

**Level of Care Workgroup  
Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2014  
10:00 - 12:00**

**Present:** Lana Temple-Plotz, Karen Knapp, Ryan Suhr, Barb Nissen, Jenna Davenport, Jackie Meyer

**Absent:** Michelle Anderson, Katie McLeese Stephenson, Susan Henrie

**Resources:** Jodi Allen, Micaela Young (Cedars), Ronda Newman (NFC), Leesa Sorensen

**Discussion:**

1. Additions/changes to LOC tool
  - a. we have improved the definitions and discussed adding boxes to the front page to include:
    - i. initial
    - ii. reassessment (6 months from date of previous tool)
    - iii. change of child circumstance
    - iv. permanency plan change
    - v. request of foster parent
    - vi. request of agency/department
    - vii. change of placement
    - viii. Line to indicate the date of next review
  - b. Lana will clean up the definitions, add the boxes and weighting of LOC 1,3 and 7.
  - c. Group noted that the tool may be an effective tool to use when matching foster parents to the youth they'll potentially serve. By having foster parents complete the tool prior to any placements, DHHS and agencies will have a better understanding of what responsibilities foster parents are willing to assume.
2. Linking SDM/CANS/NCR - workgroup again discussed the importance of each of these tools being linked or "crosswalked." If the CANS is redone then the NCR should be redone.
3. Communication Plan - workgroup again discussed the importance of the new process and tools being communicated to foster parents and agencies by DHHS, NFC and Probation.
4. Training and Quality Assurance Plan - workgroup again discussed the need for a solid training and quality assurance plan and referenced the original Level of Care subcommittee report as a good resource.

**Recommendations to Rate Committee:**

1. DHHS implement LOC tool with changes effective July 1, 2014
2. DHHS implement parenting levels (essential, enhanced, intensive) and corresponding rates effective July 1, 2014:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Essential Parenting</b>	<b>Enhanced Parenting</b>	<b>Intensive Parenting</b>
0-5	\$ 20.00	\$27.50	\$35.00
6-11	\$ 23.00	\$30.50	\$38.00
12-18	\$ 25.00	\$32.50	\$40.00

3. DHHS implement Pre-Assessment Rates effective July 1, 2014:

<b>Age</b>	<b>Daily</b>
0-5	\$ 25.00
6-11	\$ 28.00
12-18	\$ 30.00

4. DHHS work to link the SDM to the CANS to the LOC tool
5. Rate Committee determine if respite needs to be defined. Workgroup members discussed this definition but then determined defining respite was beyond the scope of our work. The definition included:
  - a. Development of a respite care plan is the joint responsibility of DHHS/Agency Supported Foster Care provider and the foster parents. Respite is included in the supportive payment paid to the agency or the foster parent payment in cases where foster parents are supported by DHHS. Any costs associated with the respite care plan would be the responsibility of the agency or DHHS.
5. DHHS work with NFC and Probation to come up with a communication plan and process for rollout of training.
6. DHHS utilize the previous Level of Care subcommittee report as a reference when developing a training and quality assurance plan.
7. By July 1, 2015 a report be submitted by DHHS, Probation and the NFC that provides summary data and outlines the role and effectiveness of the level of care tool (NCR) to include:
  - a. Analysis of the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibilities tool to include: total number of tools completed; % in each category (essential, enhanced, intensive); % LOC1, LOC2, LOC3; intersection between frequency of review and score.
  - b. Analysis of the assessment process to include answering the following questions:
    - i. Does the CANS gather the necessary information to identify the needs of the child and the resources needed as identified in the eight domains of the NCR?
    - ii. Does the SDM provide adequate information to identify the needs of the child as they relate to the eight domains of the NCR?
    - iii. Is the CANS needed given the information provided by SDM?
    - iv. Does the NCR adequately identify the skills and responsibilities of the foster parent(s)?
    - v. Does the NCR adequately ensure the child's needs are being met?
    - vi. Does the NCR meet the needs of DHHS, Probation and the NFC?
    - vii. Does the NCR meet the needs of Child Placing Agencies?

- viii. How does the NCR impact subsidies?
- ix. Do the current rates work and are they reasonable?
- c. Lessons learned, trends identified and recommendations for future consideration

Submitted by: Lana Temple-Plotz