Agency 70 - State Foster Care Review Board

Statutory Authority:

As Nebraska's IV-E review agency, trained citizen volunteers review the plans, services and placements of children in out of home care 6 months or longer to assure children are safe, secure, and moving into permanent homes. The Board collects, evaluates, and disseminates data, disseminates the board's findings, takes legal standing and/or attends court on cases where the board believes the children's best interests are not being met, visits foster care facilities to ascertain if a child's psychological, physical & sociological needs are met, and sponsors educational programs as outlined in §43-1301 to §43-1321, Rev. Stat. Nebr., 1942, (1983 Cumm. Sup.)

Vision Statement:

The vision of the Foster Care Review Board is that every child and youth in out of home care live in a safe, permanent home, experience an enduring relationship with one or more caring adults, and have every opportunity to grow up to become a responsible, productive adult.

The Board works to ensure this by reviewing cases, visiting facilities, tracking children, and taking legal standing on cases where the Board believes the children and youth's best interests are not being met. The Board collects data, disseminates data and findings through the annual report, community meetings, and legislative hearings.

Mission Statement:

The State Foster Care Review Board's mission is to ensure the best interests of children in out-of-home care are being met through external citizen review, monitoring facilities that house children and youth, maintaining up-to-date data on a statewide tracking system, through legal standing, and disseminating data and recommendations through an Annual Report.

Goals:

1) To assure that all children in out-of-home care receive the protection of citizen review by providing multi-disciplinary, community based review of a child's permanency plan for children in out-of-home care for 6 months or longer as mandated by federal law. (Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-1308, 43-1312)
2) To monitor the placements of children in out-of-home care to ascertain whether individual physical, psychological and sociological needs are being met and coordinate the board's response when concerns are identified. (Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-1303(6), 43-1308)
3) To pro-actively work with the Courts to address the Board's case concerns by introducing recommendations, appearing in court on behalf of children in out-of-home care, and taking legal standing. (Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-1313)
4) To operate and maintain a computerized tracking system on an alternate platform as the State Mainframe is being discontinued. (Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-1303)
5) To maintain the integrity and accuracy of the Review Board's data on Nebraska's children in out-of-home care while migrating to the N-FOCUS system to meet federal regulation and avoid a $16 million dollar fine.
6) To disseminate information on children in out-of-home care. (Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-1303)
7) To promote safety, security, and permanency for children in out-of-home care and improve the foster care experience for children. (Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-1308)

Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	1,051,303	1,087,946	1,443,016	1,123,000	1,443,016	1,166,892
Cash Fund	2,487	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Federal Fund	721,512	500,000	661,396	511,137	661,396	526,275
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	1,775,302	1,593,946	2,110,412	1,640,137	2,110,412	1,699,167

Agency 70 - State Foster Care Review Board
Program 116 - Administration & Operations

Program Objectives:

1) Track all children in out-of-home care per statute; 2) Review at least 90% of the IV-E eligible children who have been in care for 6 months+, per federal law; 3) Determine if children's placements are safe & appropriate through the review process and utilize placement officers to respond when placement concerns are identified; 4) Implement Project Permanency; 5) Proactively work with the Courts to address issues concerning the best interests of children in out-of-home care; 6) Promote safety, security, and permanency for children by communicating pertinent issues; 7) Maintain the integrity and accuracy of the Board's data while migrating to the N-FOCUS system; and, 8) Conduct a risk assessment concerning an alternate platform for the Board's Tracking System.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	1,051,303	1,087,946	1,443,016	1,123,000	1,443,016	1,166,892
Cash Fund	2,487	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Federal Fund	721,512	500,000	661,396	511,137	661,396	526,275
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,775,302	1,593,946	2,110,412	1,640,137	2,110,412	1,699,167

Performance Measures:

The Foster Care Review Board is a key player in assuring children and youth in out-of-home care are safe and accounted for. This has been accomplished by:

Tracking 65,655 children and youth from 1983 through December 31, 2002 and tracking the placement changes, court hearings, child's case manager of over 11,000 children and youth annually; recording the FCRB findings, recommendations, and barriers; and the tracking system is used to schedule children's 6 month reviews;

Conducting 6,503 reviews of children's plans during 2003 as the IV-E review agency for the state (the number of reviews the Board is able to conduct will decrease unless the Board's budget request is filled);

Identifying, communicating and working to resolve placement, safety, permanency, visitation, and service concerns pertaining to the child's safety and well-being on over 600 cases a year where additional work is needed.

Attending Court 980 times and the board's concerns were addressed in 735 of those cases.

Description	FY04 Actual	FY05	FY06 Request	FY07 Request
Maintained Computer Records	68377	71500	74500	77500
Children added to the tracking system	2652	3123	3000	3000
HHS, Court, Plcmt Docs recvd &	100250	100000	100000	100000
Reviews Conducted	6503	5900	7000	7000
volunteer Hours Donated	38500	38500	42000	42000
Reports sent to legal parties	43500	43500	45000	45000
cases resolved without legal standing	650	650	750	750
Tours of Child Careing facilities	25	25	25	25
Educational Programs	25	25	25	25
Attended Court	980	1200	1500	1500