

# Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee

## Historical Timeline

**LR37 (2011)** The FCRRC and the work charged to it are products of LR37 (2011), a legislative study created to review, investigate, and assess the effects of child welfare reform. LR37 found that foster parent compensation in Nebraska was inconsistent and lacking in a statewide standard. These findings indicated a need to create a basic statewide rate for compensation.

**LB820 (2012)** As a result of LR37, LB820 was introduced in January and signed April 2012. The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) was created under the Department of Health and Human Services.

- Make recommendations for a statewide standardized level of care assessment and foster care reimbursement rates.
- Base Rates recommended using USDA cost to raise a child in the Midwest
- Nebraska Care giver Responsibility (NCR) Tool established
- Focus moves from child's needs to the responsibilities of the Care Giver

### Recommendations:

- Create base rates for foster parents and for the parents to be paid directly, instead of through child placing service agencies.
- New base rates and direct payment to foster parents must be adequate to recruit and retain quality foster homes and would not have an adverse impact on the agencies that provide foster parent support.

**LB530 (2013)** Signed by Governor in July 2013. The FCRRC was continued, followed the administrative moved under the Nebraska Children's Commission to the Foster Care Review Office and additional formal requirements of the FCRRC.

- NCR pilot was authorized as a "statewide standardized assessment tool"
- FCRRC was established under the Nebraska Children's Commission; Membership was also established including voting and non-voting ex-officio membership
- Three focus areas emerged:
  1. Foster Care Rates
  2. Level of Care tool
  3. Impact on Adoption Subsidies
- Rate recommendations due July 2016 and every 4 years thereafter
- DHHS to implement FCRRC Rate Recommendations by 7/2014

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- Oct 2013** Rate Committee approves membership and holds its first meeting.
- NCR pilot results analyzed
  - Sub-workgroups established
- May 2014** The FCRRRC released its legislative report, following minor changes and approval by the Nebraska Children’s Commission.  
Recommendations included:
1. Base Rate
  2. Level of Care Rate
  3. Pre-Assessment Rate
  4. Agency Support Rate
  5. Makes upgrades to NCR tool
  6. Makes recommendations for implementation and training
  7. Makes recommendations for ongoing monitoring and reporting
  8. Makes recommendations for transportation costs in rural areas
- 2015** The FCRRRC continued work to refine the NCR, assess the appropriateness of the rates through the use of surveys and took on a special project.
- The Group Home Rate Sub-Committee was formed to develop a methodology for unbundling group home rates at the request of DHHS.
- The Group Home recommendations:
- A legislative review of group home quality of care, cost of care, and performance outcomes.
  - The legislative review must also identify the acuity of children and youth served when considering outcome based performance measures.
- March 2016** The FCRRRC released a legislative report highlighting
- Results of a foster parent survey
  - Recommendation of a pre-assessment rate to be used during the first 30 days of placement
  - Recommendations included modifications to the NCR including the RPPS, foster parent liability insurance among other recommendations
  - Training needs were identified and recommendations were made to further the ongoing implementation of the NCR.
- April 2017** Treatment Foster Care Service Definition advanced and approved.
- 2018** Further work to monitor the implementation of the FCRRRC including the following activities:
- Treatment Foster Care Service Definition modifications,
  - NCR tool enhancements, and
  - The development of an Adoptive parent NCR
  - Separate workgroup reported out on Kinship licensing and training work completed for DHHS.
  - Requested and received information on a DHHS adoption subsidy pilot.