

**Nebraska Children’s Commission
Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee**

Twelfth Meeting
December 9, 2015
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Airport Country Inn & Suites
1301 West Bond Circle
Lincoln, NE 68521

I. Call to Order

The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) Co-Chairs, Peg Harriott and Gene Klein, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Committee Members present (15):

Jodie Austin	Susan Henrie	Felicia Nelsen
Phillip Burrell	Anne Hobbs (1:06)	Dave Newell (1:39)
Jude Dean	Vanessa Humaran	Lana Temple-Plotz
Leigh Esau	Gene Klein	Julia Tse
Peg Harriott	Bobby Loud	Michaela Young

Committee Members absent (3):

Corrie Edwards	Jackie Meyer	Sherry Moore
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Ex Officio Members present (6):

Jerrilyn Crankshaw	Karen Knapp	Nanette Simmons
Jodi Hitchler	Stacy Scholten	Sherrie Spilde

Ex Officio Members absent (3):

Michele Anderson	Jeanne Brandner	Doug Weinberg
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A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (2):

Bethany Connor Allen.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Amanda Felton.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission

a. Notice of Publication

Recorder for the meeting, Amanda Felton, indicated that the notice of publication for this meeting was posted on the Nebraska Public Meetings Calendar website on November 4, 2015 in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. The publication will be kept as a permanent attachment with the meeting minutes.

b. Announcement of the placement of Open Meetings Act information

A copy of the Open Meetings Act was available for public inspection and was located at the sign-in table at the rear of the meeting room.

III. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Jodie Austin to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Bobby Loud. No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (13):

Jodie Austin
Phillip Burrell
Jude Dean
Leigh Esau
Peg Harriott

Susan Henrie
Vanessa Humaran
Gene Klein
Bobby Loud
Felicia Nelsen

Lana Temple-Plotz
Julia Tse
Michaela Young

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Corrie Edwards
Anne Hobbs

Jackie Meyer
Sherry Moore

Dave Newell

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Co-Chair Harriott brought the minutes from the previous September 25, 2015 meeting to the Committee's attention. She inquired as to if there were any corrections. Lana Temple-Plotz noted a misprint. She directed attention to the time of the morning break and indicated the time resumed should read 10:36 a.m. rather than 12:36 a.m.

Leigh Esau moved to approve the September 25, 2015 FCRRRC meeting minutes with the corrected time as noted by Lana Temple-Plotz. Lana Temple-Plotz seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (14):

Jodie Austin
Phillip Burrell
Jude Dean
Leigh Esau
Peg Harriott

Susan Henrie
Anne Hobbs
Vanessa Humaran
Gene Klein
Bobby Loud

Felicia Nelsen
Lana Temple-Plotz
Julia Tse
Michaela Young

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Corrie Edwards
Jackie Meyer

Sherry Moore
Dave Newell

MOTION CARRIED

V. Co-Chair's Report

Co-Chair Harriott began the report by informing the members that the Nebraska Children's Commission had approved the Group Home Rate Subcommittee report and recommendations at their meeting on November 17, 2015. The Co-Chair indicated that the report and recommendations would be forwarded to the legislature, but that currently, no Senator had taken up the cause. She also referenced the motion that the Commission had made to have the FCRRRC look into treatment care options for out-of-home care.

VI. Public Comment

Chair Harriott invited any members of the public forward. No public comment was offered.

VII. Foster Parent Survey Update

Lana Temple-Plotz presented on the Foster Parent Survey. Ms. Temple-Plotz reviewed the questions with the Committee. The members gave several recommendations for the survey including, spelling out the name of Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility (NCR) tool, adjusting the wording of the questions so as not to lead the participants, and removal of the youth name to allow for anonymity.

Lengthy debate occurred over the scope of the survey. It was agreed that the goal of the survey would be to find where training is lacking and what issues needed to be addressed specifically with the NCR tool. Agencies and advocacy organizations would help inform foster parents of the survey. Strategies for distribution were examined for families with technology barriers. In those situations, hard copies would be available for the foster parents to complete.

The Committee settled on several elements that the survey should include. One item of note was to change the first half of the questions to focus on the most recent NCR experience, but allow for sections towards the end of the survey for the foster parents to expand on their experience with the NCR as a whole. The members also wanted to ensure that a proper description was given of the NCR tool with the potential of attaching a copy to the survey for reference.

Bobby Loud brought up the need for long term efforts that focus on data collection. He suggested the potential of creating focus groups in the future to address the issues of the foster parents as a whole. It was felt that the foster parents needed a way for their voice to be heard and to have the ability to contribute to the growth and improvement of the foster care system. There was mention that focus groups on foster parent concerns in general maybe beyond the scope of a committee established to address foster parent rates.

Several members indicated their willingness to be involved in a Taskforce to update and release the foster parent survey. Interested parties included Jude Dean, Vanessa Humaran, Jodi Austin, and Bobby Loud who would work along existing members Lana Temple-Plotz, Anne Hobbs, and Lynn Castrianno. Jude Dean volunteered to Chair the Taskforce.

VIII. Level of Responsibility Workgroup Report

Co-Chair Harriott welcomed Ms. Temple-Plotz to continue on with the Level of Responsibility Report. Ms. Temple-Plotz began with explaining that the name of the Level of Care Workgroup was changed to the Level of Responsibility Workgroup. Subsequently all references within the NCR tool were changed to reflect this change as well. The goal was to further establish the switch of using foster parent levels of responsibility in determining payment as opposed to the level of need of the youth.

The next item Ms. Temple-Plotz covered was the disparity between a child's level of need and placement. In past meetings the Committee members had examined situations where the child's need was higher than what the foster parent's level of responsibility ability was. The group had struggled with how to address these situations and had asked that the Foster Family-based Treatment Association (FFTA) be contacted to look into the matter.

A questionnaire was given to the FFTA to distribute to all member agencies. FFTA reached out to their member agencies multiple times requesting responses. Only three agencies indicated that this issue was occurring and the instances were minimal. Ms. Temple-Plotz felt that this was a positive sign that foster parents were taking on appropriate youth to match their level of responsibilities.

Chair Harriott questioned if there were youth who were not being placed because neither foster parent nor agency had the support to take them on. Stacy Scholten indicated that the number of cases where placement was difficult usually stemmed from transportation complications, and each of the cases found a solution that worked for the parties involved. Susan Henrie noted that the cases with high level of needs and low level of needs often balance out. The low number of responses showed signs that these occurrences were the exception rather than the norm.

The last items covered in the Level of Responsibility Workgroup report were the changes to the NCR tool. Ms. Temple-Plots went through the document notating the changes from the previous meeting in red and the new updates in blue. She stated that a final updated version would be submitted with the FCRRRC report in March. Ms. Scholten pointed out that the program memo number listed on page 10 of the tool should read #11-2014. Any other edits were to be directed to Ms. Temple-Plotz.

IX. Discussion of Commission Request for Treatment Component

Attention was turned to the motion of the Nebraska Children's Commission to add responsibilities to the duties of the FCRRRC. The motion was for the Committee to use their existing work to look into treatment options for youth in out-of-home placement who were unable to find placement. Co-Chair Harriot explained that the motion could mean many things for the group. Some areas to look into would be treatment care that could make use of Medicaid funds, a professional level of foster care, as well as many other options.

Dave Newell, President and CEO of Nebraska Families Collaborative, expanded on the use of Medicaid funds. While the current Medicaid plan structure was not conducive to use by foster agencies, 2016 will see a change in the plan. Mr. Newell did highlight that funding would not be exclusive to Medicaid, but would be used in conjunction with other funding sources. The members deliberated on how to use multiple funding streams to help youth in need of treatment care.

The subject of how to bring treatment professionals into the foster care system arose. Debate ensued regarding the appropriateness of providing additional supports to any specific group of foster parents. The group agreed that there needed to be efforts to both pull in new foster parents and support current foster parents in a way that ensured healthy homes for all foster families.

Co-Chair Gene Klein, focused the group on deciding how to move forward with the new charge given to the Committee. He listed several steps in the process that needed attention including researching what other states are doing in regards to levels of treatment foster care, what options had Nebraska previously utilized that may be of benefit with additional funding, what funding options were available, and what kind of timeline the group would operate on.

Lana Temple-Plotz moved to accept the recommendation from the Nebraska Children's Commission to look into treatment care options for youth in out-of-home care. It was seconded by Anne Hobbs. Discussion regarding the motion included input from Mr. Loud. He shared the thought that with the current work and research the group was already working on, that history on the subject should be gathered before taking on such a large task. Roll Call Vote as follows:

FOR (12):

Jodie Austin
 Jude Dean
 Peg Harriott
 Susan Henrie

Anne Hobbs
 Vanessa Humaran
 Gene Klein
 Felicia Nelsen

Dave Newell
 Lana Temple-Plotz
 Julia Tse
 Michaela Young

AGAINST (1):

Bobby Loud

ABSTAINED (2):

Phillip Burrell

Leigh Esau

ABSENT (3):

Corrie Edwards

Jackie Meyer

Sherry Moore

MOTION CARRIED

Gene Klein asked for volunteers to participate the Treatment Foster Care Workgroup to first examine the levels of treatment care in other states. Volunteers for the Workgroup included:

- Jodi Austin as Chair
- Jude Dean
- Dave Newell
- Lana Temple-Plotz
- Julia Tse
- Nanette Simmons
- Felicia Nelson
- Stacey Scholten

X. Review of Timeline and Update on July 2016 Legislative Report

All information regarding the timeline for the July 2016 Legislative Report was covered under previous Agenda Items.

XI. Review of Assignments/Action Plan

Chair Harriott reviewed the decisions and items to address when moving forward. Below is a list of the final assignments/action plans.

- The Foster Parent Survey Taskforce will work to have results to provide at the next FCRRRC meeting.
 - The Level of Responsibility Workgroup will await the survey results to see if any further changes need to be made to the NCR tool.
- The Treatment Foster Care Workgroup will present information at the next FCRRRC meeting regarding the national trends regarding treatment care.

XII. New Business

There was no New Business to discuss.

XIII. Upcoming Meeting Planning

The next FCRRRC meeting would be scheduled sometime during the second week in February. A doodle poll would be sent out to determine a date.

XIV. Adjourn

Bobby Loud motioned to adjourn. Jodi Austin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

12/17/2015
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