

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB95

Hearing Date: Friday January 28, 2011
Committee On: Health and Human Services
Introducer: Howard
One Liner: Require accreditation for lead agencies contracting with the Department of Health and Human Services

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 7 Senators Bloomfield, Campbell, Cook, Gloor, Howard, Krist, Wallman
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:
Franceska Cassell
Julie Dake Abel

Representing:
LB 95 introducer Senator Gwen Howard, District #9
Nebraska Association of Public Employees/American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees NAPE/AFSCME Local 61

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:
Todd Reckling

Representing:
Department of Health and Human Services

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 95 provides that every lead agency, contracting with the department for out of home care for children under the age of eighteen years, shall be accredited by a national accrediting entity with respect to the services provided by the lead agency.

Explanation of amendments:

The Committee Amendment to LB 95 provides that every lead agency, contracting with the department for out-of-home care for children under the age of nineteen years of age, shall be accredited by a national accrediting entity with respect to the services provided by the lead agency within eighteen months of the effective date of the act, or within eighteen months of a lead agency entering into such a contract.

Additionally, the amendment provides that it is the intent of the Legislative to:

- Attain a stable system of care for children and families involved in the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system who are wards of the state.
 - Obtain this stability by enacting a moratorium on 1) contracting for services with any new lead agency or 2) adding new or additional service areas to any new lead agency in the child welfare reform initiative known as Families Matter.
 - Complete Legislative Resolution 37 to review, investigate and assess the child welfare reform initiative to develop a
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report and appropriate legislation to establish a stable child welfare system.

In accordance with the Legislative intent outlined above, the amendment provides that until June 1, 2012, the department will provide service coordination and case management functions, including supervision of service coordination and case management functions, through direct employees of the department, not by any contracted employees or contract in the areas of the state, including the western, central and northern service areas, which were previously provided through the contract, until September 30, 2010, between Boys and Girls Home as a lead agency and the department.

Additionally, until June 1, 2012, the department shall not enter into any contract with a new lead agency for purposes of service coordination and case management functions, including supervision of service coordination and case management function, in the areas of the state, including the western, central and northern service areas, previously contracted, as described above, with Boys and Girls Home as a lead agency.

Kathy Campbell, Chairperson