

Level of Care Workgroup Meeting Minutes April 1, 2014

Present: Lana Temple-Plotz, Ryan Suhr, Barb Nissen, Jackie Meyer, Michelle Anderson, Susan Henrie

Absent: Katie McLeese Stephenson, Jenna Davenport, Karen Knapp

Resources: Leesa Sorensen, Jodi Allen, Ronda Newman

Discussion:

1. Review and approval of February 18, 2014 meeting minutes
 - a. Minutes approved
2. Update/discussion of March 19, 2014 meeting with DHHS and Casey Consultant
 - a. Lana, Ryan, Jackie and Barb provided an overview of the March 19, 2014 meeting with DHHS and the Casey Consultant. Some questions during this meeting regarding the mileage reference in the original tool. Workgroup agreed to leave this reference as well as the respite and liability insurance in the tool we advance to the larger committee.
3. Additions/changes to LOC tool
 - a. Reviewed Barb's changes to the tool and agreed to include all changes. Additional changes to the tool the group agreed upon include: removing the "weighted category" language in LOC 1, LOC3 and LOC 7; including the references to respite, liability insurance and mileage on the last page; and including the separate scoring tool we developed.
4. Discuss previous recommended timelines for tool and rates (see February 18, 2014 minutes).
 - a. Group discussed at length whether to advance the parenting level and pre-assessment rates given DHHS has not yet determined an agency rate. Group agreed the focus of the LOC workgroup is to recommend changes to the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibilities Tool and to recommend foster parent rates. While the administrative rate is an important piece of the overall picture, it is not within the responsibility of the Level of Care Workgroup.
 - b. Group voted and agreed to advance the level of parenting and pre-assessment rates to the larger committee.

Final Recommendations to Rate Committee:

1. DHHS implement LOC tool with changes as identified in red.
2. DHHS implement parenting levels (essential, enhanced, intensive) and corresponding rates:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Essential Parenting</u>	<u>Enhanced Parenting</u>	<u>Intensive Parenting</u>
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:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Daily</u>
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:
- c. 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.
6. DHHS work with NFC and Probation to come up with a communication plan and process for rollout of training.
7. DHHS utilize the previous Level of Care subcommittee report (November 2012) as a reference when developing an implementation process, training and quality assurance plan.
8. By July 1, 2015 a written 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:
- d. 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.
 - e. 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?
 - f. Lessons learned, trends identified and recommendations for future consideration