

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

Thirteenth Meeting
February 10, 2016
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 1:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Committee Members present (13):

Jodie Austin	Peg Harriott	Lana Temple-Plotz
Phillip Burrell (1:10)	Susan Henrie	Julia Tse
Jude Dean	Gene Klein	Michaela Young
Corrie Edwards	Jackie Meyer	
Leigh Esau	Felicia Nelsen	

Committee Members absent (5):

Dr. Anne Hobbs	Bobby Loud	Dave Newell
Vanessa Humaran	Sherry Moore	

Ex Officio Members present (3):

Jerrilyn Crankshaw	Stacy Scholten	Nanette Simmons (1:22)
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Ex Officio Members absent (5):

Michele Anderson	Karen Knapp	Doug Weinberg
Jeanne Brandner	Sherrie Spilde	

A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (3):

Robin Chadwell.....	Nebraska Families Collaborative
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 January 26, 2016 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 Jackie Meyer. No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (12):

Jodie Austin
Jude Dean
Corrie Edwards
Leigh Esau

Peg Harriott
Susan Henrie
Gene Klein
Jackie Meyer

Felicia Nelsen
Lana Temple-Plotz
Julia Tse
Michaela Young

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Phillip Burrell
Dr. Anne Hobbs

Vanessa Humaran
Bobby Loud

Sherry Moore
Dave Newell

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Lana Temple-Plotz moved to approve the December 9, 2016 FCRRRC meeting minutes as presented. Julia Tse seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (12):

Jodie Austin
Jude Dean
Corrie Edwards
Leigh Esau

Peg Harriott
Susan Henrie
Gene Klein
Jackie Meyer

Felicia Nelsen
Lana Temple-Plotz
Julia Tse
Michaela Young

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Phillip Burrell
Dr. Anne Hobbs

Vanessa Humaran
Bobby Loud

Sherry Moore
Dave Newell

MOTION CARRIED

V. Co-Chair's Report

Co-Chair Harriott began the report by reminding the Committee of the goal to complete recommendations to present to the Nebraska Children's Commission at their next meeting on March 15, 2016. The timeline would allow for the Commission to review and request any necessary changes prior to the report due date of July 1, 2016.

VI. Public Comment

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

VII. Foster Parent Survey Update

Jude Dean, a Foster Parent Representative and Chair of the Foster Parent Survey Taskforce, presented the information gathered from the survey. The intention of the survey was to gather information on the experiences of foster parents with the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility (NCR) Tool. The survey was distributed to foster parents by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Foster Family-Based Treatment Association (FFTA), and Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (NFAPA). Results were compiled by staff of the Nebraska Children's Commission.

A copy of the presentation showing the aggregate data would be made available for review on the Children's Commission website. In summary, the data indicated that the NCR tool was performing as intended and would only require minor changes. Discussion topics included the need for ongoing education and training on the NCR for both administering staff and foster parents and the push for a culture shift to recognize the NCR as a tool to determine foster parent responsibility rather than youth needs. Additional areas of concern were ensuring that foster parents knew the process for filing a grievance, that all involved parties were present in the completion of the NCR, that a copy of the NCR was being provided to the foster parents, and that foster parents knew that the NCR can be completed at the request of the foster parent contingent on a significant change in the level of responsibility provided.

VIII. Level of Responsibility (LOR) Workgroup Update and Recommendations

The conversation transitioned to Lana Temple-Plotz, Chief Program Officer with the Nebraska Children's Home Society and Chair of the LOR Workgroup, for discussion on the changes within the NCR tool. A handout was provided with first round changes noted in red, second round changes in blue, and final changes shown in purple. The most recent round of changes focused on LOR 8 and altering verbiage to reflect life skills more broadly.

After lengthy discussion, it was moved by Michaela Young and seconded by Jodie Austin to approve the NCR tool with the following changes:

- **The addition of an explanation of the grievance process for caregivers with concerns over the NCR scoring on page one**
- **Removal of the reference to the CANS assessment on page one**
- **Inclusion of the acronym (RPPS) after Reasonable and Prudent Parenting Standard on page one**
- **Inclusion of the acronym (LOR) after Level of Responsibility on page one.**
- **Alter the reference to SDM to read "current assessment model."**

No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (13):

Jodie Austin
Phillip Burrell
Jude Dean
Corrie Edwards
Leigh Esau

Peg Harriott
Susan Henrie
Gene Klein
Jackie Meyer
Felicia Nelsen

Lana Temple-Plotz
Julia Tse
Michaela Young

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Dr. Anne Hobbs
Vanessa Humaran

Bobby Loud
Sherry Moore

Dave Newell

MOTION CARRIED

IX. FCRRRC Legislative Report

The Committee members reviewed the conversation from the day. It was moved by Lana Temple-Plotz and seconded by Jodie Austin to accept the following recommendations:

- Foster Care Base Rates will remain unchanged
- All parties including foster parent, the assigned worker, and the child placing agency worker (if applicable) should be present at the completion of the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility (NCR) tool
- Continued use of the NCR tool with the changes identified by the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC)
- The FCRRC will continue to follow the usage and results of the NCR tool
- Pre-assessment rates will remain unchanged
- Training, quality assurance, and an education plan must be implemented to ensure appropriate use of the NCR tool
- Continue the requirement for Probation to supply a written report regarding their payment rates

No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (13):

Jodie Austin
Phillip Burrell
Jude Dean
Corrie Edwards
Leigh Esau

Peg Harriott
Susan Henrie
Gene Klein
Jackie Meyer
Felicia Nelsen

Lana Temple-Plotz
Julia Tse
Michaela Young

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Dr. Anne Hobbs
Vanessa Humaran

Bobby Loud
Sherry Moore

Dave Newell

MOTION CARRIED

X. Treatment Foster Care Workgroup Update

Co-Chair Harriott invited Jodie Austin, President of KVC Nebraska and Chair of the Treatment Foster Care Workgroup, to provide an update. Ms. Austin updated the members on a federal bill to be referred to as the Wyden-Hatch Bill that would provide language to define treatment foster care. She indicated that she would keep the FCRRRC updated on the progress of the bill.

Ms. Austin went on to describe the current action plan of the Treatment Foster Care Workgroup. Steps included examining national definitions of treatment foster care and their purpose, looking at other out-of-home continuums using FFTA as a resource, and developing preliminary recommendations on how to move forward. Since the charge of the Workgroup was not required by the Legislature, the timeline for completion was determined as flexible.

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.

- Lana Temple-Plotz would work with Children's Commission Staff to prepare a final copy of the NCR tool.

- The Co-Chairs would work with staff to create a report for submission to the Children’s Commission.
- The Treatment Foster Care Workgroup would continue to meet and report on progress at the next FCRRRC meeting.

XII. New Business

Leigh Esau, Executive Director of Foster CARE Closets, was given the floor to share information on the Foster CARE Closet program. Ms. Esau informed the FCRRRC that the program had entered into a contract with DHHS to provide the minimum clothing allotment as youth enter care. She noted that several locations were operational including Lincoln, Omaha, and Scottsbluff with the potential for three additional locations in Norfolk, North Platte, and Grand Island. Until all of the sites are operational, Ms. Esau encouraged statewide referrals noting that the organization would work to ensure the youth had the necessary clothing.

XIII. Upcoming Meeting Planning

The next FCRRRC meeting would be scheduled contingent on the progress of the Treatment Foster Care Workgroup progress. A doodle poll would be sent out to determine a date which would most likely fall in April or May.

XIV. Adjourn

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

02/24/2016
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