

## **Nebraska Children's Commission – Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee**

Fifth Meeting  
February 18, 2014  
1:00PM-4:00PM  
Airport Country Inn and Suites, Platte Room  
1301 West Bond Circle, Lincoln, NE 68521

### **Call to Order**

Peg Harriott called the meeting to order at 1:16pm and noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the room as required by state law.

*Note: The meeting started late due to a lack of a quorum. After review of LB530, it was determined that Rhonda Newman could function as a voting member of the committee on behalf of David Newell.*

### **Roll Call**

Subcommittee Members present: Peg Harriott, Jena Davenport, Corrie Edwards, Shannon-Jo Hamilton, Jackie Meyer, Rhonda Newman (for David Newell), Barb Nissen, Ryan Suhr, and Lana Temple-Plotz.

Ex-Officio Members present: Lindy Bryceson, Karen Knapp, Richard Pope, and Thomas Pristow.

Subcommittee Member(s) absent: Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Bobby Loud, Sherry Moore, Alana Pearson, Katie McLeese Stephenson, and Bev Stutzman.

Ex-Officio Members absent: Michele Anderson, and Debbie Silverman.

Also attending: Bethany Connor and Leesa Sorensen from the Nebraska Children's Commission; and Jodi Allen from DHHS.

### **Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Ryan Suhr to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Barb Nissen. Voting yes: Peg Harriott, Jena Davenport, Corrie Edwards, Shannon-Jo Hamilton, Jackie Meyer, Rhonda Newman (for David Newell), Barb Nissen, Ryan Suhr, and Lana Temple-Plotz. Voting no: none. Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Bobby Loud, Sherry Moore, Alana Pearson, Katie McLeese Stephenson, and Bev Stutzman were absent. Motion carried.

### **Approval of January 7, 2014 Minutes**

A motion was made by Lana Temple-Plotz to approve the January 7, 2014 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Shannon-Jo Hamilton. Voting yes: Peg Harriott, Jena Davenport, Corrie Edwards, Shannon-Jo Hamilton, Jackie Meyer, Rhonda Newman (for David Newell), Barb Nissen, Ryan Suhr, and Lana Temple-Plotz. Voting no: none. Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Bobby Loud, Sherry Moore, Alana Pearson, Katie McLeese Stephenson, and Bev Stutzman were absent. Motion carried.

### **Chair's Report**

Peg Harriott informed the committee that she was planning to provide the committee with a draft Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee report that could be used for review, discussion, revision and approval and then be presented at the Nebraska Children's Commission meeting that was scheduled for February 19, 2014. However, Peg noted that Thomas had provided information just prior to the start of the meeting that he had arranged for a third-party evaluator to review the three categories of foster care rates and provide input to DHHS. The committee discussed Thomas's invitation to attend DHHS's meeting. After discussion of this change in plans, Peg indicated to the committee that the final recommendations would be delayed to take advantage of the opportunity to have the rates reviewed.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Base Rate Implementation**

Thomas Pristow provided a written Foster Care Rate Plan document that was created by DHHS to summarize the implementation milestones. Thomas also provided an update on the disallowance of federal funds. He noted that while this issue of IV-E was being dealt with, DHHS was planning to move ahead with agency supported foster care.

Thomas also provided an update on results based accountability (RBA) and the alternative response (AR) process. Thomas noted that a legislative hearing was held on February 12 regarding alternative response. Thomas also noted that alternative response was key to the IV-E waiver provisions being worked on with federal partners.

Thomas then provided information on the plan for Casey Family Services to work with DHHS and stakeholders to review the proposed foster care rates. Thomas noted that he was relying on this process to make sure that the rates were set properly before the July implementation process.

### **Level of Care Assessment Workgroup**

Lana Temple-Plotz provided an update on the Level of Care (LOC) assessment workgroup. She noted that some changes were discussed related to the front of the form. The workgroup decided to add fields to the assessment tool to support the collection of data for evaluation at a later date. It was noted that the workgroup suggested that a report on the LOC tool be provide by DHHS,

NFC, and Probation by July 1, 2015 to assist the committee in evaluating the effectiveness and implementation of the LOC tool. The workgroup also discussed the need to assess the value of linking the SDM, CANs, and NCR tools and noted that this analysis would be done at a later date after more data had been collected.

The workgroup noted that additional discussions were needed on respite care and the difference in needs, especially for transportation, between urban and rural settings. It was also noted that the administrative rate and associated fees discussion needed to be finalized before final decisions could be made.

### **Recommendations to Children's Commission regarding Foster Parent Rates**

Peg Harriott then reviewed the list of items for the Children's Commission report including the progress made by the Level of Care Workgroup and the delay in recommendations due to the timing of the administrative rate discussion. The group discussed further the "grandfathering" recommendation and the fact that the system needs to re-set. It was noted that the communication piece with families was critical to providing stability. Peg noted that Thomas had requested that a group be available to meet with the Casey representative to review the established rates. Lana Temple Plotz, Ryan Suhr, Jackie Meyer, and Barb Nissen volunteered to meet with DHHS and Casey.

Lana Temple-Plotz then moved that the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee consider rates once they have been reviewed by DHHS and Casey. Jackie Meyer seconded the motion. Voting yes: Peg Harriott, Jena Davenport, Corrie Edwards, Shannon-Jo Hamilton, Jackie Meyer, Rhonda Newman (for David Newell), Barb Nissen, Ryan Suhr, and Lana Temple-Plotz. Voting no: none. Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Bobby Loud, Sherry Moore, Alana Pearson, Katie McLeese Stephenson, and Bev Stutzman were absent. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2014 from 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Lana Temple-Plotz to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ryan Suhr. The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.