

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 2019-20.

Young Adults Citizen Review Panel Year-End Report FY 19-20

Prepared by Nebraska Children

This report addresses the actions taken to satisfy the scope of services for 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 Project Everlast. These activities are described in more detail below.

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

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

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

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

Of final note is the number of CRP members who are parenting. To ensure that parenthood is not a barrier to participation, CRP meetings are open to children. The group provided a stipend to help the members find appropriate childcare. 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 continued to meet in-person for the first part of the year before the coronavirus pandemic forced the group to switch to virtual meetings in March. The group did wrap up the year with an in-person meeting in Ashland to wrap up the year with facemasks and social distancing.

<i>In-Person Meetings</i>
October 6, 2019 – Fremont
November 10, 2019 – Omaha
December 8, 2019 – Lincoln
January 12, 2020 – Fremont
February 1-3, 2020 – Ashland
September 20, 2020 – Ashland
<i>Virtual Meetings</i>
March 29, 2020
April 26, 2020
May 17, 2020
June 14, 2020
July 12, 2020
August 23, 2020

The group's first meeting of the year happened on October 6 in Fremont. Members reviewed the final recommendations submitted to DHHS as part of the 2018-19 CRP process and discussed edits and changes to the final report. The group also listened to presentations from Michelle Wiese of First National Bank about how to write a resume and interview for a job and Kent Speicher, CPA, who talked about filing taxes and other financial tips. The group concluded by electing new officers to serve for the next six months. All meeting minutes can be found in the Appendix.

The second meeting took place on Nov. 10 in Omaha. The group began discussions for the 2020 Legislative Days and the new youth leadership chapter model.

Our third meeting during the quarter happened on December 8 in Lincoln. The group continued their work on Legislative Days finalizing the schedule and dividing responsibilities. They welcomed Sara Riffel to discuss all the different programs happening in the CYI world and they provided feedback and input. The group also met with Jamie Mapp, who works with the Nebraska Psychologists Association. She talked about putting together a session for a conference next summer that would highlight youth voice and lived experience.

The group's first meeting of the second quarter happened on January 12 in Fremont. Members continued preparation work for Legislative Days. They finalized assignments and activities for the weekend. The group met with Eddy Vanderkwaak of Foster Youth in Action to discuss advocacy issues and what issues are important to them. Also, Rachel Meier stopped by to discuss the big issues and bills in front of the Legislature during the session.

For the February meeting, more than 50 young people attended the annual Legislative Day from February 1-3, 2020. Those youth represented the Governor's Youth Advisory Council (GYAC), 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. In a day and a half of preparation, youth heard presentations from James Michael Bowers, a Lincoln City Council member, and Bobbi Taylor, Sarah Mitchell and Rosetta Judd, members of the Nebraska Children Advisory Board, who have been involved in state and national advocacy efforts for foster youth. Also, they attended training topics included the legislative process, voting, grass-roots advocacy, and how to have solution-focused, non-confrontational discussions about issues about which they are passionate. Among all the skill development, youth discussed current legislation impacting young Nebraskans and selected five bills to capture in brief presentations. Members then practiced and finally relaxed with some social time.

All the work culminated in a day at the Capitol that included visiting senator offices, time to talk with Supreme Court Justice William Cassel, a tour of the capitol and observing a legislative hearing. Youth shared their bill presentations with senators over lunch and in an afternoon meeting with Governor Ricketts. The group presented on five bills that included limiting abortion procedures, adopting sign language education, adopting Indigenous People's Day, creating a Nebraska Youth in Care bill of rights, expanding eligibility for SNAP benefits and adopting the Hunger-Free Schools Act. A detailed overview of the presentations is found in the Appendix.

Our third meeting during the quarter happened on March 29 virtually via Zoom. The group reviewed evaluations from Legislative Days and talked about what changes they want to make for next year's event. They also talked about what was going on in their lives amid social distancing because of COVID-19. Next, they reviewed applications for new members and selected four people to join the group for the April meeting. They also elected new officers for the next six months: Bobbi Taylor, Michayla Stawniak and Janet Duran. Finally, they thanked Sarah Mitchell for her work and service as she aged out of the group.

The group's first meeting of the third quarter happened on April 26 virtually via Zoom. Members met with Anna Gennari from Foster Youth in Action talk about programming opportunism they are offering to help cope with the coronavirus and economic fallout. The group then recapped several meetings they've been a part of

including a meeting of Congressman Bacon, who talked about his experience as a foster parent. The members reviewed the priorities and recommendations made last year and Rebecca provided updates on what had happened with DHHS. The recommendations included updating the grievance process, implementing the Red Book and developing a Peer Advocate Model. All three are moving forward in some fashion and will have an impact on future system-involved youth. The group then shifted its focus to this year's CRP recommendations and talked about what they would like to discuss. Finally, with the shift to virtual meetings, the likelihood of hosting an event later this summer is in doubt.

During the May 17 virtual meeting, the group spent most of the meeting discussing possible topics for this year's recommendations. The group settled on five general topics, which included financial education, medication awareness (overmedication), youth drug/alcohol abuse, siblings visits during COVID and racial disparities of young people involved with the system. Finally, the group began to work on the summer event to gather community feedback and input on policy issues. They made plans for developing curriculum and contacting communities.

Our third meeting during the quarter happened on June 14 virtually via Zoom. The group started by sharing their experiences at protests recently and what they were experiencing during the past two weeks. The group then welcomed Deanna Brakhage to discuss the topics and get feedback on each of them. The conversation focused on existing policy in DHHS and what the standards for training are. This includes how to avoid department involvement for families, especially as the Family First Act, what anti-racism training is in place, Nedhal also shared her experience from hosting panels about racism in the system and what she learned. The group wrapped up the meeting finalizing details for the summer gathering.

The group met briefly on July 12 to work on the summer gathering and tasks that need to be accomplished in short order to make the event happen. However, because of a breakdown in communication and lack of response, the group eventually canceled the virtual summer later in the month. No minutes were kept during this meeting.

At the group's August meeting on Aug. 23, they started talking with NCFE employee Claire Hoff about the Transitional Services Survey which helps measure the needs and trends of young people who need supports. They also reviewed what went wrong with the lack of a summer event and how to improve for next time. The group wrapped up the day meeting with DHHS employees Deanna Brakhage and Rebecca Daugherty. They talked about the possible recommendation and reviewed data provided about the racial makeup of young people in the child welfare system.

The last meeting of the year was on Sept. 25 at Mahoney State Park Lincoln. The group reviewed and finalized their recommendation to DHHS. They also reviewed membership applications and approved five new members.

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

The Young Adult Citizen Review Panel consists of 14-26-year-old unconnected young people. These are young adults with direct experience in Nebraska's child welfare, juvenile justice and/or homeless systems. Members have experienced a variety of placements, services, permanency objectives and, in some cases, multiple state systems. Members serve at their discretion and cannot be required to participate under any case plan, court order or other obligatory order, making membership completely voluntary.

Current members select new members twice a year in March and September to serve year-long terms. If a member remains in good standing through attendance and involvement, they are eligible to renew membership for another year. This year the group represented the communities of Omaha, Lincoln, Fremont and North Platte.

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 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. The members signed a confidentiality agreement of the members are attached.

Scope of Work: Assure that the CRP provides for public outreach and comment in order to assess the impact of current procedures and practices upon children and families in the community in order 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 in their projects to capture additional perspectives. Further, the CRP is open to any youth with experience in child welfare, juvenile justice, youth homelessness or related systems to participate. These strategies help provide opportunities 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 occur in 2020 because of the coronavirus. The plan was for member Fatuma Hassan and adult supporter Lincoln Arneal to present at this year's conference before it was postponed.

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) used conversation and topics from Legislative Days in February as well as their own experiences. However, the world changed before their first discussion at the May meeting. Those discussions centered on mental health issues that were exacerbated by the lockdowns and social distancing caused by COVID-19. By the second meeting in June, the world had changed again following the social justice protests in late May and early June. While addressing the racial disparities in the child welfare system quickly became a prominent topic, the group also discussed financial literacy education, youth drug/alcohol abuse and sibling visitation during COVID.

The two themes that played a major role in the public discourse this year are found in the two new recommendations of the PE CRP: first, address mental health supports for youth in care and allow them more control over decisions about their mental health. The second recommendation is to reconfigure the racial identifiers for youth in care. In addition to these two recommendations, the CRP wants to see continued progress on last year's recommendations of updating the grievance process and implementation of the Red Book.

Recommendation 1: BETTER MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR SYSTEM-INVOLVED YOUTH

One of the big takeaways from 2020 is the importance of mental health care for everyone and this is only heightened for young people in the child welfare system. The trauma caused by the situations that caused their system involvement only increases the need for quality mental health care.

The main recommendation stems from more youth-ownership of their mental health care. Often their mental health care decisions are made by others and can have negative effects such as over-reliance on medication, changing providers and a lack of options. The group developed several items that can help address these issues to provide better mental healthcare.

- More youth ownership of mental health decisions
 - The members of the CRP were encouraged to hear about the newly developed psychotropic medical consent form. This is a step in the right direction and allows young people to be aware of what medical decisions are being made and have their input.
 - Include the Youth Voice and Medication flyer, which is in Appendix A, in the Redbook and promote its spread among medical professionals, especially with those who work with system-involved youth.
 - Create a database of medical professionals (both physical and mental care) who accepts Medicaid. Finding a doctor or therapist who accept Medicaid can be difficult, especially for therapists where the doctor-patient relationship is extremely important. This will also be beneficial to the young person and help provide for an easier transition from care once they reach the age of majority.
 - An important part of young people taking ownership of their mental health is knowing their own history. This includes a list of previous prescriptions and previous treatment, which would be kept in the Redbook.
- Delay the initial mental health evaluation of young people entering care
 - Upon entering the child welfare system, young people must undergo an evaluation within the first 72 hours. However, this is possibly the worst time to do an evaluation. The young person is undergoing a significant amount of trauma caused by the removal from their family or whatever incident caused their system involvement. Instead, the young person should be allowed to meet with a therapist to help deal with the mental health issues during the first six months of system involvement.
 - The members also recommend no new medication be prescribed to the young person during their first six months of system involvement, except in extreme situations. The overreliance on medication to try to address issues the young person experiences can have side effects and long-term impact.
 - In addition to these steps, the members recommend that mental health advocacy and support be implemented through awareness or training for guardians ad litem. GALS wouldn't be expected to provide diagnosis, but rather support young people through advocacy in the best interest of their client and in a legal capacity. For example, check-in's on progress of mental health related actions, provide suggestions on resources or next steps that young people can use to address their needs, and assistance finding appropriate medical providers that meet the unique needs of the client. Additionally, members recommend guardians ad litem and caseworkers both be familiar with Families Thrive, so they all speak the same language and understand brain development.

Recommendation 2: RACIAL IDENTIFICATION ON DATA COLLECTION

The members of the CRP talked about several ways they could address the racial disparities of young people involved in the child welfare system. However, before any of these changes could be made, a better understanding of what the disparities exactly need to happen. One of the issues the group identified is the broad racial identifies used on data collection forms.

Currently, the categories on the data collection are as follows:

- White
- Hispanic/Latino/Spanish
- Black or African American
- Asian
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- Some Other Race
- No Primary Race

The members of the CRP recommend making the following changes:

- **Add Middle Eastern or Arab-American as a category.** Currently, young people from the Middle East do not have an easily identifiable category to join. For example, one of our members is from Iraq and she either must choose White or Some Other Race, neither of which is ideal. Adding a Middle Eastern or Arab-American category would better categories a group of young people who might not identify as White.
- **Change Black or African American to Black, African or African American.** This again is more inclusive to young people who might be immigrants from Africa and might not identify as African American.
- **Change Asian to Asian or Asian-American.** This would make it consistent with the change above and again be more inclusive with how young people identify.
- **Change No Primary Race to Biracial or Multiracial.** This is a change in terminology to be more inclusive. A person might better identify with multiple races, but the term of no primary race might not fit them if they identify with several races. Adding a space for the young people to identify which races they identify with would be beneficial to know. This recommendation could also be achieved by allowing the young people to select more than one box.
- **Keep Other Race but add space to write in what they identify.** This is a chance to learn more about how the young person identifies. We don't know if it is possible to enter this information in the database, but it would also help identify what shortcomings these categories have and what could be done to better identify disparities in the system. Also, remove Some from the category.

As a result of these recommendations, the racial categories would be as follows:

- White
- Hispanic/Latino/Spanish
- Black, African or African American
- Middle Eastern or Arab American
- Asian or Asian American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

- Biracial or Multiracial (Which races do you identify with: _____)
- Other Race: _____

Although these changes might seem minor, it would add more options for young people and better understand the racial makeup of young people in the child welfare system. These categories are more inclusive and should provide a better representation for young people. This recommendation is just the first part of addressing larger issues with an overrepresentation of persons of color in the state welfare system. However, to better identify some of the issues, we need to understand the extent of the problems.

In addition to these two recommendations, the group would like to see continued progress made on last year's recommendation: **updating the grievance system**, further **developing a Peer Support System** to help young people entering and exiting the child welfare system and the **implementation of a Redbook program** to give young people more information about resources available and their personal records.

System of Care



YOUTH VOICE AND MEDICATION

Medication often finds its way into treatment plans for youth and young adults with behavioral health challenges. It is essential that young adults understand the medications they are prescribed and are empowered to take an active role in their treatment. That includes decisions about medications!

WHAT DO YOUNG ADULTS WITH CURRENT OR PAST EXPERIENCE WITH BEHAVIOR-MODIFYING MEDICATIONS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT MEDICATIONS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH?

WHEN PRESCRIBING MEDICATIONS:

- Always be 100% sure the young person needs the medication.
- Try non-medication options first.
- Utilize the least number and lowest dosage of medications possible. Always start with a lower dose and work up.
- Consider stopping or re-evaluating medications before simply adding one more pill. Put in the time to find the right mixture of medications, dosages, and alternative treatments.
- Teens bodies are changing. Contemplate weaning them off all meds and re-evaluating from time to time.
- Work WITH other professionals. Professionals have differing opinions, and that's fine. However, they should always work together and keep their opinions of each other away from the people they serve.
- Provide factual information. Young adults want to know the truth about what they are taking, not the provider's opinion.
- Make sure there is strong communication about medications when youth transition from place to place.

“

I went to a group home and got a new therapist. She just added a bunch of new meds. I felt like a zombie and found out later that I only really needed one.

“

I couldn't focus in class. All I needed was a stress ball under my desk... not a pill.

YOUNG ADULTS DESERVE TO PLAY A LEAD ROLE IN THEIR OWN TREATMENT.

- Ask for their ideas on alternative treatments or solutions other than medications.
- Make sure information about the medication is provided in a way the young adult can understand. Information should include the name (generic and brand), what it does/how it works, what it's prescribed for, side effects, and symptoms of overdose.
- Make a treatment plan with the youth that covers options focused on finding what fits best.
- Young people grow into old people. Giving them understanding and power of their medications early on means they will be better prepared to maintain medications in the future.
- Have honest conversations with youth about the impact of stopping medications. They need to know what to expect and how to be safe if they choose to go off their medications.
- Help the youth build skills and confidence to be their own advocate, and/or help them find people to support their voice and wishes.

Appendix B: Meeting Minutes:

NCFE Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2019

United Way Fremont

Present: Julia, Sarah, Sebastian, Cassey, Bobbi, Chey, Janet, Fatuma, Michayla, Rosetta: Remote: Raevin, Nadal.

10:30 a.m. – Resume Work - Michelle Wiese

- Talked about tips for creating a resume and how to nail the interview
- All about selling yourself in the interview and on your resume
- Dress appropriately and professionally. It changes for what type of job you are seeking

11:30 a.m. – Taxes and more Kent Speicher

- Talked about how to file taxes and why it is important to take as many deductions as possible
- Most tax preparation can be done via software, but more complex is worth seeing an accountant

Noon – Lunch

1 p.m. – CRP Recommendations Finalization

- System Accountability
 - o Grievance process
 - Making forms available, easier to fill it out
 - o Families/Youth Thrive training
- Family Accountability
- Red Book
 - o Normalcy
 - o Court process for siblings; information on family rights
 - o Education section
 - ETV, LEAP
 - FASFA – EducationQuest
 - Reports Card, etc.
- Peer Advocate program
 - o In partnership with red book; having them sit down and explain.

1:30 – Long-term planning and goal setting

Communications/Outreach Lead: Bobbi

Logistic Lead: Chy

Internal Policy Lead: Sarah

Sargent At Arms/Meeting Host:

Working on Legislative Days

Two options for dates: Feb 1-3 or Feb. 22-24 at Carol Joy Holling
Want to incorporate concepts and ideas from Legislative Days

Next Meetings

Nov. 10 – Omaha

December 1/8

**November Meeting Minutes:
Omaha, NE
November 10, 2019**

Present: Janet, Chy, Julia, Sebastian, Fatuma, Michayla; online: Bobbi, Raevin, Nedhal, Rosetta. Guest: Rebecca

Connected youth initiative Chapters

Going over the chapter manual

Application due January 1st

Janet - Is there going to be a score for the application?

The NCFE is available for being on the review board

Its 18 months trial run. Than initially going to 12 months

Bobbi - making sure the original doesn't shift from peer to peer support to pushing the to be leaders if they don't want to. Lincoln primed layout comes in to play

Janet – what if they die? Network get a new supporter

Bobbi met James bowers (contract)

Legislative days

Janet – what is NCFE

Overview and welcome – Janet and Lincoln

Keynote bobbi and Rebecca (youth advocacy)

Welcoming icebreaker Chy

In between the middle Energizer Rosetta

Meaty Question at the end of the night

Michayla table topics

keynote James Michael bowers

breakout season

Day two

Themes out of the burning wall Michayla Fatuma (next month)

Michayla think tank break out season

Janet guided discussion

Keynotes interim studies

Question board

Parking lot

December 8th meeting focus on check in

Snacks

Bradley for t-shirts

Reusable Water bottle

Making a documentary out of legislative days

Check in roles for everyone

Social media is the biggest platform

Meaty questions

Question board

**December Meeting Minutes:
Lincoln, NE
December 8, 2019**

In-person attendance: Janet, Bobbi, Raevin, Sebastian, Julia, Michaela, Fatuma

Phone: Sarah, Rosetta, Nedhal, Chy

Leg Planning

-Michayla & Fatuma:

T shirt design options - for participating youth

Quill writing out Leg days

& Yoda on the back

Fist, with advocate

“Let me through, I’m an advocate on back?”

Color - light blue for child welfare awareness.

*Will have sample designs by Thursday for us to vote on.

*Email any suggestions or ideas to Fatuma/Michaela

Board Apparel for distinguishing us at events

Polos or Fleece Jacket?

NCFE Logo - black or grey

*Designs to come

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2019



**DAY 1
SATURDAY, FEB 9**

**DAY 2
SUNDAY, FEB 10**

**DAY 3
MONDAY, FEB 11**

10:30 AM	Check-in	8:00 AM	Breakfast	8:00 AM	Breakfast
11:00 AM	Overview and welcome <i>Janet + Lincoln</i>	9:00 AM	Energizer	8:45 AM	Pack up and load cars
11:30 AM	Icebreakers and meetings with small groups <i>Chy + Rozette</i>	9:15 AM	Keynote 2: <i>James Mitchell Bowery Dawn Rocky, CASA Executive Director, and Former State Treasurer</i>	9:00 AM	Practice presentation
12:00 PM	Lunch Table topics <i>Michayla</i>	10:00 AM	Review legislative bills and vote on what to present	10:15 AM	Drive to Lincoln
1:00 PM	Large group icebreaker	10:30 AM	Break up into groups and plan	11:00 AM	Visit senators
1:30 PM	Breakout Session I	12:00 PM	Lunch	11:30 AM	Prepare for luncheon
2:15 PM	Breakout Session II	1:00 PM	Policy small group 1	12:00 PM	Senator Luncheon
3:15 PM	Breakout Session III	1:30 PM	Policy small group 2	1:15 PM	Capitol tour (optional)
4:00 PM	Breakout Session IV	2:00 PM	Presentation work time	1:30 PM	Committee hearings (optional)
4:45 PM	Regroup and summarize	5:30 PM	Dinner	2:00 PM	Justice Stephanie Stacy Nebraska Supreme Court
5:00 PM	Free time	6:30 PM	Keynote 3 opportunities: <i>Aaron Weaver, Project Everlast Omaha Jim Casey Focus Group Rebecca + Babbi</i>	3:30 PM	Meeting with Gov. Ricketts Governors Hearing Room
6:00 PM	Dinner	7:30 PM	Free time and finish presentation <i>Foster Care Alumni Chapter project</i>	4:00 PM	Evaluation and debrief
7:00 PM	Keynote 1 opportunities: <i>Nedhat Al Kazahy, Legislative Page -CH Youth Leadership Team Mtg-</i>	11:00 PM	In rooms		
7:50 PM	Sunday overview	DAY 1 BREAKOUT SESSIONS: + Legislative and Unicameral Overview: Becca Brune, Nebraska Applesseed + Public Speaking and Debate Skills: Amy Peters, Lancaster County Public Defender's Office • Advocacy and Lobbying: Sarah Ann Kotchian, Rose Rock Consulting LLC • Legislative Jeopardy: Lincoln Arneal, Nebraska Children		DAY 2 POLICY SMALL GROUPS: • Allowing 16-year-olds the right to vote, Westin Miller, Civic Nebraska • Jo Giles, Coalition for a Strong Nebraska, Grassroots and Community Organizing - Burning walls → Michayla - Current topics → Janet	
8:00 PM	Free time: (open gym, movie party, crafts)				
11:00 PM	In rooms				

Break →

Leadership Activity

Another Justice

Community question board

-Lincoln:

Schedule rundown

Day 1 - 4:45 Sara & Sebastian time slot

7pm Fatuma & Julia

Day 2 -

Energizer 9am Nedhal

*Emphasize *self-care, safe space on Day 1

- Schedule Calls for Bills Jan 19-29
- Julia snack options
 - Snack crew:
 - Janet Julia & Michayla
 - Scheduled snacks
- *Bobbi on Keynote Speaker James M. Bowers, needs to make contact, has not heard back. Attempting to have confirmation within approx. 2 weeks.*

- *Encourage presentations to be out of the box: by incorporating into a presentation, Public Speaking.*
 - *Skits, poetry*
 - *Bobbi to reach out to Schalisha to see if we can get someone to present an example of alternative public speaking styles.*
- *Lincoln - facilitation guide for leg bills groups*

Going forward leg days:

- Categorize Burning Wall topics & narrow down for Action plan
- Action Plan Ex: Interim Studies, Campaigns, CRP Process - Feedback to DHHS
- Presenting work at Summer Event

Sara Riffel

*What does the group envision for 2020?

Relationship with NCFE

*How does this group, as individuals, see yourself positioned in the group (Board)

Next phase of growth in partnership with NCFE

SIF Grant Info: expansion of councils and communities served

CYI Model/Components:

Youth Leadership

Coaching

Opportunity Passport (financial coaching)

Central Navigation

Needs Based Funds (flex funds)

Over the last 4 years:

Defining, Scaling & Eval. Model (rigorous: control & test groups)

In Sept submitted to fed gov't research & report. Making it a proven model.

Research key pieces:

- Last 4yrs has proven youth involved in at least one CYI component has increased their hope.
- Increased likelihood of stable housing 3.5% and savings by 6%
- Significantly less likely to (17%) ER services

*currently embargoed (not public knowledge)

- How do we present the research to the public?

SIF Grant ends 4/1/2020 How do we continue to fund the CYI work in communities.

COOL THINGS HAPPENING IN 2020

Aligning CYI model with Community Response (CR) model

CR - within a community collaboration

May include Central Navigator

Supporting early childhood, older youth as well

CYI & CR Central Navigator being one instead of two separates for more efficiency & cost effective.

*What pieces are special to CYI

OP Programs

More of a statewide match pool for OP funds, specific programs will remain for Omaha and such, but provide additional dollars at a statewide level.

LEAP efforts

Received a 5yr grant to expand statewide and system changes, work with colleges to build infrastructure within, career training programs (ensure pathways to post-secondary education)

DHHS

Homing in on case management for 14-17yo. To put some accountability on caseworkers to make sure youth are being supported.

Refocusing training for CFS specialist and foster care parents.

Incorporating Youth Thrive (survey tool) more of a case management tool.

Pilot group proposal to DHHS

Youth Leadership Chapter Model

Human trafficking

Looking at YT & YRTC

Research & Data

How we share CYI eval reports local and statewide.

Adult & Youth in person convening, creative ways to present data

Animated video

Blog for CYI, guest authors to write articles

Psychology

Conference June 10th & 11th

hoping for over 1000 attendees

National Speakers

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS)

multi-tiered supports

Framework that schools utilize to promote PB

Groups & Individual work

No youth voice at the table, proposal (break out session)

Broadening Scope to include school practices and culture

We will host two sessions with more details to come

NCFE Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2020

United Way Fremont

Attendance: Bobbi, Janet, Sebastian, Julia, Nedahl, Michayla, Fatuma, Rosetta, Sarah, Raevin

10 – Welcome & Icebreaker

10:30 — Legislative Days Prep Work

- Finalize shirt choice
 - 2020 Banner Shirt * Majority Vote*
 - 2020 Mob
 - Fist
- Review Water Bottle Choices
 - 20oz Tumbler

11am — Listening Session w/ Foster Youth in Action - Eddy

Listening Tour

Lead organizer July 2018, based in Des Moines, IA

Objective, deepen understanding and increase awareness of FYA & activities

Provide critical input to collectively shape FYAs vision, structure, and activities

Learn about FYAs transition plan & next steps

Foster Youth in Action - Agenda

Intro's

Rosetta - best for children

Sebastian - transitional services

Eddy -

N - Racism in Foster Care & School Systems

S - Juv Justice System - Street Kids

FYA 101 Video

Systemic Change

Empowering Youth

Lived Experience

Organizing about Issues that matter based on LE

Trainings

Virtual Assistance

Partner w/ Groups and Campaigns

Visioning Together

What is your vision for young people who experience the foster care system? What rights or opportunities would they have?

M - healing informed vs trauma informed. Healing experience, ex: troubled youth - treat instead of discipline

S - resources avail to foster youth vs juvenile justice experience

E - Why?

R - holding adults responsible accountable

S - Stigmas

B - Stigmas for both Foster Youth & Juvenile Justice

Would like to give them knowledge about essential skills - boundaries, coping, sex ed. Instead of what is wrong with you, what can we do to get you prepared for the real world.

R - Need to have children be heard and taken seriously

B - Young people advocating for themselves but are not validated. Making professional choices instead of finding or working for a solution.

*Feedback Loops** who should be involved?

Raevin - Foster care families, all supports

What would liberation, or freedom from oppression, look like?

B - Liberation, be honest with the history and

Closing & Next steps

What principles do you think should guide our collective FYA Movement?

Which of the following org actions should our movement take?

Strategic and Coordinated political campaigns based on collectively identified priorities lifted from the Network

Training & Capacity Building that direction supports local efforts and increases connections among members

Political Education and Consciousness Raising

FYA-Driven federal campaigns w/ feedback and accountability from FYA network

FYA Network Members sign-on and support national and international campaigns as aligned with Network-wide priorities and principles

Other

!!!!SURVEY!!!!

1pm — Leg Days Prep Work

Welcome crew - Sebastian

Shirts - Sarah, Fatuma

Forms - Julia, Bobbi, Michayla

Rooms - Nedhal, Bobbi

Mingle - Rosetta, Janet

6 Calls for Bills, Thursday night Leg Call prep call - Emailed

2pm — Rachel Meier (NCFF Policy Development) Political Science Degree, has worked for Voices of Children
Legislative Preview Handout

LB759(Senator Kolterman) nowhere does it say it will consult the young people

LB849 changes elig for B21 - tribal court, expands to be elig when they age out at 18 instead of 19

LB933(Senator Crawford) Change provisions about utilities reconnection fee.

LB779(Senator Stinner) 3.4million to child advocacy centers - defined by statutes

YRTC bills, Bobbi & Raevin having conversations with senators

Ban on extended solitary confinement LB230 (Juliet Sommers & Pansing Brooks)

Senator Hunt & Appleseed - Bill of Rights - jj, foster care, pregnant and parenting

Ban the Box - banning college admissions from asking about criminal background check & juvenile court records

FEBRUARY 1-3, 2020



**DAY 1
SATURDAY, FEB 1**

**DAY 2
SUNDAY, FEB 2**

**DAY 3
MONDAY, FEB 3**

10:30 AM	Check-in	7:30 AM	Breakfast at Dining Hall <i>(Served 7:30-8:30 a.m.)</i>	8:00 AM	Breakfast at Hotel Theodore
11:00 AM	Welcome and overview	8:45 AM	Energizer	8:45 AM	Pack up and load cars
11:30 AM	Icebreakers and meetings with small groups	9:00 AM	Keynote: James Michael Bowers, <i>Lincoln City Council</i>	9:00 AM	Practice presentation
12:00 PM	Lunch Table topics	10:00 AM	Review legislative bills and vote on what to present	10:15 AM	Drive to Lincoln
1:00 PM	Large group icebreaker	10:30 AM	Break up into groups and plan	11:00 AM	Visit senators
1:30 PM	Breakout Session I <i>(2:15 p.m. break)</i>	12:00 PM	Lunch	11:30 AM	Prepare for luncheon
2:25 PM	Breakout Session II <i>(3:10 p.m. break)</i>	1:00 PM	Burning Wall activity	12:00 PM	Senator Luncheon
3:30 PM	Breakout Session III <i>(4:15 p.m. break)</i>	1:30 PM	Think Tank activity	1:30 PM	Justice William B. Cassel <i>Nebraska Supreme Court</i>
4:25 PM	Breakout Session IV	2:00 PM	Presentation work time	2:00 PM	Committee hearings or Capitol tour
5:10 PM	Regroup and summarize	5:00 PM	Keynote: Bobbi Taylor and Rebecca Daughtry and NCFE Advisory Board members		
5:30 PM	Free time	6:00 PM	Dinner	3:30 PM	Meeting with Gov. Ricketts <i>Governors Hearing Room</i>
6:00 PM	Dinner	7:00 PM	• Free time and finish presentation • Super Bowl Party	4:00 PM	Evaluation and debrief
7:00 PM	Leadership Activity	11:00 PM	In rooms		
7:50 PM	Sunday overview	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>DAY 1 BREAKOUT SESSIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative and Unicameral Overview: Becca Brune, <i>Nebraska Appleseed</i> • Public Speaking and Presentation Skills: Cindy Reed, <i>Youth Voice</i> • Civil Engagement: Rachel Meier, <i>Nebraska Children</i> • Legislative Jeopardy and Bill Review: Lincoln Arneal, <i>Nebraska Children</i> </div>			
8:00 PM	Free time: (open gym, movie party, crafts)				
11:00 PM	In rooms				



**Legislative Day 2020
Senator Luncheon
Monday, February 3, 2020**

Overview

Nebraska's highly accessible legislative process makes our state uniquely primed to enable young adults to experience as civically engaged citizens. The annual Legislative Day provides an opportunity for young adults from a variety of youth leadership groups to come together for a three-day summit to learn about and engage in the legislative process. Young people received training on the legislative process, voting, advocacy, and how to have solution-focused, non-confrontational discussions about issues about which they are passionate. Following this, they worked through current legislation impacting young Nebraskans. Through a voting process and small group work, five current bills were selected, discussed, and captured in brief presentations. The event is planned and facilitated by young adults for young adults.

Groups Represented

This year Legislative Day welcomed four different groups of Nebraska's young leaders, including:

The Governor's Youth Advisory Council

The GYAC consists of young Nebraskans ages 14-18 who have an interest in government. Members come from a range of backgrounds and gather quarterly to explore issues impacting youth, learn about government, promote civic engagement and serve as an advisory board to the Governor.

Connected Youth Initiative Youth Partners

The Connected Youth Initiative (CYI) focuses on connecting community collaborations with resources, best practices, and evaluation to support young adults lacking connections as they transition to adulthood. Youth Engagement is a key component of the CYI model, as young adults know their community, needs, and experience within the system best. Most members have experience with child welfare, juvenile justice, and/or runaway and homeless systems. Youth connect to opportunities unique to their communities and their personal journey towards a successful adulthood. Other components of the CYI model include financial literacy, central navigation of resources, and shared evaluation. Members from communities including Omaha, Fremont, Fairbury, Lincoln, North Platte, Scottsbluff and Alliance.

Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential

Learn and Earn to Achieve Potential (LEAP) is a multimillion-dollar initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) to increase employment and educational opportunities for young people facing some of the greatest challenges on the path to adulthood. Through LEAP, the AECF hopes to identify effective strategies for helping youth and young adults overcome challenges and succeed in school and at work. Nebraska Children and Families Foundation applied and was chosen to receive funding from AECF to enhance our work to improve education and employment outcomes for young people transitioning out of the foster care system in Lincoln and Omaha and create pathways to postsecondary education and career.

Questions? Contact Lincoln Arneal, Nebraska Children Director of Engagement and Leadership at larneal@nebraskachildren.org or 402.440-3844.

LB814 (Sen. Geist) – Prohibit dismemberment abortion

LB 814 would make any case of dismemberment abortion a class IV felony. The only party who would be held liable and who could be prosecuted would be the physician, who performed the dismemberment abortion. Women would still be allowed to have an abortion in emergencies.

Pros:

- The dismemberment of the unborn would be outlawed.
- It would help with woman's mental health by cutting down abortion (Eighty-One percent women have an increased risk for mental health problems after an abortion [British Journal of Psychiatry with studies done between 1995 and 2009]).
- Could help stop fetus body part trafficking.

Cons:

- May lead women to perform unsafe abortion methods.
- Women may be left with a child they don't want or can't afford.

Importance: The banning of dismemberment abortion is vital to saving the lives of unborn children, specifically those who could survive outside the womb.

LB839 (Wishart) – Recognize American Sign Language and provide for the teaching of American Sign Language in schools

Pros

- Opening more lines of communication and networking
- Promotes learning another language
- Builds connections through understanding
- An additional style of kinesthetic learning
- Sense of security in public circumstances
- More jobs and opportunities for deaf, hard of hearing and hearing

Cons:

- Close-minded people (i.e. students being a distraction in other courses)
- Lack of resources to staff teachers and interpreters
- Knowledge level: not realizing their culture and community unintentionally disrespects the deaf, mute or hard of hearing.

LB848 (Pansing Brooks) – Change Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day

LB848 will change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day in the state of Nebraska.

- This is important to our group because we feel that everyone should know the true history behind Christopher Columbus, and we feel a holiday in his name brings him wrongful praise.
- We would like to acknowledge those who suffered from his actions and deserve the recognition that comes with a holiday.

- Indigenous people have added significant contributions to our society and their culture should be honored and celebrated with a state holiday.

We ask that Senators support this bill.

LB941 (Hunt) – Create the Nebraska Youth in Care Bill of Rights

This provides a Bill of Rights for youth under state care. We feel this important to establish a consistent standard for all youth in the state.

Pros:

- Provides youth with a state-recognized written report of their allocated rights when under state care.
- Requires statewide organizations working through DHHS to provide transparency to youth in their cases.
- Ensures that supportive staff workers in a case are not in excess overload and have the youth's interest to the utmost importance.

Cons:

- Some select districts may have difficulty designating funds for specific bylaws under the Bill of Rights

Support: We believe that giving youth in state care a voice and rights that are recognized by the state, in general, should be a definitive part of the court process.

References: <https://fcro.nebraska.gov/pdf/FCRO-Reports/2017-annual-report.pdf>
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

LB1037 (Hunt) Change provisions relating to household eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits

LB 1039 (Cavanaugh) Adopt the Hunger-Free Schools Act

1037: This bill helps to change eligibility requirements within SNAP by not disqualifying the entire household from participation in the program rather than the individual in violation.

Pros:

- SNAP program is an effective program for economic stimulus, \$1.70 gained in economic stimulation for every \$1.00 invested
- The 80,000 children in Nebraska that receive SNAP benefits are still able to access food
- Help Nebraskans stay out of poverty

Cons:

- Children are most vulnerable to food insecurity
- 200,000 Nebraskans already struggle with food insecurity, that will exasperate that problem
- Punishes the innocent

We are strongly advocating for Senators to pass this bill as it will allow for more Nebraskans to receive SNAP benefits and help keep them out of poverty.

1039: This bill allows for the creation of The Hunger-Free Schools Program which provides breakfasts and lunches at no cost to students at any school who meets the qualifications of having 62.5 percent of students living below the poverty line with the funds being from the General Fund.

Pros:

- Helps low-income students afford meals
- Lower levels of obesity, as well as education, are improved with proper nutrition
- This bill closes the gap between those on Free/Reduced lunch & those just barely under the poverty line

Cons:

- Students will be hungry at schools and unable to learn effectively
- If we advocate for an amendment (50% of students rather than 62.5%), the financial impacts could outweigh the net benefits but could be solved with reallocating funds to this program

We strongly encourage Senators to pass this bill, but we also advocate for an amendment to lower the qualification of percentage for school qualifications to 50% to impact more students within Nebraska and to fully meet their needs.

March Meeting Minutes:

NCFE Advisory Board

March 29, 2020

10 a.m. – Welcome and Updates

Attendance: Bobbi, Julia, Nedhal, Sebastian, Sarah, Fatuma, Janet, Michayla, Rosetta,

10:10 a.m. – How are you doing?

Resources are available from Hub, PEO, Youth Voice, LEAP, please reach out

10:30 a.m. – Legislative Days Review

- Review evaluations
 - o Liked the interactive nature; GYAC was mixed up
 - o Youth learned a lot and they were challenged; i.e. Indigenous
 - o Better check-in; buddy system for accountability
 - o A lot of new faces, which made lessons new and better engagement
 - o Really liked being recognized by the legislature
 - o James was good speaker
- Next year
 - o Invite Maria (someone) to shoot photos over the weekend?
 - o More adult supporters present; engage for crisis moments
 - o Poster of daily schedule to hang on the walls
 - o App for event?
 - o Get emails from participants
- Check-in
 - o Arrange by animal groups;
 - o Get phone and emails for participants to send out information
 - o Have templates for messages
 - o Move check-in tables away from the door
 - o Take them to their rooms first (or send out first) then come back to tables for folders, nametags and forms
- We can flex what we did at Legislative Days at our Summer Event
 - o Mock election/debate session

- If you don't want to participate in an activity, make sure you aren't saying it out loud or putting out poor non-verbal actions

11 a.m. – Review DHHS's response to recommendations

- Bobbi talked about the Redbook and will work to put together a copy of it together with lots of QR codes; Janet said she can help out
- Update on
- Janet provided update on peer mentoring program

11:30 a.m. – Review membership applications

- Nick – Yes
- Hannah – Yes,
- Nyakim – yes
- David – Yes

Officer elections:

- Communications: **Bobbi**
- Internal Policy – **Michayla**
- Logistics – **Janet**

12:00 p.m. – Where do we go from here?

- Next meeting will be April 26, likely be virtual as well.
- Get to know you activities
- Start CRP function and conversations

12:30 p.m. – Adjourn

NCFE Advisory Board

April 26, 2020

Mission Statement:

To advocate for change for unconnected youth within
the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Attendance: Janet, Nick Birdsley, Nedhal, Fatuma, Julia, Bobbi, Raevin Bigelow, David B, Michayla, Sebastian, Chyanne

Agenda

10 a.m. – **Welcome New Members and Introductions**

10:10 a.m. – **How is everyone you doing?**

10:30 a.m. – **Foster Youth in Action**

Anna - Space led by people with lived experience. Having Zoom calls to just visit and connect. Central time – Sunday @ 4o'clock 20 people average in attendance. Sometimes they use themes, no icebreakers, just organic conversation.

Tuesdays @ 3pm central, topic is determined by audience. Local providers and community stakeholders. Next call will be about what communities and providers doing to gain audience and following to continue their work.

****Need to register**** Feel free to text Ann 314-243-4549

Sunday Registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtdeGqqzsoH9BYHJHXQexsIX5Yy3DbZVmw>

Tuesday Forum Registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcscOggqj4oH9c_FITSGSNh8eP2jXJms_c4

Federal Sign- On Letter:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/tJcscOggqj4oH9c_FITSGSNh8eP2jXJms_c4

5 priority issues National by foster care stakeholders– legislative and admin, increase funding, No one ages out, remove any barriers to qualify for independent living.

Organizers Fellowship – wrapping up cohort, was successfully virtually! Looking into opportunities and build another cohort, but currently COVID barriers, will let us know.

National Opportunities, Ann will send to Lincoln

Indiana Virtual Conference – Eddy will inform us of date.

Looking at virtual conferences, trying to find ways to engage and incorporate community/team building.

Eddy thought there may be lack of supports for parents, resources, focused gatherings and meetings.

Bobbi is aware of Tammy – Jim Casey, put out some tips on scheduling. Bobbi is offering tips for parents on her Facebook page.

Congressman Bacon – shared his story about his experience in and after foster parents. Shared his journey of becoming a foster parent and adopting, saw there were a lot of barriers for youth aging out of care. Writes letters to Congress to not let foster youth age out of the system.

Another call coming up on Friday with a different congressman

11:30 a.m. – **CRP process overview**

3 recommendations last year – looking into grievance process, red book, and peer advocate program.

- **Grievance process review** – previously paper form, printed from the DHHS website. Complete online, safe & secure for youth – still in draft. Main issues, certain parties getting access to grievance submitted by youth in care (social worker, foster parents).

Once grievance is submitted, you select your role (foster child/ foster parent) says you will be contacted within 2-5 weeks, suggested a copy of grievance for our own records, a pdf. If it is still in draft by our next meeting, we could be able to get an opportunity to review and give input.

No focus group planned, plan to review with youth and introducing new process and discuss any potential

Bobbi- Does department handle grievance in house or 3rd party?

Rebeca - Protection and Safety team would oversee reviewing, to avoid conflict of interest. No plan in place currently to bring in a 3rd party for reviewing. Will bring it up in next meeting. Feels important to find appropriate procedures to handle grievances.

Raevin – suggestion to make recommendations to procedure changes.

Bobbi – a different division, priority first, case management. Someone to take the time to process and hold responsible parties accountable. Capacity concerns.

Ombudsman example, handle investigations on a state level. Formal investigations – handled with ethics and law.

Janet – any publications to raise awareness of new & improved grievance form, campaigns?

R – no but would hope youth advocates bring awareness to the availability of the form through social media platforms.

Redbook

Raevin – who is handling distribution?

R - Looking at incorporating with peer advocate. Questions of how to get it to the youth. Primarily through caseworker but exploring more options.

Peer Advocate Model – Meetings with Region 3, who already has funding through Medicaid, needs to have a severe mental diagnosis.

Bobbi – important that we get paid for our time and experience. Participation is voluntary for youth. Equal exchange.

Fatuma – are there processes to ensure mentoring youth are taking care of themselves and can handle responsibly the role of being a peer advocate.

B – friend in Pennsylvania, program, young people are hired in professional experience who are paired with youth in care of aging out of care. Paid professional role, will get in for to share with Rebecca.

Reach out to Lincoln or Rebecca if interested in being more involved in any of the 3 recommendations.

- **Looking ahead for this year**

Janet – resources/education of processes and lingo for parents that are newly involved with CPS or DHHS to help benefit the child.

B – there will be a forum for parents to have discussions and share information – directed to jj system involvement

12:15 p.m. – **Going forward**

Summer event thoughts – possibly outdoors event or virtual multiple meetings (1-2hrs) to reach youth. Late July possibly.

Depending on government regulations we will finalize decision.

If you see any virtual conferences, see what they are doing to engage audience. May be an opportunity to reach more people.

Next Meeting – May 17th Virtual 3hr meeting

May 12th 6pm - AB social hour

12:30 p.m. – Adjourn

NCFE Advisory Board
May 17, 2020 Minutes

Attendance: Janet, Bobbi, Fatuma, Nick, Nedhal, Rosetta, Michayla, Raevin, David,

Agenda

10 a.m. – Welcome and Check-ins

10:30 a.m. – CRP open discussion

Addressing financial literacy.

Connecting them to supports for when they age out - The Hub, Project Everlast

Class requirements before aging out

Not every community has a Hub or storing youth council

Psychiatric evaluations, how they handle - rushed not extensive enough, over medication. Medication education.

Making sure to consider natural options and coping habits to treat mental illness. Constantly reevaluating diagnosis and being intentional about when.

System of care, encourage youth to take more involvement in their diagnosis and medications

More advocacy for younger kids being medicated

Foster parents incentivized to not question diagnosis due to the amount they receive from state for cases.

Therapy before psychiatrist, not other way around. Making efficiency the priority.

Youth drug addictions and child abuse resonated with Michayla.

David said it is hand and hand.

COVID19, visitation responses and how is that being dealt with.

Intentionally set kids up to break the cycle of drug abuse, domestic violence, poverty, etc. May be something that needs to be incorporated to peer advocate program

Guidance for sibling visits, therapeutic visits versus supervised visits.

11:30 a.m. – Ideas for Summer Gathering?

Have listening sessions in community to connect with them and hear what's going on locally.

- Bobbi and Chy will reach out to communities
- Michayla and Janet will work on the schedule/curriculum

12:00 – Social time

Topics: Life Hacks, Did Carol Baskins do it? How excited are you for the Last Dance finale? Thoughts of Survivor: Winners at War? Best restaurant takeout? Best parenting tip, etc.

12:30 p.m. – Adjourn

**NCFE Advisory Board
June 14, 2020 Minutes**

10 a.m. – Welcome

10:15 a.m. – Check-ins and discussion

Attendance: Nick, Fatuma, Michayla, Nedhal, Bobbi, Chy, Sebastian, David, Julia, Rosetta, Raevin

- Chyanne talked about her experience at the protests
- Bobbi shared her experience testifying at the Judicial Committee
- Nedhal talked about her limitations of activity

10:45 a.m. – CRP discussion - Deanna

- Are there any policy discussions or legislation happening in the department?
 - Figuring out how to regulate medication
 - Don't want department for families who don't need it
- What mental health training is there for foster parents for support?
 - Training depends on agency foster parent is with and what supports they have?
- Is there training on anti-racism:
 - Deanna is unaware of what onboarding training about anti-racism; they might have multiculturalism;
- Do you have back-up data on racial disparities in the system? Such as why a young person is in system (neglect, abuse, drug abuse, violence, etc)
- What is being done with Families First act to address racial disparities, poverty and systemic oppression
 - Was there a board that reviewed cases to help identify cases that are issues
- Deanna will share department's five-year plan and data about reasons for involvement in the system (abuse vs neglect)
- Nedhal's lessons from her panels

- Recruit more foster parents of color
- Religious tolerance and learning about others
- Learning about the history of various cultures
- School systems aren't equipped to cover hard discussion topics and falls on
- Court documents do not classify Middle Eastern as a race; instead they are classified as white;
- Understanding the differences in cultural definitions of family and other needs
- Making sure minorities have a support system for their cultural and religious needs
- Is there data on how often police involved in foster youth cases – training on when to involve law enforcement

12:00 p.m. –Summer Gathering Planning

- Goal by end of month to contract communities
- Michayla, David, Fatuma, Julia – finalize curriculum
- Nick – draft email to send to communities (email addresses)
- Next meeting will be July 12, with doodle poll.

12:45 p.m. – Adjourn

NCFE Advisory Board

August 23, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Nick Birdsley, Fatuma Hassan, Raevin Bigelow, Michayla Stawniak, Nedhal Al-kazahy, Rosetta Judd

Oct. 2020 Transitional Services Survey – Claire Hoff

- Administered every April and October. Has been the same since 2015
- Primarily used by DHHS, partners, collaboratives
- Didn't administer one in April, so taking a deeper look at it for October
- What looks like success
 - o Schooling. Resources. How did support affect your schooling? Where do you go for schooling? Tutoring? As your transitioning how did it affect your schooling? How could you have been better supported to help you succeed in school?
 - o Support and guidance to resources to fill in the gaps that they might not have known about?

10:15 – Summer Event Discussion

- Rosetta reached out to Fremont and met with them and still discussing the direction of the group
- What do you do when the collaborative isn't responding to the needs of the youth?
- Bobbi said she admits that she dropped the ball and failed
- Michayla and Fatuma did a great job with curriculum,

10:45 – CRP data and document review

- Racism and bias in the system
 - o InFocus we can't type in a race and we have select a race
 - o What we need to do is go into IT department and have them add it to system. The system is used by CFS, SNAP and others
 - o If list the categories should add for InFocus
 - o Nebraska is required to AFGAR
 - o Changes to InFocus; make a request, how much impact and how impact; and how much manpower it would take;
 - o The statistics for the native population is higher compared to other groups
 - o Talked about legislative updates

- Closing the gap from aging out at 18 and starting B2i at 19
- FASFA was vetoed
- Discussed veto of natural hair bill
- Mental Health and Medication
 - Youth aging out of foster care, they Medicaid aging out
 - Set policy of mental health;
 - Focus on therapy and healing instead of relying on medication
 - Oppositional defiance disorder shouldn't be a diagnosis
 - Normalize getting off medication
 - Foster parents and biological parents sitting in with doctor visits
 - Rebecca was on a informed consent group as part of Nebraska Children Consent form – what is communicated to doctor
 - State has to sign off on any medication and they usually did if it was recommended by a doctor
 - Updated medical consent form includes biological form (if reunification is goal) plus youth sign off.
 - Recommendation: more input from the youth in the system
 - The barrier is the state has the final say and doesn't have full information about individual health and impacts of medication
 - Rebecca will look to see what exists from that workgroup and share it with the group.
- Deanna will check to see if the state's five-year plan has been approved by the federal government

Noon – Wrap up and adjourn

- Next meeting will be on Sept. 20
- Let Lincoln know if you want to meet in person or virtual

September 20, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Fatuma, Michayla, David, Chyanne, Sebastian, Hannah, Julia, Nick, Nedhal, Rosetta, Bobbi, Raevin.
Guests: Rebecca.

Race/Ethnicity:

Add Two or more race

More than one race

Why is it a box?

- Add Middle Eastern
- Black, African, African-American
- Change no primary race to Biracial/multiracial
- Keep an other race with option to fill it in

- Could you check more than box?

If intension to be more accurate, necessary collect that information

Mental Health

- Reviewed current psychotropic medical consent form
- Guardian ad litem check in with mental health behavior
- They aren't in a normal situation, they are experiencing trauma
- Get rid of 72-hour evaluation period; instead go to therapy session; 3-6 six months
- No medication until that six-month period;
- Excluding extreme situations
- Guardian ad litem and case workers taking Families Thrive – third party to help
- PEER support group;
- Region V has mental health support professional
- Red Book is gaining traction in the Department
- DHHS is drafting an edition of the red book last week;
- Need for better system of support for people aging out of care
 - o Exploring innovative ways to connect them
- Have assist while going through medical care and help them through the process
- In everyday settings, people who have gone to doctor and said meds are causing side effects; doctors will continue to push medications.
- How can we encourage and push for individual to have decision making powers?
- Database of doctors who accept Medicaid for foster children?

Share medication;

Member selection – added five new members

Officer selection:

- Committee idea
- Fatuma made a motion to amend the bylaws to remove the officers position; Michayla seconded
- 9-0

Next meeting: October 25