



## Nebraska Children's Commission

1225 L Street, Suite 401

Lincoln, NE 68508

10/15/2018

Director Matt Wallen  
301 Centennial Mall South  
PO BOX 95026  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Director Wallen,

The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee is charged by the Nebraska Legislature ([Nebr. Rev. Stat. §43-4217](#)) with making recommendations on foster care reimbursement rates, creation and monitoring of a statewide standardized level of responsibility assessment, and adoption assistance payments. Specifically, as it relates to adoption assistance payments, "The committee shall review and make recommendations on assistance payments to adoptive parents as required by section [§43-117](#). The committee shall make recommendations to ensure that changes in foster care reimbursement rates do not become a disincentive to permanency."

As the Co-Chairs of the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC), we are writing to you in response to an email dated September 21, 2018 from Nanette Simmons regarding "Adoption Subsidy Pilot." The email outlined an adoption subsidy pilot, reimbursement rate structure and methodology, and invitation for feedback by October 15, 2018.

The email from Nanette Simmons went on to state this was a pilot in the Southeast Service Area, with plans to expand statewide. Because adoption assistance payments are within our statutory committee's purview for review, report, and recommendation, we want to extend an invitation for DHHS to present the pilot to our FCRRC and discuss further prior to wide scale implementation. We welcome and invite a presentation from the DHHS Division of Children & Family Services at our next FCRRC meeting regarding the DCFS Adoption Subsidy Pilot Program, rate structure methodology and implementation plan for program development. The next meeting is Monday, November 5, 2018 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at Southeast Community College, located at 8800 O Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

In preparation for the FCRRC's next report and recommendations to the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature in early 2020, the Committee will be working diligently throughout 2019 to provide a progress report and recommendations regarding the reimbursement rates for Nebraska foster and adoptive parents. As members of the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee, we welcome DHHS-DCFS members to collaborate in their efforts to enhance the adoption subsidy program, as has occurred in the past with the creation of the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility Tool, and the Nebraska Adoptive Parent Responsibility Tool.

The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee looks forward to partnering with DCFS on these projects.

Sincerely,

Peg Harriott, Co-Chair  
Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee,  
Nebraska Children's Commission  
[pharriott@childsaving.org](mailto:pharriott@childsaving.org)

Bill Williams, Co-Chair  
Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee,  
Nebraska Children's Commission  
[bill@compassnebraska.org](mailto:bill@compassnebraska.org)