

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 410**

Introduced by Health and Human Services Committee: Howard, 9, Chairperson; Arch, 14; Cavanaugh, 6; Hansen, B., 16; Murman, 38; Walz, 15; Williams, 36.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to provide continued oversight of and updates regarding the contract between the Department of Health and Human Services and St. Francis Ministries for child welfare case management services in the eastern service area.

Pursuant to section 68-1212 the Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to contract with a lead agency for a case management lead agency model pilot project in the eastern service area. In June 2019, the department awarded that contract to St. Francis Ministries, replacing PromiseShip, a collaborative that had been providing services for the previous nine years. The bid from St. Francis Ministries received lower scores but was significantly less expensive with a reduction of more than half the cost of PromiseShip's bid and more than half of what it had historically cost PromiseShip or the State of Nebraska to provide services to the children in the eastern service area. In October 2019, the timetable for the transfer of cases from PromiseShip to St. Francis Ministries was accelerated, and all cases were transferred by January 1, 2020.

The Health and Human Services Committee has continued oversight over the case management lead agency model pilot program in the eastern service area. To keep the committee informed of the progress and performance of the new lead agency contract, this interim study shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the following:

(1) The areas of contract oversight and performance review detailed in section 68-1212;

(2) The caseload size for caseworkers at St. Francis Ministries and how those caseload are calculated;

(3) The availability of appropriate foster homes and emergency short term placements in the eastern service area;

(4) The hiring and retention of staff by St. Francis Ministries, including the qualifications for each role;

(5) Services offered by St. Francis Ministries; and

(6) The use of sub-contractors by St. Francis Ministries for service delivery, which entities are serving as sub-contractors, and the percentage of services being provided by St. Francis Ministries or a subsidiary of St. Francis Ministries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.