



Help for post-adoptive parents & guardians is just around the corner

Media Release

Children’s Behavioral Health Oversight Committee
Testimony on LB 603 Programs
Location: Legislative Room 1510
Time: Friday, August 26 9:00 AM

Success Leads to Renewal of *Right Turn* Program *Nebraska’s Solution to Safe Haven Crisis Working*

August 25, 2011 (Omaha, Nebraska) – The program established in response to Nebraska’s “Safe Haven Crisis” of 2009 is now receiving acclaim for its positive impact. Funding for the program was recently renewed for two additional years, and **the *Right Turn* director, Jessyca Vandercoy, will report outcomes to state senators at a public hearing Friday morning** (*box above*).

Right Turn was established in response to some of the post adoption/guardianship issues that arose from the state’s original Safe Haven Law. Safe Haven made it clear that many adoptive and guardianship families were struggling and frustrated and did not know where to turn for help.

Right Turn professionals provide a single-point of contact for families who adopt out of foster care, providing individualized success plans and connections to respite care, mentoring, counseling, classes, support groups and more.

“I didn’t call before because I just thought it was too good to be true.”
—Mother who called *Right Turn*,
December, 2010

Since inception, ***Right Turn*** has served around 360 families in case management and another 65 families with support and referral (adoptive parents who have been ineligible, etc). All of the parents surveyed in the first quarter of 2011 reported being satisfied with *Right Turn* services.

Additional survey results follow:

- 70% of families report “agree” or “strongly agree” to improved parenting skills after *Right Turn* services.
- 76% of families report “agree” or “strongly agree” to increased understanding of specific needs of their child.
- 99% of families report satisfaction with the timeliness of *Right Turn* services.
- 95% of families rate the quality of *Right Turn* services as “excellent” or “good”.
- 100% of families report they would refer another family to *Right Turn*.

Right Turn, a collaboration of **Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska** and **Nebraska Children’s Home Society**, was created to provide 24/7 help to families who have adopted or entered into a guardianship.

More at www.rightturnne.org.

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska is a statewide, community-based organization which impacts over 35,000 individuals annually, from 31 offices in 18 cities in the areas of behavioral health, children services and community services.

Through 11 statewide offices, ***Nebraska Children’s Home Society*** provides pregnancy, parenting, adoption and post-adoption services; foster care; teen parent services; community outreach; and early childhood programming.

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