

Speaker 1 (00:28)

As EF. Smith said, my name is set me. He's late. I'm assistant director here with CFS. Really pleased to be here with each of you tonight.

Speaker 1 (00:38)

Have been looking forward to the opportunity to have this town hall where we can hear from the community, from parents, from providers, from partners in the community to tell us about experiences and how we can be better and make sure that there's a really smooth transition of cases from St. Bran's Ministries over to from St. Grand Ministries over to DHS. There's really been a lot of planning and intentionality ensure that services continue for kids and families, that we continue to put the right supports in for both providers and ensure that we're equipping the courts to make the decisions, and that we're really continuing to be great partners for the broader community of child and family well being and child welfare. So I really have been looking forward to the opportunity to hear firsthand about how are things going and what could be, if you may be doing differently, to make sure that we're providing the right amount of support.

Speaker 1 (01:47)

Our priority is always will be kids and families across Nebraska in a lot of different ways. But one of the ways that we can be most intentional right now is ensuring that the cases are transferred over, that kids and families continue to get services and support for transition. So thank you each for being here. I really that transmission actually began on January 3, will be completed by June of 22.

Speaker 1 (02:49)

What we have plans to do, and I'm going to turn it over for Merundes halls at Alger. But really the plan is to have sort of a stage or phase transition. There is a lot of use. Cases have multiple parties involved, multiple providers, children and families all have very specific individuals that give us attention priority. There needed to be a slower transition as significant as the transition.

Speaker 1 (03:26)

It's not a fault of the switch, if you will. So are both our teams and services the case managers that are transitioning and staff that are transitioning over to become DHS employees, as well as our shift in provider contracts. We work really closely with our provider community and include contract transitions we face as well. We have approximately 1400 children in chair in the Easton service area and about 140 families receiving and home services. So a little bit about the history here.

Speaker 1 (04:04)

In 2009, case management ESA was privatized. By 2012, only one credit provider actually partnership, and then 2019 that would entail the joint decision to return case management responsibilities was really with the best interest of kids and families involved as the highest priority. We really want to make sure that care and resources for kids and families for me across this state of Nebraska.

Speaker 1 (05:00)

That really is our priority. And so as we set the stage for discussion tonight, so we set the stage to go into a bit more detail about the transition, mainly to hear from each of you, your perspective. I always see child protection and no protection. So all child welfare operations for the state. And one of the things CEO submitted directly when we announced the transition, it was right before the holidays.

Speaker 1 (05:56)

And we wanted to make sure that people were taken care of. And so instead of having an application process, instead of dragging important, all of the current employees at St. Francis were offered employees with the Department. So over 200 offer letters were provided to staff. And as of our last house, we're at about 94% of those staff have accepted the offer to be employed with the Department.

Speaker 1 (06:30)

One of the other things we did prior to the start of this year was to provide notification letter. So we send a letter to all of the biological parents, as well as a letter to the hallball.

Speaker 1 (06:50)

And so all of that happened at start of January. And so the educated family hotline is available to families and youth. And also here the Eastern service area administrator. I guess it was a great team. So she brings years of experience not only with the Department, but from the provider community.

Speaker 1 (07:22)

Lori Harper, who's also one of our service area ministers. She has experience with CFS, development, disabilities, behavioral health, really the continuum of care, of making sure needs are met from start to finish. And so those two provide leadership across the service area along with the administrative team. And so they've been stacking this dedicated help line as calls are being received and they're making sure that they're being not being responded to, but they're calling us to provide solutions. A transition to me was created to ensure that cases are being transferred appropriately.

Speaker 1 (07:59)

And so we meet with that team very often is a team that includes probation. It includes some of our providers. It includes County Attorney's office, includes Costa, includes parent attorneys, include staff. It includes representation from our finance team to make sure we're able to answer questions and relate to providers. And so this team really is focused on the success of the transition here on the ground locally.

Speaker 1 (08:31)

And so as a Department, we continue to meet with all for a child or family on this transition. We want to do all of that heavy lifting in the background so that family experience, no gap experience, no issues. And so the team has been part of work to make sure all of those current services are able to remain. One of the other big pieces, we understand is in the world of child welfare, communication is essential. And so we knew that the transition we needed to do our best to make sure that the case workers coming over to the Department would be able to keep their same phone number, but there's a lot of technical things that our IT teams are working on in the background so that we're able to transfer those numbers over to the Department so that once again foster parents parents you can care restless caregivers relatives, whoever the kids may be you're to still reach out to your case manager the same way he would any other day.

Speaker 1 (09:55)

Now there isn't some situations or some circumstances where a phone number takes.

Speaker 6 (10:00)

Change.

Speaker 1 (10:00)

And so what we does is if a worker has to experience a change in their phone number, then they will communicate to all those individuals that they are responsible for on their payload to let them know that they have a cell phone member, they are getting a new email address. And so St. Francis and their team have done a great job in making sure that there is an out of office message review. So you were to email the old email address at Francis. It will let you know that the individual has transitioned to the Department. It will provide contact information. We really want to make sure that there is no gap in the continuum of care. Also, as we continue to move through the transition, one of the things that we know that post transition, some of the immediate short term goals that we have set is they need to have regular and routine hiring peers. That means working with our local community, partnering with our local universities to make sure that we are recruiting workforce to meet the needs of the Eastern service area. One of the things that Stephanie and I are committed to is we know that every community is different across the state.

Speaker 1 (11:15)

There are some similar needs, but each community has its own needs of that area. And so we really are working to recruit staff that can really support the users and families in the Eastern service area. And then we also want to continue to enhance and develop partnerships. And these aren't just one off

partnerships we want to have. Atlanta has already started delay work, but we really want to be able to bring together private provider person, nonprofit organizations, faith based organizations, medical providers, the judiciary, cost of gas, and other stakeholders because we understand that the Department is one piece of the public. We are one facet of child welfare, but there are multiple entities that are necessary to be at the table. If you really want to talk about having a child and family well being system and not just focusing on we're here to be around because you're building yourself back up. And so we want to make sure that whenever you need us, there is no support that's being provided. That's a great segue. Stephanie is going to talk about some of our permission.

Speaker 2 (13:01)

Sometimes families are facing difficulties and they need more formal permissions. Our goal is to ensure that families and children are well, healthy and served and supported in our communities prior to any kind of formal support or any involvement with that broader law enforcement or childhood system. One of the things that neuropathic can be really proud of is that we are an early adopter of federal legislation, which is FPSA. This is concept legislation. I am very proud of the fact that they're active of themselves out there first to lead the nation in really understanding what it would look like to be focused on prevention and we have experience with this. We have three of Nebraska. It's been initially across for several years that has really focused on looking to the community and personal experience and providers and partners on creative solutions for families and children to ensure talent is well being. So FTA seem to be this logical evolution for us to take the first step out and leave the nation. We really have been highlighted at the federal level for our prevention efforts and for the structure. And that structure exists in the Omaha community. St.

Speaker 2 (14:31)

Francis has been a real key partner in our both implementing FPSA and thinking deeply. And how do we care for children and families in their communities and keep families from being more formal interventions when they are experiencing barriers in life or challenges in life? And so I would say St. Francis have been working over the course of the last two years to really deepen our implementation of Family First Services and Prevention Act as we as a state are really looking to deepen our support for children and families and our model of well being. Certainly the continuum will always be necessary. There are going to be each of us who at some point in our lives are going to need that level of support. We want to make sure that the answer is in the community. They'll be partnered in that community, including person meeting the charge. Thank you.

Speaker 6 (15:43)

Can you hear me?

Speaker 2 (15:44)

Okay.

Speaker 6 (15:48)

So we want to turn it over to you to ask any questions that you may have. You see them on the California.

Speaker 2 (15:58)

Those are the persons that you can feel free.

Speaker 6 (16:51)

I mean, it's just a constant thing going on or they can't be visited.

Speaker 2 (17:34)

The goal is work if a child cannot remain.

Speaker 6 (18:05)

So we're going to take your number tonight so that we can get in touch with you and talk specifically about the things.

Speaker 1 (18:18)

Was relatively patient care. And this is one of those things. On average, 96% of our youth that come into care are close to relatives. And we understand that foster care is great. We have some amazing foster, but children thrive familiar settings that understand the religious background. So we really do want to make sure that we're supporting our relative caregivers. So Lori here, I was in the Department. She oversees that piece of the child welfare operations in regards to foster.

Speaker 6 (19:23)

Are there any other questions? Thank you for that.

Speaker 3 (19:29)

Kind of along with alone, the front office males would just take the boys out on outage and stuff. And us girls never done anything other than roller skating on Friday night because of the skating rink for UBC. I was going to mention like she did. But if African American children are placed, they should be placed mostly with black people that can help with the black history and ethnicity of their upbringing. And I understand a lot of white people. My family ran the underground where we're in Nebraska City. And so I'm geared for that myself, too. But what I'm saying is the Omaha Police Department, the Easter egg contracts put on by the black police officers, associates, things like that. If the state can get listings, I have Mac homes, business cards from Union soccer, things folks like that that could unify with outings that you can give the children to, that could get them into sports and things, along with the things that you already have set up for them for their actual well being, but sideline activities to make them feel part of the community and learn to be a community. Thank you.

Speaker 6 (20:56)

So what I hear you saying is that you want to ensure that the Department is being culturally and linguistically appropriate.

Speaker 2 (21:02)

Thank you.

Speaker 6 (21:03)

For the children that they serve, no matter race, ethnicity.

Speaker 3 (21:07)

Either that or have a teaching course for the foster parents if they are white. That you need to know this. You can't just do all white. Right. Because there's some things that white children, like Whoopi Goldberg is on probation right now because she couldn't explain that she didn't know that the person was Jewish that she was dealing with about the Holocaust a couple of weeks ago, she got in big trouble for that. But religious issues, too. Thank you.

Speaker 6 (21:38)

Thank you. Let you get out of here tonight without your name. One of the staff is going to go and get a card right now so we can get your name and everything, and I can pass it on to the leadership.

Speaker 1 (22:27)

Okay.

Speaker 6 (22:28)

Because some of the problems that we've had in the past is being able to connect with Native American families.

(22:33)

Absolutely.

Speaker 6 (22:34)

And so where we can see some advocates to help us do that, that would be helpful. So we won't let you get out of here before we get your name.

Speaker 1 (22:41)
No problem.

Speaker 6 (22:41)
Thank you. Anyone else with a question or comment.

Speaker 2 (23:22)
Come in and done nothing wrong? Maybe just because my daughter did wrong. Y'all still came in and took her from me when I had no custody. How do you guys communicate?

Speaker 1 (24:54)
Questions about your specific answers.

Speaker 6 (25:16)
Would you be willing to stay with us? And let's figure out what happens. Okay. Anyone else with a question or comment? Yes, sir. Not against global services. It's why they can't do what they need is so burden. There's too many cases. There's no resources that we can get to and we hire them we can respond to.

Speaker 1 (29:20)
And the experience should be one at the same level of service. Impact and outcome should be the same. That one you're treated with respect and treated theory. Two years open communication. If there are issues with referrals and service providers that we have in three, that we are not making decisions for you and your family without you and your family being at the table and in child welfare and the work that we do. I know that doesn't always happen, but what we're committed to is redesigning, reenvisioning and thinking about how do we transform our system to go from a child welfare system to a child family well being system? Because it's not just about us. And so I want to hear about the provider, but we really want to follow up because where there is an issue, I think there's also opportunity there's opportunity for us to figure out how can we make your current situation better. But then how do we take your situation as a learning opportunity for our staff, but then also make sure that we're learning from your situation so that the next family doesn't have to experience the same areas. And so I know there's no level of apology, there's no level of words that can replace how you currently feel.

Speaker 1 (31:08)
But what I would ask is that you trust us, know that this transition is a lot happening, but we're committed to making sure and not just to those here, anyone that's watching the contact information is still on the screen. We're committed to having an individualistic approach to resolving the issue and also letting you know there may be some tough decisions that have to be made as to why we are where we are with the case. But it's our responsibility, whether at my level, the administrator, the supervisor level, to always communicate the why behind the why and not make it seem as if it's an I got you moment, but just say, hey, it's a not right now moment. These are the things that left to be completed before we're able to safely reunify and back out of the situation in hand. So definitely, I'm going to ask if the three of you would just stick around if a few of those years we can divide and conquer, because I want to make sure that we're able to listen, but not just listed, but make sure that we have some good information so that we can follow up.

Speaker 1 (32:10)
And so I would just ask that you trust us on that here, that we are urging to change the experience so that what you experience is not what we're saying. Three months, six months a year from now, that family are still experiencing.

Speaker 2 (32:29)
Other questions.

Speaker 3 (32:33)

I just like to make a follow up statement to what he said.

Speaker 2 (32:45)

Everything they learned by age three is how their life is going to be for them. So the master, you guys get your jobs done with reunification, the way you describe.

Speaker 3 (32:56)

I would be calling my eyes out, too, if I would switch to three or four families every five minutes because you don't have civility and it's traumatic for a child. I've heard people that I know outside this situation.

Speaker 2 (33:08)

They can't get their family members back either.

Speaker 3 (33:11)

And a caseworker testified against them because the child was acting out in a foster home. Well, yeah, I acted out in one foster home, too. I acted out in the state order because your different situations are traumatic. You're not trained social skills to handle things. And that's why these folks want their children back, so they can train them and raise them. So the faster you can do this before age three. But if they're past that, then you've got to have a lot of mental health situations available. And Senator Justin Wayne is working on the mental health type situation building with the ARP money that's coming in. So that might be helpful to you folks, too. Thank you.

Speaker 6 (33:53)

So Garrett has the online question. If there's no other questions in the room, let's go to the online question. Would that be okay? Thank you for your time.

Speaker 4 (34:07)

We're ready?

Speaker 6 (34:08)

Yes.

Speaker 4 (34:09)

Okay. So this is from Andrew Smith. He has two questions. I am wondering what the anticipated length of the transition and hand over. Then the second part of his question, is there going to be any increased community outreach to school counselors and other agencies about changes over?

Speaker 1 (34:41)

Absolutely. So we are having those conversations. There's already concurrent views that occur with public schools but really looking to determine how we're able to increase those partnerships working with the school social workers so that they are at this table. So we have conversations with the rising Department of Education at a more holistic level, but then locally are also having conversations at how can we partner and collaborate because the school.

Speaker 4 (35:23)

Okay. And then from John, what learnings or changes from privatization will occur and what measurements are we using to show success for kids?

Speaker 2 (35:37)

Those are great questions. Districtly creates me in my position. There are always great innovations that have partnerships and whether it be our presentation for game management and industry there or our current partners in this quest and really run to be better. And so we're thinking about prevention services. If we're thinking about childcare well being, they are often the ones and you are leading a charge or right beside us and really visioning and treating what's best work in the family. I see that there have been a lot of those lessons prioritization. We use the CSS, VHS were one piece of the public term tonight. And there are so many partners who have a significant desire for passion and interest in

making sure the kids and the families in the Rafa are successful. They're healthy. I think prior opportunities. And I think our partners see the providers parents. We measure ourselves a lot and by the federal government and national best practice and working with the federal partners and measuring ourselves around, ensuring that kids are not suffering from female treatment or that they're not suffering in foster care, or that if they do have to come into the system.

Speaker 2 (37:55)

And I think we are urgently working to get kids and family to reunited and they can be reunited, but they are also urgently taking another permanent solution for this child. So these measures things like our ability to ensure that kids get to stable, permanent solutions with families. We look for place necessarily at the number of concert homes. We are really looking to ensure that kids are placed right the first time, placed well and they're stable and that the homes that we're playing with are supported in a way which ensures that they can continue to provide the right care, support and nurturing for the child and the right support for the family as well. So those are some of the metrics where we update our metrics on our website. That's one portion of what we measure ourselves against. There really is a long list of things that we really look at data to ensure that we're heading the right direction. But we also were looking for opportunities like this to hear from partners in the community, people experience as all those young people who are currently in here, and really what is their experience and how can make improvement.

Speaker 2 (39:23)

So it's really about data and then sharing the experience. And what does this feel like for our partnership community?

Speaker 4 (39:33)

Great. So we had two more people ask questions, one from Jessica. Many families have went out, went without services, visitation, family support. How does the state plan on fixing this when service providers are already short staffed and underpaid?

Speaker 2 (39:57)

There's a roof shortage across Norfolk in many ways restaurant or the child welfare agency, variety services. So one of the things that as part of our transition and review is to ensure that supports and services that we are created in our solution to ensure that consistently have the right limitations. So that might be a change. Certainly we are aware and a lot to celebrate and that our unemployment rate is very low. That also means that hiring for some of those positions might be difficult. So again, in this transition and takes backing, we're looking case by case to ensure that visitation is occurring. If there is an issue, that number actually remains up. Someone is not getting the visitation services that they have been ordered or told. We're going.

Speaker 1 (41:57)

Retain and recruit for their workforce, all of us to be involved. But one of the things that we're doing that I need to start later, that said, introduction, as we do the transition, we are stacking every case that's coming over to the Department. Those staffings are the case manager, the supervisor, the director, and then all of those individuals that are a part of that case specific team. So the assigned Gao, the assigned attorneys, the assigned providers that are available to be a part of that staffing so that we're able to know about each individual family that's coming over. And that's only phase one. The next phase will be an indepth review of every case that our quality assurance team will be able to do. That will really shed light on where are some of the gaps that we need to step in and address and mediate. What are some of the trends what are some of the training needs of staff? Because anytime you go through a transition, there is going to need to be that ongoing training to make sure that we're also building up our workforce, that our workforce is learning from the things that we are discovering, if you will, during those quality assurance reviews.

Speaker 1 (43:20)

So the team is already constantly evaluating what training is going to be necessary because this is a difficult job. This is difficult work. Best practices are constantly changing. And so we've got to constantly be growing and evolving with our training. Anyone that's in this field and you have it into a

training in the last three months, that's a problem because there's always something that needs to be trained on it. So we're going to be taking that quality assurance review so that we can learn lessons to figure out how can you meet some of those needs and also prevent some of those gaps.

Speaker 4 (43:59)

Then one more question. How will the state make sure that providers are able to stay afloat when the reimbursement rates decline under DHHS versus privatization.

Speaker 2 (44:20)

Provided that we haven't? I think, as Aldrin chief stated, the governor has really looked at rates and our federal dollars to increase rates to ensure that we are able to provide services to kids and family. Certainly, rates are a continual evaluation. We're always looking at rates, always looking at services that are provided, looking at potentially new services that might better mean needs of kids and families, and then some of those rates. We crosswalk a lot with our partner States and work closely with our providers to do so. There is work being done right now to really evaluate and increase rates will continue that evaluation in the coming months and years.

Speaker 4 (45:27)

I don't want to take away if anyone else has questions. We do have one more that just came in.

(45:31)

Absolutely. Okay.

Speaker 4 (45:35)

This is from Sean Franklin. Sean said, being a family support worker, I'm wondering what type of financial assistance there will be for our clients with court and non court orders that require payment. Not sure if it's ESA related.

Speaker 2 (45:55)

What I can say is that there are things that need concrete supports. We certainly look at what those are. And we do have mechanisms in place to help families meet needs. And so I'm not really sure what Sean will be referencing for payments. But we have a wonderful opportunity with Ndhflan. Our agency is separated out and it's not under the umbrella agency in other States. Here we are really blessed with the opportunity to do some coordination with other divisions. And children and family services actually provide economic assistance throughout the state as well. And so thankfully, we're often able to help our families who might just need a concrete report. They're in a situation where now they need some support financially to be able to provide for their kids and family, that we have that capacity for kids and families better to ensure you're going back to the conversation about prevention by needing some support and some help. And every child and family in Nebraska is different. And so our goal is to really look, well, extreme, to say what are the things that can be done that keep families healthy as well and use the term well being system in the bracket.

Speaker 2 (47:38)

And that's where this prevention service and this community collaborative circus comes into play and concrete support and includes financial support for families. Our leaders be part of that continuum.

Speaker 6 (47:58)

Any other questions?

Speaker 3 (48:04)

Does child protect your services fall under your offices?

Speaker 1 (48:08)

Yes.

Speaker 3 (48:08)

Okay. Because nobody's asked that question, because I know they've been horrible from the time that

I've been back in the state 22 years when I've had to report things and they won't go investigate properly because you don't know the name of the child, but you saw what happened to the child or by the foster parent or something, and you barely have a description to give them and involve the police and everything. So I'd love to know how you're going to you don't have to explain it tonight. It's deep. I know how you're going to revamp trial protective services to do better. Way better.

Speaker 1 (48:42)

Thank you.

Speaker 7 (48:43)

One of the things with the Hotline, anytime a decision is made to not accept the case, there is 100% review by an outside entity to look at that particular safety.

Speaker 1 (48:59)

Situation. They determine that it does not rise to the level for a response to be made. Our quality assurance team will look at that case independently, will listen to the call, and then they will also make a decision. So every case that we need aside an actual response, there is a second level review that happens. Secondly, we're constantly looking at I talked about earlier quality assurance. So quality insurance doesn't just happen for Eastern service area, but it happens across the state. So we're always looking at ways to improve. And I think there has been right every time in regards to crossing every key and dotting every I absolutely not in human services, but drafting went from number nine to number seven, actually, in regards to our overall protection of children, we just were on every state. And then if you do not need certain measures, you're on a performance improvement plan very rarely because we checked all the box. And but just to say that we are starting to turn this tire in, things don't look the same way they did ten years ago. Things don't look the same way they did five years ago. Things don't look the same way they did two or three years ago.

Speaker 1 (50:37)

And so we're constantly trying to evolve to make sure that when you're in settings like this and you get feedback that it doesn't just impact your case. That's important. Yes. But the next thing is, how do we impact the system? How do we learn from your experience to make sure that the next family, six months from now, get to enjoy a better experience. But it takes a village, if you will. And that village isn't just child welfare. It's provided. It's the school, it's law enforcement, it's the judiciary, it's the legislature. We're all in this together. And I think as we constantly enhance our collaboration, families will start to see and will start to feel better experiences. So we are definitely constantly working to improve not only the internal system, but the experience externally.

Speaker 3 (51:47)

Thank you.

Speaker 5 (52:08)

Our main strategy is to increase the society in our state of minorities to advocate we work. And so I guess what our question would be is I know through our endeavors, we reached out, tried to provide community based solutions and models that is implemented in our community. We're looking particularly to partner and work with DHS to advance, I guess, the policy side of things which just kind of interested. I know that there's a strategic transformation team. I reached out to you to try to become involved with that work. And I was wondering, how do we become involved with that?

Speaker 6 (52:52)

So the two people were glad that you're here. The two people that I'd like you to start out with is Dr stepsdale and also with our vision director, Stephanie Beasley. We're always looking for partners to help us do the work in minority communities. And so please make sure before you leave tonight that you're in contact with them.

Speaker 3 (53:11)

Thank you.

Speaker 6 (53:12)

Okay. All right. Any other questions or comments? How often do you think we need to do?

Speaker 1 (53:32)

I'm just curious.

Speaker 6 (53:37)

Every six months.

Speaker 8 (53:38)

Yeah. Because it's not just my family and it's not just her family. There's other people I know that's going through the same thing, going through this, like your transmission. So before you all was even going through the transition, they didn't have the support.

Speaker 6 (54:09)

They didn't have the workers. It wasn't enough workers. I'll call you back.

Speaker 8 (54:15)

We'll get somebody into it.

Speaker 6 (54:20)

They sent her grandkids all the way to Ohio.

Speaker 8 (54:25)

And we don't understand how that happened. It was mixed up with paperwork, but I still should say more involved with the club and with the people with you so they can come and talk with you guys when they came in.

Speaker 6 (54:39)

So there's a couple of things that I'm hearing that you're saying to us. Number one, probably more visibility do this. If you had your druthers and you could pay me, you'd say every 90 days, but you would live with six months. There's some value in having conversations with the community. And if you can't get your question answered one on one, here's another form by which you could get your questions answered. That's what I'm taking away from. What you're saying is just for you to reach out and make sure what's going on.

Speaker 8 (55:11)

This is not a question to be asked with you people at DHS.

Speaker 6 (55:17)

Just come and talk to people and let people know what's going on.

Speaker 8 (55:22)

Even if they don't have questions. But inform them, update them, letting us know about these services. Right now, this lady introducing herself, Mr. Dozelle, introducing yourself.

Speaker 6 (55:33)

Maybe you want to come back in six months. You all talk with these people.

Speaker 8 (55:37)

Maybe their programs came into your Department and you can introduce them to the other families just as well as you're introducing all the other information.

Speaker 6 (55:46)

So the beauty of the team that I've been able to assemble here are people who believe in being in the community. So if there is a desire, not a community, to see us for you, go see us. This has not necessarily been the way in which a State Department has operated. It's a change in our philosophy of

how we like to operate moving forward. It's being out here, having the conversations and hearing the feedback. One of the things that I appreciate tonight is your transparency and your complete honesty. All the things that we get right and the things where we're not quite hitting the Mark. And I appreciate that. I appreciate you being here tonight, telling the story because you don't have to. You could have waited on the phone and told the story there, but you chose to come out tonight and share it with us and be very transparent. But that I'm very thankful. Now, I'm going to say this because I want everybody that experiences our system to have a sense of success. And when people don't have a success, you are doing apology. You're going to see something that are going to be different because these folks work very hard to make sure as well as their team to make sure.

Speaker 6 (57:00)

But we can only do that by getting honest and transparent feedback from you tonight. And I appreciate your honesty. Each and every one of you that came out tonight, you didn't have to come. Those folks that are on social media. I appreciate your questions and your comments because all of this helps us build a stronger child well being system and not a child welfare system. And so I appreciate that. I want to ask any final questions or comments before we close tonight. Yes, sir. Yeah.

Speaker 1 (57:46)

Mine just has to do with service providers.

(57:49)

Okay.

Speaker 1 (57:50)

If a provider is operating under PSAs, is there an opportunity then to still be part of your network?

Speaker 6 (58:05)

And we want to have your name before you leave.

(58:07)

Okay.

Speaker 6 (58:08)

We have some other people who are here tonight saying the same exact thing that they think they can help. We need to help. Okay.

(58:15)

Absolutely.

Speaker 6 (58:15)

Thank you. Thank you. Anyone else? I'll have the last word, but you close us out. Okay.

Speaker 3 (58:25)

Okay. Thank you. All right. So that you don't have to be in front of the state legislature all the time like KBC was filed. Okay. Thank you. I want to make sure there's plenty of that. And then you contact your congressman. We don't have any Democratic ones right now. But I talked to Don Bagan's office today, too. Congressman Bagan and I need him to be behind you folks with getting funding anytime you need it, until the elections are over and stuff. And I appreciate that you had all this tonight. This is awesome. I thought this was the first time this ever happened in the history of Nebraska. I'm like, wow. At the former state board, I have to be here to speak up for the best injuries of the child. So far, you're covering everything that the adults are going to need to try to get their children and back everything. Make sure the governor gives you guys plenty of money and you don't have to be in front of the legislature going, well, we didn't budget properly. And here we go again, because that wheel is broken and it's gone. We need a new wheel.

Speaker 2 (59:45)

Thank you so much.

Speaker 6 (59:47)

Thank you for your comments. Any other questions that we could ask? If not, does that sound good?

Speaker 7 (01:00:04)

I know there are some individuals that wanted to follow up, so I'm going to ask for my team to divide and conquer. So, Kenzie, if you would meet with a young man, Lana, if you would come meet with the young lady at the very end, Lori and I were going to meet with the grandmother closest to me, and then Dr. Perkins, who is currently with St. Francis. He's the community relations team, and he's going to actually be joining the Department. I want him to meet the young man for Native Americans as well as the young lady if Stephanie can also work with her. I just want to make sure we're touching everybody. But I want to wait to move into the cameras off because I do want to also value confidentiality. I don't want anything to get picked up as we start to discuss some matters. And so we're going to try to space out in the room because I want to make sure your situation has a level of confidentiality and that you feel free to speak. But definitely thank you all for coming. And CEO will definitely be back. My email is the very last one on the screen.

Speaker 7 (01:01:00)

Don't wait for six months to reach out if there is a need. Lana, Laurie, Kenzie, Kendra, myself. We're accessible. Email us. I may not have the answer right away, but I do my best to respond in 24 hours and we will navigate. There may need to be some follow up conversations, but please don't wait for six months to see us. We are engaged. We're here. Lana is eager. She's assembling a world class team, and you are going to see more of us in a more informal setting. Aside from a formal town hall, we'll just be visible and out. So by all means, please don't wait for six months. Please reach out to us. We definitely want to have conversations.

Speaker 6 (01:01:42)

Are the cameras on? Okay? Very good for those of you. All who are here. Here is my number. My direct. Number. 47194. Three.