

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

Eighth Meeting  
May 16, 2014  
1:00PM-4:00PM  
Country Inn & Suites, Omaha Room  
5353 N. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE

**Call to Order**

Peg Harriott called the meeting to order at 1:02m and noted that the Open Meetings Act information was posted in the room as required by state law.

**Roll Call**

Subcommittee Members present: Peg Harriott, Corrie Edwards, Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Bobby Loud (1:41p.m.), Jackie Meyer, Barb Nissen, Bev Stutzman, Ryan Suhr, and Lana Temple-Plotz.

Ex-Officio Members present: Jeanne Brandner (1:05), Lindy Bryceson, Karen Knapp, Thomas Pristow, and Nanette Simmons.

Subcommittee Member(s) absent: Sherry Moore, David Newell, and Alana Pearson.

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

Also attending: Monika Anderson, Jim Blue, Bethany Connor, Senator Annette Dubas, Liz Hruska, Leesa Sorensen, Martha Stoddard, and Kerry Winterer.

**Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made by Ryan Suhr to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Barb Nissen. Voting yes: Peg Harriott, Corrie Edwards, Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Jackie Meyer, Barb Nissen, Bev Stutzman, Ryan Suhr, and Lana Temple-Plotz. Voting no: none. Bobby Loud, Sherry Moore, David Newell, and Alana Pearson were absent. None abstained. Motion carried.

**Approval of the April 1, 2014 Minutes**

A motion was made by Lana Temple-Plotz to approve the April 1, 2014 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Corrie Edwards. Voting yes: Peg Harriott, Corrie Edwards, Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Jackie Meyer, Barb Nissen, Bev Stutzman, Ryan Suhr, and Lana Temple-Plotz. Voting no: none. Absent: Bobby Loud, Sherry Moore, David Newell, and Alana Pearson. None abstained. Motion carried.

## **Approval of the May 6, 2014 Minutes**

A motion was made by Lana Temple-Plotz to approve the May 6, 2014 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Barb Nissen. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

## **Chair's Report**

Peg Harriott gave a brief Chair's report. She noted that the work groups did a lot of great work, so many of the people that have done great work are not present today. She expressed appreciation for The Department of Health and Human Services and Thomas Pristow's work with the Committee on rates. She also noted that there were applications to join the Committee and there would likely be new people at the next meeting.

## **Public Comment**

Gregg Nicklas, of Christian Heritage gave a comment as a member of the public. He thanked the Committee for the great deal of work it has done since last Tuesday. At the previous meeting there was a great deal of concern on the agencies about the ability to continue to serve foster parents. He will never forget and will always appreciate the work that has gone on to make sure that the rates work for everyone involved. He noted that there was unanimous agreement on the rates at the CAFCON meeting. He closed his comments by expressing appreciation for the Department on behalf of the providers.

Senator Annette Dubas addressed the Committee for a public comment. She said she would pick up where Mr. Nicklas left off, thanking everyone around the table. She noted that at the beginning of the process there were a lot of people who were nervous and fragile due to the reforms and may immediately expect the worst. It takes time to heal wounds and relationships, and hopefully today we will see the positive changes coming out of the angst. She thanked Thomas Pristow for working and keeping the lines of communication open. She thanked Anna for attending the meetings and serving as the eyes and ears at the meetings. She closed her comment by again thanking everyone.

## **Standardized Level of Care Work Group Report**

Lana Temple-Plotz provided the Committee with information on the standardized level of care work group report. She noted that the staff ratios and salaries were changed. A motion was made by Susan Henrie to approve the Agency Support and Services rate (Recommendation P), seconded by Leigh Esau. Discussion was had on the motion. Lana clarified the policies surrounding agency mileage. A roll call vote was called on the motion. Voting yes: Peg Harriot, Corrie Edwards, Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Jackie Meyer, Barb Nissen, Ryan Suhr, and Lana Temple-Plotz. Voting no: none. Bobby Loud, Sherry Moore, David Newell, and Alana Pearson were absent. Bev Stutzman abstained.

A motion was made to approve item "J" as written by Barb Nissen, seconded by Jackie Meyer. A roll call vote was taken. Voting yes: Peg Harriott, Corrie Edwards, Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie,

Jackie Meyer, Barb Nissen, Bev Stutzman, Ryan Suhr and Lana Temple-Plotz. Bobby Loud, Sherry Moore, David Newell, and Alana Pearson were absent. Motion carried.

The Committee began discussion on item "K" regarding transportation and costs of transportation. Members noted that there is a DHHS administrative memorandum regarding administrative foster care reimbursement. A motion was made by Jackie Meyers to approve item "K" with added language reflecting the relevant DHHS administrative memorandum. The motion was seconded by Barb Nissen. Voting yes: Peg Harriott, Corrie Edwards, Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Jackie Meyer, Barb Nissen, Bev Stutzman, Ryan Suhr and Lana Temple-Plotz. Bobby Loud, Sherry Moore, David Newell, and Alana Pearson were absent. Motion carried.

### **DHHS Update**

Thomas Pristow indicated that there were no further updates from the Department of Health and Human Services.

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

The Committee began its discussion on the recommendations to the Children's Commission. Lana Temple Plotz made a motion to accept Item "C" as written. Leigh Esau seconded the motion. No further discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Yes: Peg Harriott, Corrie Edwards, Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Jackie Meyer, Barb Nissen, Bev Stutzman, Ryan Suhr and Lana Temple-Plotz. Bobby Loud, Sherry Moore, David Newell, and Alana Pearson were absent. Motion carried.

Ryan Suhr made a motion to accept item "E" with changes made on foster parent mileage reimbursement to reflect the tool. Corrie Edwards seconded the motion. No further discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Yes: Peg Harriott, Corrie Edwards, Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Jackie Meyer, Barb Nissen, Bev Stutzman, Ryan Suhr and Lana Temple-Plotz. Bobby Loud, Sherry Moore, David Newell, and Alana Pearson were absent. Motion carried.

Leigh Esau made a motion to accept item "G" as written. Barb Nissen seconded the motion. No further discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Yes: Peg Harriott, Corrie Edwards, Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Bobby Loud, Jackie Meyer, Barb Nissen, Bev Stutzman, Ryan Suhr and Lana Temple-Plotz. Sherry Moore, David Newell, and Alana Pearson were absent. Motion carried.

The Committee discussed item "H." Lana clarified that the pre-assessment rate is for a child new to the system, not a child new to a placement. If the child came into care through in home services, this child would not have the pre-assessment rate, as the child has had some screening and assessment. This item is for a child who has just been removed and there is no information about him or her. Bobby Loud made a motion to accept item "H" as written, seconded by Bev Stutzman. Discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken. Voting Yes: Peg Harriott, Corrie Edwards, Leigh Esau, Susan Henrie, Bobby Loud, Jackie Meyer, Barb Nissen, Bev Stutzman, Ryan Suhr and Lana Temple-Plotz. Sherry Moore, David Newell, and Alana Pearson were absent. Motion carried.

Ryan Suhr made a motion to accept item "Q" as written. The motion was seconded by Corrie Edwards. Voting yes: Peg Harriott, Corrie Edwards, Susan Henrie, Jackie Meyer, Ryan Suhr, and Lana Temple-Plotz. Voting no: none. Leigh Esau, Bobby Loud, Barb Nissen, and Bev Stutzman abstained. Sherry Moore, David Newell, and Alana Pearson were absent. Motion carried. *Note: The motion to accept item "Q" was initially announced to have failed to carry at the meeting. After adjournment and upon a recount of the votes, it was announced to have carried.*

#### **New Business**

Chairperson Peg Harriott asked the Committee if there were further recommendations that should be moving forward, or if anything had been left out. The Committee members indicated that there was not. Peg expressed her appreciation for the group.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

Chairperson Peg Harriott remarked that there may be further tasks that the Commission asks them to do, but she does not anticipate the need for a June meeting.

#### **Adjourn**

Bobby Loud made a motion to adjourn. Leigh Esau seconded the motion. The Committee adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

DRAFT