

**Level of Care Workgroup
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2014
10:00 - 12:00**

Present:

Workgroup Members: Lana Temple-Plotz (chair), Jackie Meyer, Karen Knapp, Barb Nissen, Katie McLeese Stephenson, Jenna Davenport, Susan Henrie, Jodi Allen (representing Sara Goscha), Ryan Suhr, Ronda Newman (representing Dave Newell)

Leesa Sorensen, Nebraska Children's Commission

Absent:

Michele Anderson

Minutes:

Jodi provided data from DHHS regarding 1,450 children and youth in care in the Northern, Central, Western and Southeastern Service Areas and their FC Pay Checklist:

Level/Tier	% of Youth per Level
1	60% (score 0-24)
2	22% (score 25-49)
3	18% (score 50+)

Pilot data utilizing the Level of Care Tool indicates the following breakdown*:

Level/Tier	% of Youth per Level
1	52%
2	33%
3	16%

*it should be noted that this data represents different youth than those assessed using the FC Pay Checklist.

The group reviewed the data collected by agencies from the workgroup comparing FC Pay Checklist to Level of Care Assessment scoring.

Sample Comparison of FC Pay to Level of Care Assessment Scoring

Age	Result	Parenting Level			Totals	Sample Size
		Essential	Enhanced	Intensive		
0-5	Increase	0	2	3	5	53
	Same	4	3	3	10	
	Decrease	1	1	0	2	
6-11	Increase	0	2	1	3	
	Same	3	4	3	10	
	Decrease	2	1	0	3	
12-18	Increase	0	3	0	3	
	Same	7	5	0	12	
	Decrease	1 (-2 levels)	4	0	5	
Totals	Increase	0	7	4	11	21%
	Same	14	12	6	32	60%
	Decrease	4	6	0	10	19%
Totals		18	25	10	53	
		34%	47%	19%		

Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility Tool's in this sample were completed by:

- Building Blocks
- CEDARS
- KVC Foster Parent
- Lutheran Family Services
- Nebraska Family Collaborative
- South Central Behavioral Counseling

The following feedback was provided on the tool:

Positive -

1. the tool reflects the activity of foster parents. In contrast, the FC Pay is focused on child behaviors so in cases where the foster parent's activity minimized the child's behavior, the FC Pay would be lower.
2. the LOC tool seemed easier to complete as staff had practice. Reviewing the definitions provided further clarity.
3. Weighted categories seemed appropriate.
4. No concern voiced from providers on changing the weighted categories from 6 (wellbeing) to 7 (permanency).

Potential Concern -

1. One youth assessed went from level 3 on the FC Pay to level 2 on the LOC tool and, given the age of the child, staff felt the child should have remained at level 3. May need to look more closely at the tool's assessment of youth with medical needs.

2. The permanency category reflects the work transitioning a child to a permanent home but what if the foster parent is the permanent home? Where is the work the foster parent does captured?
3. In the family relationships category questions came up regarding foster parents who were willing to work with family members but the case plan was out of their control and no work was currently being done. Group discussed and agreed the score should reflect the current activity required and the a new tool need not be completed every time visits were suspended but would be reassessed if the permanency plan changed.
4. The point range of 16 points is much smaller than the previous tool's range. Scoring in any weighted category takes you up or down a level.

Consensus was Reached on the Following:

1. A process is needed for addressing "outliers". Circumstances that fall outside the norm. What is the process? What triggers the review?
2. A well defined quality assurance is essential
3. A well defined communication and training process should be established.

Next Steps:

1. Refine/tweak the LOC tool definitions. Send edits to Jodi Allen by 1/15 and she will compile for next meeting.
2. Review the proposed draft rates with your colleagues, agencies and associations and come to the next meeting with any feedback.
3. Review the Quality Assurance process outlined in the initial LOC subcommittee report and come to the next meeting with suggestions/edits. Lana will draft a process once feedback is received.
4. Review the proposed Pre-Assessment rates, \$25.00, \$28.00, \$30.00. Questions or concerns?

Next Meeting:

January 22, 2014 1:00 - 3:00
Airport Country Inn and Suites
Lincoln, NE

Respectfully submitted by Lana Temple-Plotz