

**Nebraska Office of Dispute Resolution, State Court Administrator's Office**

**Parenting Act RFP Bidders Call, June 21, 2013; 1 p.m. CT – 1:35 p.m.**

**Agenda and Responses to Submitted Questions**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome: Debora Brownyard, Director, Dispute Resolution/Special Court Programs, Nebraska State Court Administrator's Office, Lincoln, Nebraska
2. Participants on the Call: NCSC: Alicia Davis, Cynthia Lee, Georgia Vagenas, Darcy Hitt; Center for Policy Research: Nancy Thoennes; Werner Institute Creighton University: Mary Lee Brock; NE Center on Children, Families, and the Law: Jeff Chambers and Hannah Dietrich; NPC Research, Portland: Eric Einspruch
3. Submitted Questions:
  - A. Center for Policy Research
  - B. National Center for State Courts
4. ODR Correction:
  - A. Addendum 1: Page 35; Section 13.2" Suggested Evaluation Designs; Correction: ~~Four~~ Nine evaluation designs. . .
5. Timeline Review:

**Date of Release: May 31, 2013**

**Optional Bidders' Conference Call: June 21, 2013; 1:00 PM CDT.**

**Mandatory Letter of Intent Due: July 10, 2013; 5:00 P.M. CDT** via postal mail at the address below or via email to [debora.brownyard@nebraska.gov](mailto:debora.brownyard@nebraska.gov)

**Bids Due: July 31, 2013; 5:00 P.M. CDT** (must be received by this time/date)

Via Postal Mail (1 original and 9 copies)

Office of Dispute Resolution

Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts

P. O. Box 98910

Lincoln, NE 68509-8910

Plus one email copy (pdf format) to [debora.brownyard@nebraska.gov](mailto:debora.brownyard@nebraska.gov)
6. Interpretations:

Any and all interpretations and any supplemental instructions provided by the ODR/AOC shall be in the form of a written addenda to the Request for Proposal, which if issued, will be mailed, e-mailed or faxed to all known interested parties or bidders, or such other form of communication as ODR/AOC deems reasonably likely to reach interested parties. The bidder, not the AOC/ODR, is responsible to secure notification and delivery of any addenda. Failure of any bidder to receive any addenda or other information released by the AOC/ODR after the initial distribution of this RFP shall not relieve the bidder from the obligations specified in addenda or other releases.
7. Adjourn

## RESPONSES TO SUBMITTED QUESTIONS (A) AND (B)

### RESPONSE (A)

June 12, 2013

Nancy Thoennes, Center for Policy Research  
1570 Emerson Street, Denver, CO 80218  
303/837-1555

#### Questions Related to

#### Evaluating Nebraska's Parenting Act: Making a Difference for Children and Families

#### From the RFP

- (1) Will the Evaluation Consultant (Dr. Michael Saini) be eligible to compete under this RFP?

No, he is serving as a consultant to ODR and will not compete.

- (2) The Parenting Act does not seem to address parents who enter the system via the child support agency. Presumably these cases will not be given parenting plans unless they file with the court at which point they are covered by the Parenting Act. Are these assumptions correct?

This is a correct assumption.

- (3) Will mediation be provided by the Centers that typically provide services (Central Mediation Center, Concord Mediation Center, Douglas County District Court Conciliation and Mediation Services, The Mediation Center, Mediation West, and the Nebraska Mediation Center)?

The ODR has a list of approved parenting mediators on the NE Supreme Court website, pursuant to the Parenting Act and AOC policy. This are comprised of mediation center affiliates, panel members of Douglas County District Court Mediation Office, and private parenting mediators.

- (4) Who will provide the Parent Education services?

The ODR has a list of approved parenting educators on the NE Supreme Court website, pursuant to the Parenting Act and AOC policy.

- (5) How much uniformity should we assume across mediation providers and across Parent Education services?

Mediation providers: all should meet minimum approval standards from Parenting Act and AOC/ODR policy for parenting mediators.

Parent educators: all should meet minimum approval standards from Parenting Act and AOC/ODR policy and learning objectives and Provider Guidelines.

(6) The RFP mentions that (p 6) “The program’s information system should be designed to permit the monitoring of cases as well as the evaluation of services both in the short-run (e.g., the rate of settlement, the number of days from referral to resolution for both successful and unsuccessful cases) and in the long-run (e.g., compliance and relitigation.)”

(a) Will the evaluation involve developing an automated or manual information system?

NE Court Data System: JUSTICE; mediation centers’ systems; District Court of Douglas County Mediation Office system

(b) Has this type of information been collected for past cases or will it only be available going forward?

Raw data collected in the past for some of the measures by each of the above systems

(c) Who will be responsible for ensuring that the information is collected and entered? Will the same procedures be in place for all the services providers?

The court staff, mediation center staff are responsible for data entry.

(7) Is the goal to represent the state as a whole? Might only the most populous regions be included?

We want both urban and rural samples.

(8) Are the 30 pages for the Work Plan, Management, and Staffing single spaced?

Yes.

(9) Section 1.9 indicates the points that will be awarded for various sections. They total 110. Is this correct?

Yes.

(10) Can you provide any figures regarding the number of:

(a) Couples participating in mediation annually

Within the 6 ODR approved mediation centers, there were 3,674 parenting plan cases worked on during 2011-2012.

Douglas County Mediation Office: 449 mediations 2011-2012

Private mediators: number unknown

(b) The number of individuals receiving Parenting Act Information Brochures

Approximately 24,000 per year

(c) The number of individuals and couples provided specialized alternative dispute resolution services

Approximately 15% of (a) = 620

(11) What happens in cases where only one parent participates in parenting classes or only one parent shows up for mediation?

Parenting class: depends upon the judge, however, most judges will not set the case for hearing unless there is a certificate of readiness indicating parenting education satisfied; or, a waiver granted

Parenting mediation: depends upon the judge, however, most judges will not set the case for hearing unless both parents show up if they were court ordered to attend.

See also recent NE Court of Appeals case:

**From Addendum 1**

(12) Does a parenting plan cover all the children or are separate plans produced for each child?

The practice is for the parenting plan to cover all the children.

(13) Is the intent of the evaluation to determine how useful the brochure is to those who only get brochures versus those who get brochures plus other services?

Primarily, is the brochure in and of itself useful to the parents?

(14) Is the Parenting Class 1 session long? How many hours? Who provides them? On an annual basis, approximately how many parents/couples go on to the second level of parenting classes?

Parenting education policy:

- Between 2-6 hours
- Providers must be approved by ODR
- Unknown about # of second level users

(15) Does the IPS (individual private screening) occur on the same day as the scheduled mediation?

No, generally, the IPS is scheduled on a separate day from the initial mediation session.

(16) Approximately how many couples use specialized alternative dispute resolution (parties meet with the mediator separately) rather than traditional mediation?

See response above (approximately 620 couples per year).

(17) Are the various instruments described in the Methodology Section already in use? If they are in use how many have been completed and will they be available for this evaluation?

Methodology Section 7, page 20 ff

Nebraska Court data from JUSTICE will be made available.

Mediation center data from Case Manager will be made available.

Douglas County District Court Mediation Office data will be made available.

Appendix B, Court File Analysis Framework is being used and will be revised for an internal court file review this summer and fall. It is available for this evaluation. Its data and results will be available to the selected bidder.

## RESPONSE (B)

June 14, 2013

Ms. Brownyard,

The National Center for State Courts has the following questions regarding the “Evaluating Nebraska’s Parenting Act: Making a difference for children and families” RFP:

- On page 12, under Section 1.9, the RFP indicates that “the proposal must contain the following sections: Cover Letter...Related Experience in Divorce and Separation and Impact on Children (10 points); Related Experience in Differentiated Approaches to Divorce and Separation...and References.” However, on page 13, the third bullet point states that in the table of contents, there should only be identification of a “Related Experience” section. Please clarify further as to whether there should be two separate related experience sections identified in the table of contents as indicated on page 12.

**Yes, there needs to be two separate related experience sections as explicitly defined on page 12.**

- On page 12, under Section 1.9, the RFP indicates the proposal sections and organization; however, it does not indicate where the price information (Section 1.10) should be placed in the proposal organization. Any further clarification would be helpful.

**Please include the Project Budget Summary and a Detailed Project Budget**

- On page 18, under Section 3.2, a P.O. Box is given as the mailing address for submission of proposals. Could you please provide a physical address in order to allow for Federal Express delivery?

**Nebraska State Court Administrator’s Office, State Capitol, 1444 “K” Street, Lincoln, NE 68508**

- On page 19, under Section 3.3, the RFP states that “...any requests for interpretation must be received no later than June 14, 2012.” Please clarify whether this should be June 14, 2013 or another date entirely.

**Confirm June 14, 2013**

Please confirm receipt of the email so we may ensure that you received our questions by the appropriate deadline.

Thank you for the help.

**Darcy Hitt** | Program Specialist | Court Consulting Services

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