

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

September 3, 2019
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
CEDARS Northbridge
1533 North 27th, Lincoln, NE 68503

1. Call to Order

The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) Co-Chairs, Peg Harriott and Bill Williams, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members present (8):

Phillip Burrell	Jackie Meyer (1:35 p.m)	Joan Schwan
Robin Chadwell	Felicia Nelsen	Bill Williams
Peg Harriott	Cindy Rudolph	

Committee Members absent (3):

Jessica Kroeker
Bobby Loud
Lana Temple-Plotz

Ex Officio Members present (4):

Olivia Biggs	Jennifer Potterf
Rochelle Dotson	Kari Rumbaugh

Ex Officio Members absent (2):

Mike Puls
Kathleen Stolz

A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (5):

Adam Anderson	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Lori Harder	DHHS – Children and Family Services
Chris Jones	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Darcy Kramer	Boys Town
Doug Kreifels	DHHS – Children and Family Services
Chrissy Tonkinson	Voices for Children in Nebraska
Lana Verbrigghe	Child Saving Institute

a. Notice of Publication

Recorder for the meeting, Adam Anderson, 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 would 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

A motion was made by Joan Schwan to approve the [agenda](#) as presented. The motion was seconded by Felicia Nelsen. No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (7):

Phillip Burrell	Felicia Nelsen	Bill Williams
Robin Chadwell	Cindy Rudolph	
Peg Harriott	Joan Schwan	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Jessica Kroeker	Jackie Meyer
Bobby Loud	Lana Temple-Plotz

MOTION CARRIED

4. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Felicia Nelsen moved to approve the [July 1, 2019 meeting minutes](#) as presented. Robin Chadwell seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (7):

Phillip Burrell	Felicia Nelsen	Bill Williams
Robin Chadwell	Cindy Rudolph	
Peg Harriott	Joah Schwan	

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (4):

Jessica Kroeker	Jackie Meyer
Bobby Loud	Lana Temple-Plotz

MOTION CARRIED

5. Co-Chair Report

a. Commission Status Update

Co-chair Williams turned the floor over to Chris Jones, from the Nebraska Children's Commission, to give an update on the Commission. Jones relayed to the committee that the Commission is awaiting appointments from the Governor. The commission hopes to have members appointed by October 2019. The Commission would also like to welcome Adam Anderson, as the new Administrative Assistant to the Commission. Jones informed the Committee members that there are the following committee positions up for appointment: DHHS Western Service Area Representative, a Contractor from the Western Service Area, and a Foster Parent contracted by DHHS in Western Service Area.

Co-chair Harriot added that committee member Joan Schwan will serve as a representative of St. Francis until one is appointed by St. Francis in the Eastern Service Area. Several committee members reached out the Harriott to offer their opinion that St. Francis should have representation to provide input on the foster care rates, as they will be in the position to utilize the rates. It was added by committee member Schwan that Jodi Austen from St. Francis is in the process of taking application

for Directors, and she will make the decision who will fill the position from the Eastern Service Area. Co-Chair Harriott reminded the committee that it is important to document the work and rationale behind the work that each workgroup is doing. Future iterations of the committee will benefit from thorough documentation.

b. Timeline Review

Nebraska Children's Commission staff member, Chris Jones drew the committee's attention to the [Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee Legislative Report Deadline and Committee Timeline](#) to emphasize the importance of reporting the recommendations of the individual workgroups to the Statutory Committee in order to get the committee's recommendations approved and into the report to then be sent up to the Children's Commission and approved at the February Commission Meeting.

6. Public Comment

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

7. Department of Health and Human Services Update

Nanette Simmons provided an update to the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee on behalf of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services. The rate increase for agencies and foster parents began July 1, 2019. No issues have been reported since the increase.

Lori Harder updated the Committee on the interim appointments of for the Division of Children and Family Services.

8. Probation Update

Kari Rumbaugh updated the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee on Division of Juvenile Probation. Juvenile Probation is looking into a rate increase that will stay in line with the 2% increase that DHHS began in July. Rumbaugh informed the Committee that research continues regarding additional services in the Western Service Area. Additionally, she updated the committee that Probation is working with St. Francis and KVC to build support in WSA regarding Emergency Professional Foster Care, in the event this service is more heavily needed as an alternative to congregate care stemming from the legislative changes in juvenile detention statutes.

9. Foster Parent Survey Update

Essential Rate and Foster Parent Survey Workgroup Co-leads Felicia Nelsen and Bill Williams turned the floor over to Chris Jones for an update on the Foster Parent Survey. Jones drew the Committee's attention to a [PowerPoint presentation](#), highlighting some of the quantitative results of the Nebraska Caregiver Responsibility (NCR) Tool. Jones also explained the background and purpose of the NCR Survey, and compared results to the previous survey, administered in 2016. The survey also contained survey comments from participants that will be reviewed and possibly incorporated into a revised version of the NCR.

Co-lead Williams noted that each area of the survey showed a quarter-point increase and there were no decreases.

Committee Member Joan Schwan pointed out that in her experience with the NCR, it was a thirty-minute discussion with the caseworker and was important to discuss what services the foster parent would agree to provide.

Discussion turned to a past recommendation of a pre-assessment rate – a rate that was five-dollars per day above the essential rate.

10. Essential Rate Methodology Presentation

Chrissy Tonkinson, Research Coordinator with Voices for Children, updated the Committee on the methodology and the proposed Essential Foster Care Reimbursement Rate. Tonkinson shared with the committee a [PowerPoint presentation](#) and [summary](#). Information filtered from the USDA's *Expenditures on Children by Families (2017)* were used, as the data contained in that report estimates the amounts that families actually spend on their children yearly, thus providing a more realistic estimate for the daily amount needed for a foster family to support children in their care.

11. Workgroup Discussion and Breakout Sessions

a. *Agency Administration & Support Rate Workgroup*

Co-chairs Cindy Rudolph and Darcy Kramer shared that a [survey](#) had been sent to provider agencies to assist in gather data on the costs to sustain their organization. Results were returned and the group has spent the last few weeks reviewing the results. The results showed mathematically an increase of level one and two but a decrease for level three. The group discussed the results as a way to incentivize level three and beyond. At the next meeting this group will have rates to look at.

b. *Base Rate & Foster Parent Survey Workgroup*

This group looked at the rates that Chrissy Tonkinson provided earlier in the meeting. These will be the rates that this group will make some minor changes in the computation of the rates. There will be a change in the explanation of the computation. These rates will be voted on at the next meeting.

c. *Level of Responsibility Workgroup*

The LOR group. FFTA had a small group that recommended language for the 4th tier of the NCR. At the last meeting this group looked at what suggested language will be accepted. Information from the foster parent survey will be incorporated. This group also looked at the inclusion probation language. Looking at other agencies that use professional foster care, there is often contractual obligations for the highest level of foster care. This group will also look at that information.

d. *Level of Responsibility & Treatment Family Care Rate Structure Workgroup*

Robin Chadwell, co-chair of this workgroup, shared that this group has what they would like to propose as the Medicaid and it is based on staffing levels required in the Treatment Family Care Proposal that was previously reviewed. That rate is \$108.95 per day. This group has also been looking at the admin support rate, and that is going to fall between \$66-80 per day depending on final essential, enhanced and intensive rate

12. Review of Assignments and Action Planning

All assignments for upcoming meetings need to be finalized in advance of the November 4, 2019 meeting, at which time the committee will vote and move recommendations up to the Children's Commission.

13. New Business

There was no new business.

14. Upcoming Meeting Planning

The Co-Chairs reminded members of the future Committee meeting dates which were:

- November 4, 2019
- January 6, 2020

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Anderson

Membership of FCRRRC Workgroups

Agency Administrative and Support Rate Workgroup	
Phillip Burrell	Cindy Rudolph (Co-Chair)
Darcy Kramer (Co-Chair)	Kari Rumbaugh
Jessica Kroeker	Bill Williams
Jackie Meyer	

Base Rate & Foster Parent Survey Workgroup	
Doug Kreifels	Chrissy Tonkinson
Bobby Loud	Amadi Watts
Felicia Nelsen (Co-Chair)	Bill Williams
Juliet Summers	

Level of Responsibility & Treatment Family Care Rates Workgroup	
Robin Chadwell (Co-Chair)	Kathleen Stolz
Bobby Loud	Lisa Story (Co-Chair)
Felicia Nelsen	Juliet Summers
Cindy Rudolph	Lana Verbrigghe
Kari Rumbaugh	

Level of Responsibility Workgroup	
Olivia Biggs	Jennifer Potterf
Manuel Escamillia	Mike Puls
Susan Henrie (resigned)	Kari Rumbaugh
Anne Hobbes (resigned)	Nanette Simmons
Jackie Meyer	Lana Temple-Plotz (Chairperson)
Felicia Nelsen	