



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE

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MEDIA NOTICE

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Craig Timm, Advisory Committee Chairperson, will be available for comment at (402) 471-4420 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013.

Executive Director Hired

The Foster Care Review Office Advisory Committee has hired Kim Hawekotte as the Director of the Foster Care Review Office. She will begin work on January 22, 2013.

Craig Timm, Advisory Committee Chairperson said, "The Committee is pleased to hire Ms. Hawekotte for the Director's position and looks forward to working with her to benefit the lives of the abused and neglected children of Nebraska."

Kim Hawekotte said, "I am honored to take this position and I look forward to working with the professional staff and the agency's partners to improve children's lives."

Ms. Hawekotte brings the following to the position:

Kim has been working as an attorney within the child welfare and justice system in Nebraska for over 30 years. Her experience includes: private practice representing youth, parents, and as a guardian ad litem. She has served as the Deputy Chief of the Juvenile Division of the Douglas County Attorney's office; Director of the UNO/BBF School Engagement Initiative, and has held a variety of other offices throughout her career. Her former position was the President of KVC Behavioral Healthcare of Nebraska.

Ms. Hawekotte has also served on a variety of state and local committees including the Governor's Commission for the Protection of Children; Governor's Children's Task Force, Chair of the Douglas County 1184 Treatment Team, and Co-Chair of the Douglas County 1184 Investigative team, plus a number of others. Ms. Hawekotte holds a B.S. degree in Sociology and a law degree from Creighton University.

Information regarding the Foster Care Review Office

Effective July 1, 2012, (which was the 30th anniversary of the agency's founding) by statute the State Foster Care Review Board became the Foster Care Review Office (FCRO). The State Board was replaced by the Foster Care Review Office Advisory

Committee, which by statute has different duties, serving as a resource tool to the agency. Advisory Committee Members are Craig Timm, Chairperson, Sandy Kruback, Vice Chairperson, Michelle Hynes, Elizabeth Neeley and Sheree Keely.

The FCRO's mission is to ensure the best interest and safety of children in out-of-home care are being met through external citizen reviews, maintaining a statewide independent tracking system, disseminating data and recommendations to the public and Legislature, and monitoring youth placements. According to the Foster Care Review Office's independent tracking system, as Dec. 3, 2012, there were 4,052 children in out-of-home care in Nebraska.

Additional information regarding the Foster Care Review Office can be found at www.fcro.nebraska.gov.