

**30 Years of Accomplishments**  
**Major Accomplishments of the State Foster Care Review Office**  
**1983 – 2013**

1. Independently tracking children in out-of-home care, beginning when no one knew how many Nebraska children were in foster care, and continuing to do so through major reorganizations of the department and other child placing agencies, and of computer systems housing official records. This system continues to be a national model.
2. Providing comprehensive external reviews of individual children's cases from the perspective of children's best interests, utilizing community-based boards of citizens from a variety of professional backgrounds who have received specialized training on child welfare.
3. Distributing statistical data compiled from tracking and review, and its analysis, to members of the child welfare system, the Governor, the Legislature and other policy-makers, researchers, and the public.
4. Providing legal parties to children's cases and policy-makers educational programs on children's developmental needs, typical grief of children separated from their parents, child sexual abuse, and other legal and abuse issues.
5. Working with members of Congress on successful federal legislation that provided for exceptions to the requirement to attempt to rehabilitate all parents of children in foster care, including those who clearly cannot or will not safely parent their children.
6. Attending court hearings on children's cases that serious issues identified, and having those concerns addressed in about 75 percent of the cases.
7. Identifying issues related to guardian ad litem performance (an attorney who represents the child's best interests), working with the Supreme Court to create GAL guidelines, monitoring GAL performance, and reporting identified issues to the individual courts involved.
8. Partnering with the Nebraska Legislature to create the Child Protection Unit in the Attorney General's Office, which broadened child protection, and on other legislation designed to improve outcomes for children in foster care.
9. Identifying deficits in the response to reports of child abuse, conducting an examination of the cases of children who died as a result of child abuse, and providing recommendations on system improvements.
10. Collaborating with the Department of Health and Human Services and other partners to improve children's outcomes, including conducting special studies of children age birth through five, and children who have been in care for two years or longer.
11. Collection of data regarding the Reform of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice.
12. Quarterly and Annual reporting to the Legislature.

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