

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

Seventeenth Meeting

August 24, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Nebraska State Office Building, Lower Level Room B

301 Centennial Mall S, Lincoln, NE 68508

**1. Call to Order**

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The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) Co-Chairs, Peg Harriott and Bill Williams, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

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*Committee Members present (13):*

|                        |                       |                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Jodie Austin           | Dr. Anne Hobbs (9:53) | Joan Schwan       |
| Phillip Burrell (9:16) | Jessica Kroeker       | Lana Temple-Plotz |
| Robin Chadwell         | Bobby Loud (9:33)     | Bill Williams     |
| Peg Harriott           | Felicia Nelsen        |                   |
| Susan Henrie (9:16)    | Cindy Rudolph         |                   |

*Committee Members absent (3):*

|                 |              |           |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|
| Vanessa Humaran | Jackie Meyer | Julia Tse |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|

*Ex Officio Members present (2):*

|                    |                 |               |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Jerrilyn Crankshaw | Rochelle Dotson | Kari Rumbaugh |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|

*Ex Officio Members absent (6):*

|              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Olivia Biggs | Stacy Scholten |
| Mike Puls    | Kathleen Stolz |

A quorum was established.

*Guests in Attendance (4):*

|                       |                                                           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Manuel Escamilla..... | DHHS, Division of Children & Family Services              |
| Amanda Felton.....    | Nebraska Children's Commission                            |
| Chris Jones.....      | Nebraska Children's Commission                            |
| Nanette Simmons.....  | DHHS, Division of Children & Family Services              |
| Tami Soper.....       | Nebraska Legislative Council, Office of Senator Kate Bolz |
| Lisa Story.....       | Foster Parent/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 and Nebraska Children's Commission website 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 entrance of the meeting room.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

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A motion was made by Jodie Austin to approve the [agenda](#) as presented. The motion was seconded by Lana Temple-Plotz. No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

**FOR (9):**

|                |                 |                   |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Jodie Austin   | Jessica Kroeker | Joan Schwan       |
| Robin Chadwell | Felicia Nelsen  | Lana Temple-Plotz |
| Peg Harriott   | Cindy Rudolph   | Bill Williams     |

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (0):**

**ABSENT (7):**

|                 |                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Phillip Burrell | Vanessa Humaran | Julia Tse |
| Susan Henrie    | Bobby Loud      |           |
| Dr. Anne Hobbs  | Jackie Meyer    |           |

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **4. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes**

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Lana Temple-Plotz moved to approve the [April 10, 2017 FCRRRC meeting minutes](#). Felicia Nelsen seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

**FOR (9):**

|                |                 |                   |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Jodie Austin   | Jessica Kroeker | Joan Schwan       |
| Robin Chadwell | Felicia Nelsen  | Lana Temple-Plotz |
| Peg Harriott   | Cindy Rudolph   | Bill Williams     |

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (0):**

**ABSENT (7):**

|                 |                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Phillip Burrell | Vanessa Humaran | Julia Tse |
| Susan Henrie    | Bobby Loud      |           |
| Dr. Anne Hobbs  | Jackie Meyer    |           |

**MOTION CARRIED**

### **5. Membership Update**

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Members present did introductions. The Co-Chairs thanked and welcomed the [new members](#) of the Committee.

### **6. Co-Chair Report**

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Co-Chair Harriott began by informing the members of the current sunset date of the Nebraska Children's Commission (Commission) on June 30, 2019. She reminded member the per [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4216](#), the FCRRRC would continue in the event that the Commission was terminated. The Co-Chair also discussed the work that happened on the Kinship and Relative Care Workgroup of the Commission. The group was a separate entity from the FCRRRC, but had overlapping membership. She reviewed the [final recommendations](#) that were forwarded to DHHS.

The last item under the Co-Chair report was the [reference of the FCRRRC](#) in the Auditor of Public Accounts Audit of DHHS. She noted that the audit did not have issue with the foster parent reimbursement rate, but rather the rates set for the child placing agencies. While the Committee had not been asked to any action regarding the audit, but staff would research the past work done in establishing rates regardless. Efforts would

be made to ensure collaboration with DHHS and their work towards a comprehensive rate study as referenced in the Audit, for inclusion in the 2020 FCRRR report.

## **7. Public Comment**

The Co-Chairs invited any members of the public forward for comment. No public comment was given.

## **8. Treatment Family Care Workgroup Update**

Jodie Austin, Chair of the Treatment Foster Care (TFC) Workgroup, began her update by referring members to the current draft of the [TFC Service Definition](#) from the workgroup. She informed the Committee that DHHS had recently forwarded their [draft service definition for Therapeutic Foster Care](#) (ThFC) for review and feedback. The workgroup had gone through the ThFC document and [outlined the areas of divergence](#) from the workgroup's TFC definition.

Austin stated that the workgroup had shared feedback with Medicaid representatives and planned to meet to discuss potential alignment. Members felt that the draft service recommendation, as completed by the workgroup, was ready to move forward in determining a rate structure.

**Lana Temple-Plotz moved to approve the Treatment Family Care Workgroup service definition with the following adjustments: 1) The last paragraph on page 3 in italics should read "TFC service staff..." 2) The same paragraph should expand the individuals able to provide ongoing and regular clinical supervision to include Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioners.**

**Robin Chadwell seconded the motion.** No further discussion occurred. Roll call vote as follows:

### **FOR (13):**

Jodie Austin  
Phillip Burrell  
Robin Chadwell  
Peg Harriott  
Susan Henrie

Dr. Anne Hobbs  
Jessica Kroeker  
Bobby Loud  
Felicia Nelsen  
Cindy Rudolph

Joan Schwan  
Lana Temple-Plotz  
Bill Williams

### **AGAINST (0):**

### **ABSTAINED (0):**

### **ABSENT (3):**

Vanessa Humaran

Jackie Meyer

Julia Tse

### **MOTION CARRIED**

## **9. Level of Responsibility Workgroup Update**

Lana Temple-Plotz, Chair of the Level of Responsibility Workgroup, began by reviewing the updates to the [Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility \(NCR\) Tool](#). Members discussed the policies and procedures in place for completion of the tool. Bobby Loud noted that the section clarifying timelines for completion of the tool was helpful, but that there was additional need for staff training to ensure that the NCR tool was completed with input from the foster parent. Temple-Plotz discussed the necessary shift in culture and philosophy when completing the tool. She emphasized that the tool was to be completed through the lens of the responsibilities the caregiver was willing to take on in relation to the care of a youth, which was a shift from the previous process that focused on the needs of the youth. While training on the NCR was the responsibility of DHHS and PromiseShip, Temple-Plotz noted that she and members of the workgroup were available as resources.

There was discussion on the potential lag in payment due to delayed signatures. Nanette Simmons, Administrator with DHHS, noted that the supervisor signature should be removed from the tool since DHHS no longer required it after recognizing that it may have caused undue delay. She went on to explain that the payment amount is generated once the NCR tool is uploaded to the Nebraska Family On-line Client User System (N-FOCUS). For staff completing the form electronically submission is immediate. For workers completing it on paper, if there is a delay in scanning it into the system, that may result in a delay in payment

generation. A draft memo was in progress to clarify that payment was effective on the date of signature, regardless of when entered in the system.

Temple-Plotz then moved discussion to the draft [Nebraska Adoptive Parent Responsibility \(NAPR\) Tool](#). She noted that the document was created with the input of DHHS. Members questioned how the adoption subsidy would be affected by the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). Simmons noted that there was a pilot in progress that were in response to the IV-E and Medicaid eligibility changes in the FFPSA. In an effort to keep the discussion focused on the tool, she encouraged members to call or email her with any questions or input on the pilot after the meeting.

**It was moved by Bobby Loud and seconded by Jodie Austin to approve the updates to the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility Tool and the draft Nebraska Adoptive Parent Responsibility Tool with the following amendments:**

- **NCR Tool: 1) Update any reference to foster parent to read as Caregiver; 2) Update reference to PALS Specialist in LOR8-L3 to Independent Living specialist; 3) Remove the CFS/FPS Supervisor signature line; 4) Update any other grammatical or formatting errors as necessary**
- **NAPR Tool: 1) bold the “and/or” within LOR1-L2 to emphasize that the variances in youth cases and plan types; 2) Update the second bullet in LOR7-L2 to read, “with other professionals and/or case managers;” 3) Update any other grammatical or formatting errors as necessary**

There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

**FOR (13):**

Jodie Austin  
Phillip Burrell  
Robin Chadwell  
Peg Harriott  
Susan Henrie

Dr. Anne Hobbs  
Jessica Kroeker  
Bobby Loud  
Felicia Nelsen  
Cindy Rudolph

Joan Schwan  
Lana Temple-Plotz  
Bill Williams

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (0):**

**ABSENT (3):**

Vanessa Humaran

Jackie Meyer

Julia Tse

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10. Probation Update**

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Kari Rumbaugh provided an update on the work of the Juvenile Services Division of the Administrative Office of Probation. She provided a [handout](#) to members on the division’s use of Professional Foster Care. Rumbaugh explained that the goal of the service was to ensure that the higher risk, probation involved youth were able to be placed in more family-like settings. It was noted that probation was open to expansion of the service through more providers, particularly in the western service area of the state.

**XI. Review of Assignments/Action Plan**

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The Committee Co-Chairs reviewed the decisions and items to address when moving forward. Below is a list of the final assignments/action plans.

- A Treatment Foster Care Workgroup update would be presented to the Nebraska Children’s Commission at their November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The TFC Workgroup would meet with Medicaid representatives to discuss areas of divergence between service definitions.

- The NCR and NAPR tools would be forwarded to the Nebraska Children’s Commission for final approval.

**XII. New Business**

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There was no new business.

**XIII. Upcoming Meeting Planning**

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The Committee Co-Chairs would partner with staff to outline a plan of action and timeline for meetings for the next year.

**XIV. Adjourn**

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The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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