

Nebraska Children's Commission
Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

Sixteenth Meeting

April 10, 2017

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Southeast Community College, Room U-106

8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68520

I. Call to Order

The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) Co-Chair, Peg Harriott, called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Committee Members present (12):

Jodie Austin
Phillip Burrell
Jude Dean
Peg Harriott

Dr. Anne Hobbs
Bobby Loud (1:37)
Jackie Meyer
Felicia Nelsen

Dave Newell
Lana Temple-Plotz
Julia Tse
Michaela Young

Committee Members absent (5):

Corrie Edwards
Leigh Esau

Susan Henrie
Vanessa Humaran

Sherry Moore

Ex Officio Members present (2):

Nanette Simmons

Sherrie Spilde

Ex Officio Members absent (6):

Michele Anderson
Jeanne Brandner

Jerrilyn Crankshaw
Karen Knapp

Stacy Scholten
Doug Weinberg

A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (4):

Robin Chadwell.....	Nebraska Families Collaborative
Bethany Connor Allen.....	Nebraska Children's Commission
Amanda Felton.....	Nebraska Children's Commission
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.

III. Approval of Agenda

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 (11):

Jodie Austin
Phillip Burrell
Jude Dean
Peg Harriott

Dr. Anne Hobbs
Jackie Meyer
Felicia Nelsen
Dave Newell

Lana Temple-Plotz
Julia Tse
Michaela Young

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (6):

Corrie Edwards
Leigh Esau

Susan Henrie
Vanessa Humaran

Bobby Loud
Sherry Moore

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Lana Temple-Plotz moved to approve the October 11, 2016 FCRRRC meeting minutes with the changes mentioned above. Jude Dean seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (10):

Jodie Austin
Phillip Burrell
Jude Dean
Peg Harriott

Jackie Meyer
Felicia Nelsen
Dave Newell
Lana Temple-Plotz

Julia Tse
Michaela Young

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1):

Dr. Anne Hobbs

ABSENT (6):

Corrie Edwards
Leigh Esau

Susan Henrie
Vanessa Humaran

Bobby Loud
Sherry Moore

MOTION CARRIED

V. Co-Chair Report

Co-Chair Harriot welcomed Dave Newell in his new role as Co-Chair of the Committee. She went on to acknowledge the effects of the budget on many of the stakeholders present at the meeting. The Co-Chair offered thanks to the many Committee subgroups who worked on initiatives that would help support the needs of Nebraska's foster youth during this time of limited funding.

VI. Public Comment

Chair Harriott invited any members of the public forward. Lisa Story introduced herself as a foster parent and member of the Nebraska Children's Commission. She expressed interest in the work of the Treatment Family Care Workgroup, being a foster parent of youth with treatment needs herself.

VII. Probation Update

Probation representatives were unable to attend the meeting, and the update was postponed until the next meeting.

VIII. Update on the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility (NCR) Tool

a. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Nanette Simmons, Administrator with the DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services (CFS), provided an update. She noted that DHHS was examining the approval process for the NCR tool to become more efficient. One barrier uncovered was the delay caused, especially in rural areas, by the need for supervisor approvals of the tool. Work was being done to determine if a signature approval was necessary for the process or if approval within NFOCUS would be sufficient.

Simmons also noted that efforts had begun to examine the potential of the tool to be available to staff electronically. Jodie Austin, President of KVC Nebraska, indicated that their systems had recently converted many of its processes to digital format and could offer technical support, if needed.

b. Nebraska Families Collaborative (NFC)

Robin Chadwell, Vice President of Family Services with Nebraska Families Collaborative, provided the update for NFC. Chadwell highlighted the complications that occur in situations where payment rates decrease. She noted that advance notice of rate change would assist both the family and agency in preparing for the adjustment.

Chadwell also discussed the recent concern surrounding the timeframes that accompany when a child changes placement from one home to another. It is necessary to discuss with the parents the potential responsibilities that the foster family will take on, but it is difficult to know for sure how the balance of the new placement will impact those responsibilities. Member discussion also pointed to the culture shift from viewing the NCR tool as a measurement of the child's needs, to one of the responsibilities that the foster parent is able to take on.

The group discussed the potential changes to both the NCR tool and DHHS policy to address the issues raised. The group voiced the need for the tool to include information on the transition time between changes in reimbursement rates and clarification on the timeframes for completion of the tool when a child/youth moves placements. Other suggestions included to have a fact sheet written in plain language for the foster parents to retain after completion of the NCR tool. It was decided that the Level of Responsibility Workgroup would reconvene to examine these updated to the NCR tool.

IX. Treatment Family Care Workgroup Update

Jodie Austin, Chair of the Treatment Foster Care (TFC) Workgroup and President of KVC Nebraska, began her update by discussing the basic elements. Austin noted the efforts the group to examine the existing information from the Nebraska Medicaid Regulations, Nebraska Medicaid State Plan Amendment, Treatment Foster Care Oregon, Family Focused Treatment Association (FFTA) Guidelines, and Professional Foster Care program information from Nebraska Families Collaborative. The workgroup had identified a series of service elements upon which a rate structure would be built. Austin highlighted the change in name to Treatment Family Care to ensure that it was not restrictive in who could receive treatment.

Austin went on to explain the various elements including agency licensing requirements, guidelines for program use, determination as to if treatment was clinically necessary, staffing patterns, multi-disciplinary team involvement, treatment plan, and role and support to treatment parents. It was clarified the treatment parents were not required to be stay-at-home parents, but must be available for crisis or emergency situations. Additional training would be required of the treatment parents with training looking different depending on if the placement was in the biological home, a traditional foster home, or kinship/relative foster home.

The issue of medically fragile youth came up in discussion. The workgroup had recommended that the medically fragile population be examined under the banner of the Level of Responsibility Workgroup. It was felt that the reimbursement rate for this population should be folded into the NCR tool as a level of care. There was debate as to if this was the most appropriate action as it did not match up with national standards. Due to the intricacies in funding for medically fragile, additional research on how to tackle this population would be folded into future work of the Level of Responsibility Workgroup.

Next steps included approval from the Committee to share the service description with the Children's Commission for feedback at their next meeting, building of a rate structure based on the approved service description, and research and work towards the statutory and regulatory changes that would be required to implement Treatment Family Care.

Bobby Loud moved to approve that the Treatment Family Care Workgroup service definition advance to the Nebraska Children's Commission. Jackie Meyer seconded the motion. No further discussion occurred. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (12):

Jodie Austin
Phillip Burrell
Jude Dean
Peg Harriott

Dr. Anne Hobbs
Bobby Loud
Jackie Meyer
Felicia Nelsen

Dave Newell
Lana Temple-Plotz
Julia Tse
Michaela Young

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Corrie Edwards
Leigh Esau

Susan Henrie
Vanessa Humaran

Sherry Moore

MOTION CARRIED

X. Member Update

a. Nebraska Foster Parent Advocacy Network

Bobby Loud shared information on a new group that he had recently formed called the Nebraska Foster Parent Advocacy Network. It was a small group of foster parents who met on a monthly basis that discuss an array of topics important to foster parents in the Omaha community. The group hopes to open up their meetings to educational presentations from system organizations and stakeholders. Additional information on the group would be distributed after the meeting and made available on the Children's Commission website.

XI. Review of Assignments/Action Plan

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

- Treatment Foster Care Workgroup update to be presented to the Nebraska Children's Commission at their April 18th meeting.
- The TFC Workgroup would continue their efforts toward a rate structure and report back to the FCRRRC at their next meeting.
- The Level of Responsibility Workgroup would reconvene to discuss updates to the NCR tool and research the potential of a level of care that encompasses the medically fragile population. This workgroup was also tasked with adjusting language within the tool to reflect its use in determining adoption subsidies. Updates from the Workgroup would be provided at the next FCRRRC meeting.

XII. New Business

There was no new business.

XIII. Upcoming Meeting Planning

A meeting would be planned for June or July. A survey of member availability would go out to determine the date of the next meeting.

XIV. Adjourn

Bobby Loud motioned to adjourn. **Lana Temple-Plotz** seconded the motion. **There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

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