

Minutes

Present:

Joan Kinsey	Barb Nissen
Karen Knapp	Lana Temple-Plotz
Carrie Hauschild (via phone)	Carol Krueger
Susan Henrie	

Absent:

David Newell, Rosey Higgs

Agenda

Review of current LOC Assessment Tools
Discussion of research currently underway by subcommittee members
Discussion of Next Steps

Discussion

The group discussed the research subcommittee members are currently conducting:

- Joan Kinsey checked with the National Foster and Adoptive Parent Association and there are no evidence based assessment tools to their knowledge. The group clarified the need for an evidence based tool and re-read the legislation which states the tool be "research based, supported by evidence-based practices."
- Lana Temple-Plotz shared plans for calls with three FFTA members regarding assessment tools:
 - o Brad Bryant, People Places Inc. in Virginia. Brad has participated in VA's rate structuring committee for several years. Call scheduled for July 2 at 10:00 a.m.
 - o Laura Boyd, Public Policy and Government Relations Consultant for FFTA. Laura has experience assisting Oklahoma with their rate structuring and LOC assessments. Call scheduled for July 10 at 11:00 a.m.
 - o Amelia Franck-Meyer, FFTA member in Oklahoma. Lana in process of contacting.
 - o Lana to set up conference line so subcommittee members can participate in calls if desired. She will send information and number once set up.

The group discussed the current tools:

- **FC Pay Checklist:** group finds it to be very subjective and not user friendly., especially as it relates to facilitating an open discussion with foster parents. The tool also lacks enough specifics related to the assessment of infants, specifically those with developmental delays or medically fragile. Subcommittee members have also found the tool problematic in terms of it's connection to adoption and guardianship subsidies. Subcommittee members were curious what other states are using. Barb volunteered to contact the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) as they published a report on this.
- **NFC Foster Care Rate Evaluation:** reviewed the NFC tool. Lana brought information from several states. Data and assessments from these states, along with the MARC report, were used to develop the NFC tool. Subcommittee members discussed information from states and

decided to focus on Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Arizona based on feedback and research from the previous groups (NFC and KVC/Visinet). Members also chose Arizona based on the fact that the MARC report ranks them 1st in the country.

- **Nebraska Out-of-Home Care Tool:** Barb sat on the committee that developed this tool. Lana was also a part of this group and they researched many of the same states as the NFC group did. The tool is very similar to the NFC tool.
- **Concerns/Questions Related to Tools:** 1) when children are doing well and improve, families are penalized with a lower payment 2) any tool developed needs clear and comprehensive training for providers and foster parents 3) subcommittee discussed how to include foster parent years of service and training. Decision to forward this suggestion to rate structure subcommittee for their review and consideration.

Members discussed further assessment of current tools and agreed to take the three tools back to their staff and foster parents.

- **For those Service Areas utilizing the FC Pay Checklist** - subcommittee members will ask staff to complete the other two tools on a particular youth, then compare the tools to the current FC Pay Checklist. Karen will work with her staff in the Northern SA and contact Deb Silverman and ask her to work with her staff in the Western SA. Barb will contact the Central SA Administrator and Carol will connect with Jodi Allen in the SESA. Carrie will work with her staff in the ESA.
- **For those Service Areas utilizing/who have utilized the NFC Foster Care Rate evaluation and the Nebraska Out-of-Home Care Tool** - subcommittee members will work with their staff and foster parents to assess strengths and weaknesses of these tools based on their experience. Lana will connect with Dave Newell to ask his assistance in surveying his workers.
- **Foster Parent Feedback** - Barb volunteered to have NFAPA mentors connect with foster parents in each of the service areas to get their feedback. Subcommittee members agreed that 20 foster parents from each service area would be a good sample size and developed the following survey questions:
 - o What tool is currently being used to assess your foster child's needs?
 - o What are the strengths of this tool?
 - o What are it's weaknesses? What areas do you feel are not addressed?
 - o In your experience as a foster parent have you been exposed to other tools? If so, what are the strengths and weaknesses of these tools?

Next Steps

Lana – secure a conference line for FFTA calls and send information to the subcommittee; scan and send documents from Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Arizona for subcommittee members to review; contact Dave Newell and ask he survey his staff; compile meeting minutes; secure meeting space for remainder of meetings; work with staff at Boys Town and connect with FFTA member agencies to gain feedback on tools.

Barb – find report from NACAC on adoption and guardianship subsidies and the tools other states are using and forward to subcommittee members; use mentors from all service areas to conduct survey; contact CSA Administrator.

Karen – work with staff in NSA to gain feedback on tools; contact Deb Silverman in WSA.

Carol – work with staff at Nebraska Childrens Home to gain feedback on tools; contact Jodi Allen in SESA.

Susie – work with staff at South Central Behavioral Health to gain feedback on tools.

Future Meeting Dates

The group planned future meeting dates. All meetings will be scheduled in the Nebraska State Office Building, Lincoln, NE. Specific room to be determined.

- a. Wednesday, July 11, 1-2 pm
- b. Monday, July 30, 10 am – 12 pm
- c. Friday, August 17, 1-3 pm
- d. Wednesday, September 5, 10 am -12 pm
- e. Monday, September 17, 10 am – 12 pm
- f. Thursday, October 11, 12:30 - 2 pm
- g. Monday, October 22, 10 am-12 pm
- h. Wednesday, November 14, 12:30 -2 pm