

LB 458

Introduced by
Senator Lathrop

COORDINATING TO BETTER PROTECT CHILDREN AND STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

Children and their families are best served when the many different agencies and professionals who investigate, respond, and provide support following child abuse and neglect allegations work together.

IMPROVES NEBRASKA'S RESPONSE TO CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT BY:



- Serving more children through Child Advocacy Centers
- Strengthening and updating the duties of local multidisciplinary teams
- Connecting children and families to services, even when abuse happens outside the family home

ENSURES:

1. More children, including those who are drug-endangered or alleged victims of human trafficking, are referred to child advocacy centers



2. Child advocacy centers provide a full range of services to support high quality, trauma-informed investigation, as well as ongoing advocacy and mental health care



ENGAGES:

Local multidisciplinary teams in child abuse prevention and early intervention efforts



UPDATES:

Requirements for team structure, protocols, and training reflect best practices in the field of child abuse and neglect

PROVIDES:

A framework for DHHS to ensure cases they do not investigate are still referred for services, as recommended in a recent Office of Inspector General Report.⁴



1. Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers. 2017 Annual Statistics
2. Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers. 2017 Annual Statistics Report - Page 5
3. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Child Abuse and Neglect Report 2017
4. Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare. Sexual Abuse Report

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SINCE 1992, NEBRASKA LAW HAS PROVIDED FOR LOCAL TEAMS TO COORDINATE ON CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS AND ONGOING CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE CASES.

CURRENTLY IN NEBRASKA, AS OF 2018



There Are 112 Multi Disciplinary Teams

2,800+ MDT Team Members

All 93 Counties Are Being Served



MDT Teams conducted over



11,700 case reviews¹



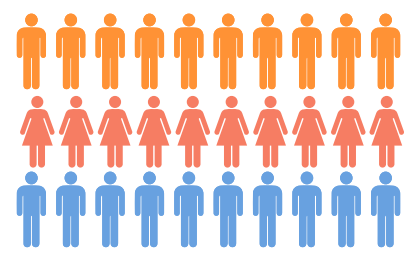
Over 35,000 reports of child abuse in Nebraska were made³

Only 13,000 were accepted for assessment by law enforcement, DHHS or both³



Nebraska's CACs Served

Over 6,900 children²



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