leadership Activity
- 7:50** Sunday Overview/Evaluations
- 8:00** Free time/Game Time/
Movie Night
- 11:00** In Rooms

SUN., FEBRUARY 4

- 7:30** Breakfast
- 8:45** Energizer
- 9:00** Community issue presentation creation
- 9:30** Community World Cafe
- 10:00** Review Legislative and Vote on Bills
- 11:00** Break up into groups and plan
- 12:00** Lunch
- 1:00** Keynote Speaker:
Tom Beckius, Lincoln City Council
- 2:00** Presentation Work time
- 5:00** Keynote speaker: Jarren Breeling +
DHHS Five-Year Plan
- 6:00** Dinner
- 7:30** Free time/Finish presentations
- 11:00** In Rooms

MON., FEBRUARY 5

- 8:00** Breakfast
- 8:45** Pack up rooms and load cars
- 9:00** Practice presentations
- 10:30** Drive to Lincoln
- 11:00** Watch Floor Debate
- 11:30** Prepare for Luncheon
- 12:00** Senator Luncheon
- 1:00** Committee Hearings
- 1:15** Judge William Cassel,
Judicial Branch speaker
- 2:30** Meet Meeting with Governor
- 3:15** Evaluation and Debrief

NCFF Advisory Board

March 3, 2024

Minutes

Attendance: Sophia, Carissa, Lincoln, Michayla, Grey, Chloe, Fatuma, Nedhal, Julia, Rowan(10:15), Karolina (10:23)

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions- Name, Community, What's going on in your world, fountain drink

10:20 a.m. Legislative Days Recap and Review

- Jen Monroe no longer with NCFF
- Overall great event, engaged, board did great facilitation of weekend
- Reviewed report:
 - Additional highlights
 - Participation was great this year
 - Participants really participated
 - Small incident in the beginning but resolved quickly and moved on
 - Exciting that one group impacted Pillan's decision and maybe other states for EBT funding
 - Gotten applications from youth that attended the weekend
 - Kearney senator signed name on to their bill because of their Kearney presentation
 - Other wins- we will keep posted on bills
 - Prep calls
 - Good attendance
 - 6 out of 22 wanted more info on bills to be discussed
 - Very clear and thorough overall
 - Maybe a google form next year for availabilities with such a small group

- Or send 5 times and have them pick ideal ones – or have them RSVP so we have expectations.
- Breakout sessions
 - Bill review most helpful
 - Maybe update PowerPoints or pick up different topics people from last year remembered
 - Real world applications
 - Next year for advocacy share this years' experience with Gov. Pillan
 - For world café- have them prepare a little so they can have some prior prep to prepare what they are doing and get excitement up and work out logistics and figure out presentations. Send out to adult supporters.
 - Meet with local counsels instead of prep calls possibly
 - Maybe other topic ideas for next year
- Event Day
 - Majority agreed or strongly agreed
 - Felt respected and valued 100%
 - Many said bring back advocacy skills
- Could be improved
 - Time management improved, more prep between sessions, feeling overwhelmed, more connections, more board member participation, de-escalation with youth participants
 - Props to Fatuma for reeling it the situation – let people take a moment and then come back
 - Feeling prepared is different then being prepared-
 - Create a safe space to unwind or emotionally debrief if needed? Like a sensory mental health room, calming room or mindful space

- Find your comfort zone within advocacy- research, still be involved and stay within comfort zone.
- Can prepare as much as possible but it's very subjective
- Prepare them for moments of uncomfortableness
- Maybe mix up from groups they came with so they can get more comfortable
- Maybe conversations at the first lunch
- Conclusions
 - Successful in successes, satisfaction, Gov. Pillen opt in, and press coverage!
 - Comment on survey- prepare for harsh questions so ready for Gov's hard questions
 - Plant questions at luncheon to show off knowledge and passion
 - We as an advisory board can work on questions to highlight their knowledge and passion that maybe had to get cut for time in presentation so they can comment
 - Leg days started in 2014- was only one day- but would be overwhelming
 - Come prepared whole weekend for snacks and items you need -
 - Food accommodations for dietary requirements- work a little closer with Camp to make sure they meet our requirements
 - Maybe request a vegetarian option with each meal just to be safe

- Would be nice if we could find a way to get them out of their community groups and connect with others
- Shout out to Rowan for stepping up at their first Leg days and doing a great job

11:15 a.m. Membership application review

- New member selection
- Grey put together a rubric based on feedback from group chat
- If person brings perspective not currently represented by the YAB that should be considered – could be added part of lived experience
- 15 members is the threshold
 - Nandi-YES
 - Hunter- YES
 - Dawn- YES
 - Kyaire-YES
 - Emmit- YES

11:45 a.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- Future Dates Advisory Board gatherings

- April 14th –
- review bylaws
- community guidelines for board
- get to know new members
- renew commitment for returning members
- refresher for all
- what does formal convo look like if we see something, does that behavior get called out, how do we improve these situations? – Contact Lincoln to start discussion, at next meeting maybe discuss as a whole or bring up at beginning of meeting. Personal

accountability. Learning to talk through and resolve conflict in a safe non-attack way

- May 5th- Fatuma will not be available if we don't go to Aspen Institute we could bump meeting to May 19th – possibly
- Upcoming conferences in May-send Lincoln message if you're interested
 - Kearney- NJJA Juv. Justice youth day Thursday, May 2nd
 - Presentation about youth voice 2-3 people
 - Michayla may not be able to go if gets new job
 - Go out night before, hotel, and present the next afternoon
 - National Citizen Review Panel Conference- May 20-22nd in San Diego- 1 person
 - Presentation about equitable compensation
 - Also pregnant and parenting representative?

NCCF Advisory Board

April 14, 2024

Nebraska Children Offices

2610 Harney Street; Omaha, NE 68131

Minutes

Attendance: Cole, Nedhal, Dawn, Chloe, Karolina, Michayla, Fatuma, Emmit, Julia, Grey, Nandi, Rowan, Kyaire, Lincoln, Carissa

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions

Who you are?

What community you represent?

What you do in your day-to-day life?

What excited you now?

How do you know it's spring? (Item or activity?)

10:30 a.m. Group norms, expectations –

Read the By-Laws and discussed

11 a.m. Team Building activity –

RED vs Green- talked about when we speak with DHHS or others and they say one thing but then they switch or change it after you leave. Talked about voting when we don't know what it means. Nandi discussed changing Pillen's mind on legislative days and summer EBT, and that she went in thinking his mind was made up but it did change. Talked about the change in the Gov. choice, and how the day went. You can try to make as much change as you want but it takes a group effort and team effort to make the change.

12 Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Year-Long Goal Setting and

1:30 p.m. LEAD the Summer brainstorming- -August 3

LEAD-leaders educating and achieving dreams

Saturday late morning- leave late morning Sunday

Nedhal would be in Nebraska July 25-Aug 1

Discussed upcoming meeting dates but Lincoln will send a doodle poll due to several conflicts

Topics/ideas:

Healthy Relationships? Dynamics, familial, romantic, all relationships, requires self-analysis,

Personality Tests- enneagram, or Myers Briggs, or 5 languages of love, Biases measuring personality test Chloe knows about,

Do we want to bring in a speaker/Expert? Rowen may know someone, Julia has a Stacy to reach out to,

Next month brainstorm leadership activities around healthy relationships

Succulent planting and paint pots

CRP -Citizen Review Panel -Next Month we will start high level issues going on in the system so we have 2-3 recommendations to DHHS to change policy or procedures-

Last year – housing after people age out, youth taking ownership of mental health- group therapy, and strength based communication for social workers

Next month we will brainstorm these topics and throw it all out and get ideas

In June we will narrow down and in July we will have DHHS come to the meeting and share what we are thinking and if we need to tweak and then in Sept. is the writing of them in groups.

2:30 p.m. Summer conference sessions

Nebraska Juvenile Justice association has meeting on May 2nd and Youth day we are presenting at in the afternoon.

Spot for one more person since Rowen can't go, we go out Wednesday night stay in hotels come back Thursday leave by 4 or 5 -

Cole and Emmet are interested, Karolina and Chloe are going to present.

Why is youth voice important?

Successful placement and outcomes, a lot of 14-15 don't even understand what all is going on if they are being excessively charged because they don't have help, since public defender is telling them to go with it and it could mess up their future.

Advocacy is key and self sufficiency

Why you are in the system, what's going on can you navigate it

What are examples of successful examples of youth voice working- the leg bill that just passed- EBT, showing mock trials of what a trial looks like, at Rowen's and associates bring in families and youth and guide them and read them what

will happen and what it will look like and steps to help them understand and prepare and let them know people support them.

One hour and 15 minute presentation

Need an icebreaker—candy – earned the candy from questions

Use the voting game red/green- everyone on the same page and someone not changing there minds

3 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

Need to get newbies set up for direct deposit-

Bring check or bank info to next meeting

Will email out form as well as polls for next meetings

-Next Meeting dates

- May 5, Lincoln
- June 9/23

May Meeting Minutes:

NCCF Advisory Board

May 5, 2024

Minutes

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions-

Present: Chloe, Julie, Karolina, Nedhal, Michayla, Grey, Ky, Rowan, Nandi, Khe'Yana

Excused: Dawn, Emmett, Fatuma

Absent: Hunter

10:30 a.m. LEAD the Summer committee work- Leaders Educating and Achieving Dreams

- Aug. 3-4 – Leadership Center in Aurora
- LEAD the Summer: canoeing, lake area, dorm style rooms with bathroom, hiking, sand volleyball- lots of activity options, campfire
- This year's theme: Healthy Relationships
 - 3 groups-
 - Curriculum- Michayla, Rowan, Karolina
 - Social activities and icebreakers- Khe'Yana, Grey, Nedhal
 - Suggestion self-care, self-reflection activity
 - Merch and promo – Nandi, Chloe, Ky
 - one or 2 items that say LEAD the Summer or NCCF
 - Recruit from Camp Catch-up

Noon- Lunch Agave

1:00 p.m. Share out LEAD Work

- Curriculum: after lunch teambuilding- 15 minute -energizer instead –
 - Slideshow of healthy relationships
 - Instead of Russian doll- do flower activity – relationships on big white post its- (parent/child, romantic, sibling) etc. healthy vs not so healthy flower- reflect on 3 biggest characteristics/roots of healthy to bloom and what is their making flower wilt- non-negotiables
 - Another PowerPoint- pop culture scenarios – clips of tv shows and reflect/discuss, song lyrics
 - 2nd day breakup planning guide – how to create a safety plan, how to leave relationship if don't feel safe, QR code to link tree with referrals/resources if needed.

- Chloe- implicit bias test? Would need computer or phones to take that- might be worth saving for another??
- Social Activity/icebreakers
 - Design and decorate your own journal
 - Icebreaker- Marry, Date, Ghost
 - Table topics while eating-
 - Who would you survive against in a horror movie and how?
 - Who/what would you have been in a former life?
 - What's your Ick—red flag vs green flag- but updated to self-reflect
 - Cup stacking challenge - energizer
 - What do you Meme game? Telestration Game
 - Classic hangman- instead- use a flower instead of hangman and words from healthy relationships
 - Family Feud-
 - Bottle flip game- like TikTok challenge
- Merch Promo
 - Fanny pack- could use for self-care, lip gloss, first aid
 - Blanket -self care and useful
 - t-shirt
 - journal book – plain – decorate it
 - flyer- date, location, time, and include stipends are provided for participants- contact/registration
 - Resources around the room maybe/posters like healthy relationships, things to look for in the beginning of relationship- yellow/red flags, healthy boundaries

1:30 p.m. CRP Overview and brainstorm

- We have contract with DHHS to provide recommendations every year.
- Meet with DHHS and share ideas to make sure they are practical
- Brainstorming now, September is actual writing of recommendations
 - Kids who are adopted don't have certain rights- like sibling visitation rights after adoption
 - Is this the right avenue or is it legislation? We can ask DHHS
 - Sex Education training for foster parents of how to approach those conversations, especially with LGBTQ youth. Could do a post survey with LEAD the summer so we have our own stats when we write it up.
 - Is there an option to poll the current system youth and see what they are missing?
 - Care for Deaf Youth- culturally appropriate- we don't know how many in foster care this impacts- if cochlear implant -left to adapt- ask DHHS to start collecting data for this.
 - Data- what do they have on file- how successful foster youth are in school – some states have data and some don't- some had graded and extracurricular, dentist appts, vision checkup, etc.
 - Data is incorrect when it comes to demographics

- Classifying middle eastern as white cause they don't have another box to check. (2019-2020) – and should be able to check more than one box as well-
- If you are 15-16 could they get the stipend instead of the foster parent so they can save how they want to, or even a portion of it. Can't take cash out- or maybe like an investment CD, or EBT card, phone bill/car insurance
- Providing education/opportunity to autistic communities- diagnosis, symptoms, mandatory testing if in foster care, and learning disabilities testing
- Mandatory foster parents parenting training- how to deal appropriately-
 - Include topics: conscious parenting, how to catch neurodivergence, how to respond in ways that don't put them in fight, flight, freeze, etc. and what TO do, how to help with creating healthy mindsets, coping skills, boundaries, healthy relationships- making the parenting classes more inclusive- ethnicity, society, bias, LGBTQ,
 - Currently some parenting classes sponsored by religious bias??
 - Ask DHHS how are parents currently being taught?

2 p.m. Website update: biographies and photos

- Include Bio- whatever you feel like sharing and why this work is important to you- if you have a professional photo you can send it in
- [Meet the Youth Advisory Board : About Us : Connected Youth Initiative \(neconnectedyouth.org\)](https://neconnectedyouth.org)

2:45 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- Direct Deposit Form time
- Future Dates Advisory Board gatherings
 - June 9 – Omaha
 - July 14-Lincoln
 - No meeting in August due to LEAD August 3 & 4

June Meeting Minutes:

NCCF Advisory Board

June 9, 2024

Nebraska Children Offices
2610 Harney Street; Omaha, NE 68131

Minutes

10 a.m. Welcome and updates

Attendance: Grey, Lincoln, Michayla, Chloe, Dawn, Nedhal, Julia, Rowan, Khe'Yana, Cole,
Karolina, Kyaire

10:30 a.m. CRP Discussion

- Recap ideas from last meeting
 - Training and classes for more than just autistic- ADHD, etc. Mandatory training classes for youth needs
 - Are all DHHS trainings for foster parents Christian based? (i.e. Priority Family Services)
 - Need more quality, hands on training not just a PowerPoint/online videos.
 - Qualifications for foster parents for youth with special needs
 - Youth going undiagnosed or misdiagnosed
 - Not focus on cochlear implants, but how many deaf foster youth are being taught and using sign language in homes, over-stimulation, helps neurodivergence as well.
 - DHHS has no stats on disabled youth –
 - Does DHHS implement mission statement from the National Association of the Deaf
 - Guidelines for observing abuse- and when removal happens vs nothing

- Medical staff overreporting- be more careful – asking more questions, fear of seeking care because CPS overly involved
- How do you make sure workers are doing their job? Why do we put our trust in them? Also where are the consequences for the bad foster parents?
- Find themes possible topics
 - Focus on individual child needs – education, training, to meet that child's need
 - Reassess youth plans- opportunities to revisit youth and let them observe and let youth express (not rushed) - Like a 3rd party psychologist not the case worker- outside of DHHS? Guardian Ad Litem
 - Hurdles for youth in foster care that want to start working jobs
 - Transportation
 - Vital documents- SS card, birth certificate, Driver's license, etc., leave system with Driver's license (14 y/o request documents LB945)
 - Ensure youth retains their earned money
 - Setting up own bank acct – what if state ward (contract law)
 - Venmo card? No bank acct required teen acct. 13-17 y/o – some jobs could provide a pay card (no need for parental permission)
- What do we need to know?
 - DHHS will come to the next meeting to see how plausible ideas are and what we need to know (like what kind of training a case worker has on a topic).

11:30 am LEAD the Summer work and role assignments

- Lincoln has agenda
 - We arrive at 10:30- (plan to be there at 10 to get there at 10:30)
 - Set up- welcome them
 - (order fun motivational stickers)
- Promote this to your communities- youth leadership counsels etc.--
<https://bit.ly/LEADtheSummer2024> - registration link

Noon

Lunch

1 p.m. Colleen Roth, Project Harmony

- Heard young people speak at conference and wanted to connect with the group
- Looking to connect with the group.
- Watched video on sex trafficking
- Talked about training we do – advocacy training, public speaking
- Community guidelines (permissions for the space)
- Professionals are making recommendations about what is happening to youth, but we need to include lived experience voice
- Possibly Lead a group in decision making for an advisory role
- Start with group, what they want to get out of it, build up to court cases, to help prepare for things that may be triggering- be transparent- “are you far enough away from this to assist”
- Asking youth who haven’t been affiliated for a while- to bring them back in after they are ‘farther removed from the system’ (not as fresh)

2 p.m. Theresa Cusic, Court Improvement Project

- Thoughts and opinions on court questionnaire – hoping for final stamp of approval -- for abuse and neglect cases
- Differentiate between feeling safe and comfortable
- Add getting your vital documents
- Check on updated ‘youth provided’ definitions
- Any concerns about specific team members
- Do you always feel your best interest is in mind- where could you use more support or care
- Are your needs to express yourself being helped “stem” etc.
- Offer before and after court questionnaire and QR code to complete at any time—optional questions so they don’t have to answer all-

- Can we use this for a referral (like to project Everlast for involvement) – judge asking case worker to have you made a referral to PALs if they want a job.
- What do you feel we need to know about this situation or how can we facilitate this situation
- Include gender identity/racial identity
- How or how not have you been given responsibility for your choices
- Do you feel misrepresented/bias- give room for the successes
- Do you agree/understand your court orders
- What are your fears or worries?
- Do you have support/connections- old connections you want to mend
- Do you feel your mental health is being taken seriously
- do you feel secure with your transition plan, what do you need to be more prepared
 - have you been involved In your ILP? If no, follow up questions- how can we help you get involved in your ILP?
- do you have supported friends/adults in your life that you can turn to
- Will make changes and send final version by end of July

2:45 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- July 14 – Lincoln – be on time so we can roll on time!
- Aug. 3-4 – LEAD the Summer, Aurora, NE

NCCF Advisory Board

July 14, 2024

Nebraska Children Offices
215 Centennial Mall #200; Lincoln, NE 68508

Minutes

10 a.m. Welcome and introductions-

Where would you go on a dream vacation for a month?

Nandi, Dawn, Karolina, Julia, Rowan Grey, Fatuma, Michayla, Khe'Yana, Kyaire,
Nedhal, Chloe, Lincoln, Carissa

10:30 a.m. LEAD the Summer

- Finalizing Agenda

Saturday, Aug. 3

10:30 Arrive – 25 registered (not including us)
Leadership Center, Aurora NE

11:00 Welcome and Icebreaker- Rowan &
Chloe & Nedhal help find icebreakers

• Self-Introductions

- Marry, Date, Ghost
12:00 Lunch

- Table Topics- Emmit

○ What's your ick?

○ Horror movie survivor?

1:00 Energizer - Cup stacking challenge- Kyaire
& Julia & Emmit (50 red solo cups)

1:15: Relationships Overview- Michayla &
Fatuma

2:00 Break

2:15 Flower activity; Stickers- Grey

2:45 Design and decorate journal – Karolina &
Dawn (journals, paint, decorations, stickers)

3:45: Pop Culture scenarios- Khe'Yana & Julia

5:00 Dinner

6:00 social games- Nandi & Rowan & Khe'Yana

○ What do you meme? – Carissa brings

○ Telestrations- Carissa brings

○ Family Feud

○ Guess the flavor

○ Saran wrap ball

7:00 Games and Social Activities

9:00 Camp Fire

Sunday, Aug. 4

9:00 Breakfast

9:30 Resources- Chloe & Dawn

10:00 Debrief- Grey & Karolina

10:30 Pack up and Depart

- Duty Assignment
- Need Journals, stickers, solo cups

11:30 a.m. ~~CIP Court Questionnaire Review—someone needs to own this who sees youth at court—~~

PCHNA Listening session- reviewed questions and discussed upcoming session (Carissa emailed out flyer)

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. CRP discussion with Deanna

- Recommendations review (**RED font is what I heard discussed**)
 - Are all DHHS trainings for foster parents Christian based? (i.e. Priority Family Services)
 - **They are not, some are but not all**
 - Need more quality, hands on training not just a PowerPoint/online videos.
 - **With COVID went online and has helped**
 - **Any post quizzes to make sure they are taking in the information- like a test to pass? Each company has own training and up to them if reoccurring- some do require post training but not all—maybe have questions interlaced in the training so they have to pay attention**
 - **They are required to use MAP – some agencies go beyond that. Required to do Prudent Parent standards for normalcy – Deanna will get info and provide for next meeting.**
 - **Do they require certain trainings if taking in certain youth- like autistic child and training on redirection training etc....specific to child's needs—cultural diversity and awareness—mandatory?? Deanna will find out what is in that 21 hours and would depend on where the**

child lands in the tiers- if higher tier would be trained more in behavioral or mental health diagnosis. There is cultural diversity in the training—but how detailed? She will look- like hair and skin care, etc. This was one of our recommendations.

- 12 hours of continuing ed required each year (original training is 21 hours)
- Family members aren't required to go through trainings if they foster – and we feel they should be.
- Qualifications for foster parents for youth with special needs
- Youth going undiagnosed or misdiagnosed –
- Starting to use Clinical Team for higher needs youth and Tiers 4 and 5 and what is needed from a care giver for them—this is new--
- Not focus on cochlear implants, but how many deaf foster youth are being taught and using sign language in homes, over-stimulation, helps neurodivergence as well.
- DHHS has no stats on disabled youth – could get a report but would have to be asked for currently characteristics aren't tracked – don't have reports of deaf youth but could pull it if they have listed in optional characteristics- can't guarantee our system could pull it... would be part of court report and medical report and on referral to foster parent or agency- would be in notes but not section of InFocus that can pull a report-
- Does DHHS implement mission statement from the National Association of the Deaf
 - Hire translators , we don't have them on staff - just involved with deaf youth who came from Iowa to live in ne and we were aware, foster parent know sign language, paid for transportation and got them into the school for deaf and blind. Will see if she can find out how many are in the system, they are taken care of just not sure she can pull report
- Guidelines for observing abuse- and when removal happens vs nothing
- Medical staff overreporting- be more careful – asking more questions, fear of seeking care because CPS overly involved

- How do you make sure workers are doing their job? Why do we put our trust in them? Also where are the consequences for the bad foster parents?
 - Are they reprimanded, flagged for future and other foster care services. Moving to Standard operating procedures and if you are meeting guidelines. Goes to Human Resources.
 - How is it decided if my behavior removed child from home—am I still allowed to be a foster parent? -- CFS meets monthly with foster parents and documents – concerns can be called into hotline and can determine if it should be continued or revoked. We do put them on hold to investigate what’s going on no matter what agency they are with ultimately all goes to DHHS.
- Find themes possible topics
- Focus on individual child needs – education, training, to meet that child’s need
 - Where are the reports coming from? Get IEP from schools
 - How to ensure it’s specialized to their needs- they may be in therapy or have recommendations for behavior-- (maybe a questionnaire like what are your cultural needs, religious needs, shampoo...etc. give youth the voice) Deanna asked would you be willing to fill one out each time you moved homes? Needs an adjustment/grace period- give them time and therapy then what things make you feel safe, caseworker could digitize and give to parents if being moved- and I found a new soap and want that in my file. If not intentionally filled out with foster parent will it be skimmed over? -
- Reassess youth plans- opportunities to revisit youth and let them observe and let youth express (not rushed) - Like a 3rd party psychologist not the case worker- outside of DHHS? Guardian Ad Litem
- Hurdles for youth in foster care that want to start working jobs
 - Transportation
 - Vital documents- SS card, birth certificate, Drivers license, etc., leave system with Drivers license (14 y/o request documents LB945)
 - Ensure youth retains their earned money

- Are you asking youth specifically about finances if they have issues or are you asking foster parents?- she is asking case workers, and they are required to meet with youth privately—hope that convo would come up but not mandatory – Deanna believes when she was in the field we could tell if youth was getting what they needed and if there wasn't there were conversations and brought to resource development who also license the foster parent. Unrealistic for DHHS to be able to go through all receipts, how do we empower youth to have their voice and share when these things are happening. Workers need better youth engagement to get that information. Should stipend help pay phone bill, sports activity, etc., not just room and board. If a youth states what they are spending their own money on and it raises a flag, they will investigate. Some foster parents may be in it for the wrong reasons, don't want to cause a lot of ripples in the water and kick them out, fine line – parents across USA may require youth to pay some bills like a phone bill etc.
 - How do we ensure foster youth know their rights and the court questionnaire and youth in foster care to know who to talk to if needs aren't met. Gap in system since 'no one' really owns the questionnaire that meets with foster youth—who will own it and provide info so foster youth know there is a questionnaire
 - Who verifies the monthly stipend is being used correctly- foster parents don't have to log receipts – not that she is aware of that being required. If we hear things from convo with the child or school needs, can you help with that, drivers ed, etc.
- Setting up own bank acct – what if state ward (contract law)
 - Deanna has heard different things- CPCS doesn't have issues with people opening bank accounts. Sometimes parents or foster parents do it, some are using Walmart cash card so they don't have to go through bank. (so a foster parent can cosign on bank account with

foster youth if choose to do so, if they don't the only option is a cash card) Credit union may have different rules. Either not happening or no one tells her because she doesn't hear this as an issue. She reached out to CPCS.

- Venmo card? No bank acct required teen acct. 13-17 y/o – some jobs could provide a pay card (no need for parental permission)
- Tuition reimbursement for bettering self- like learning Spanish? Incentive to foster parent to bilingual/ASL/
- 2024-25 budget possibilities
- Provide environment that will express youth voice
 - PA did blurb/video of their CRP and what they use data for- would be interested in doing a video about importance of listening to youth voice, and bring up all these things you discuss, relationship with workers, what you say matters, issues with foster parents we have had, how do we get youth voice into courtroom and monthly meetings, and then we would share it with entire Judicial System, attorneys etc. Something visual like the pinwheels— October is youth month-
 - Office of juv justice - ojdp conference

2:30 p.m. 2025 Legislative Priorities review

- Alter Child Abuse definition to allow more parental discretion (LB42)
- Change mandatory reporting status (LB 271)
- Students as teacher for after-school programming (Stephanie with BSB)
- Full-Service Community Schools
 - Break down four pillars into smaller bills?
 - Start with school coordinator and then go to other areas
- Foster-Full Ride
 - Needs new champion
- Youth in Care Bill of Rights
 - Needs new champion
- Change state statute to allow compensation for youth and lived experienced experts on boards and commissions
- Law to remove barriers for foster youth to obtain car insurance
 - Missouri has good law for basis

2:45 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

- Aug. 3-4, Aurora
- Sept. 15th – Omaha

LEAD THE SUMMER 2024

SATURDAY, AUG. 3

- 10:30 a.m. Arrive and check in
- 11:00 a.m. Welcome and Icebreaker
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Group Energizer
- 1:15 p.m. Relationships Overview
- 2:00 p.m. Break
- 2:15 p.m. Flower activity
- 2:45 p.m. Journal activity
- 3:45 p.m. Pop Culture scenarios
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Team Games
- 7:00 p.m. Games and Social Activities
- 9:00 p.m. Camp Fire

SUNDAY, AUG. 4

- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Resources
- 10:00 a.m. Debrief
- 10:30 a.m. Pack up and Depart



Connected Youth Initiative
nebraskachildren

NCFE Advisory Board

Sept 8, 2024

Meeting Minutes

10 a.m. Welcome and updates

Present: Fatuma, Grey, Rowan, Nandi, Khe'Yana, Michayla, Karolina (online), Nedhal (online), Chloe, Lincoln, Carissa, Julia (11:12)

10:30 a.m. CRP Recommendation Finalization-

3 recommendations:

- Court survey/questionnaire – making it mandatory part of reporting given to the judge – falls on case manager to ensure its completed
 - Given with ample time to complete and providing safe space for them to complete it. (Neutral person to get the document to the judge- maybe school guidance counselor? CASA?)
 - Bill of Rights reviewed with youth each time they go to court or more often, so they know what their rights are
 - **GREY, JULIA, NEDHAL, KHE'YANA**
- Collect data and tracking deaf youth and disability
 - Log info in youth file to help make other orgs and services know special accommodations are needed
 - **ROWAN, CHLOE, KAROLINA**
- Keep the money foster youth make—shouldn't have to put money toward foster family bills
 - Financial resources for foster family if needs are being met, to ensure foster parents aren't asking their foster children to assist with gap for that month
 - (Social security funds for deceased parent should go to savings for youth instead of in lieu of foster funding) –

- Hurdles for employment

- **NANDI, FATUMA, MICHAYLA**

11 a.m. CRP writing time

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. CRP recommendation share and edit time

1:30 p.m. Foster Youth Voice Month idea time-

1:45— Video Interviews

2 p.m. Member expectations and standards

- YAB is a paid job—expected to treat it like work- be present when here, do work needed, professional boundaries
 - Representing YAB at all times and when online
 - If need financial assistance or are struggling, it isn't professional to ask colleagues, but you could reach out to Lincoln or Carissa about services that may be available or resources that could assist you.
- Calendar for next year
- Bylaw review – add minimum clause for attendance requirements and steps for follow-up and removal if needed
- Set meeting dates in advance
- Meeting starts at 10 a.m. (respect others time and show up on time 😊)
- Show up on time/show up to meetings
- Unexcused or no show—not here on months – our application states its required to be at meetings and events-
- Strategic story sharing in future trainings

2:15 pm LEAD the Summer recap-

- More prep/facilitation/clarity for future events

- Great turnout
- 13–15-year-old too young for events-
- Need zero tolerance on substance abuse – liability issue.
 - Our packets specifically say for LEG days no alcohol or drugs at event
 - Adult support needs to take them home if they violate policy –

2:30 p.m. New member application review- application-

- Approved Destiny

2:50 p.m. Wrap up and dismiss

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- October 20 in Lincoln
- November 10 in Omaha
- December 8 in Lincoln
- January 12 in Omaha