

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

March 9, 2020

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Lincoln Community Foundation, 5th Floor Conference Room
215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68508

1. Call to Order

The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) Co-Chairs Peg Harriott and Bill Williams called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Committee Members present (9):

Peg Harriott	<i>Proxy for</i> Jennifer Potterf, <i>Nikki</i>	Lana Temple-Plotz
Liz Lovejoy-Brown (1:32 p.m.)	<i>Novak</i>	Bill Williams
Jackie Meyer (1:13 p.m.)	Cindy Rudolph	
Felicia Nelsen	Lisa Story	

Committee Members absent (3):

Phillip Burrell
Jessica Kroeker
Bobby Loud

Ex Officio Members present (3):

Doug Kreifels
Kari Rumbaugh
Kathleen Stolz

Ex Officio Members absent (3):

Olivia Biggs
Brenda Brooks
Mike Puls

A quorum was established.

Guests in Attendance (5):

Jodi Allen.....	Foster Care Review Office
Adam Anderson.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Darcy Kramer.....	Boys Town
Laura Opfer.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Nannette Simmons.....	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

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

FOR (7):

Peg Harriott
Felicia Nelsen
Proxy for Jennifer Potterf, Nikki Novak
Cindy Rudolph

Lisa Story
Lana Temple-Plotz
Bill Williams

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Phillip Burrell
Jessica Kroeker
Bobby Loud

Liz Lovejoy-Brown
Jackie Meyer

MOTION CARRIED

4. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Felicia Nelsen moved to approve the [January 6, 2020 minutes](#) as presented. Motion was seconded by Lana Temple-Plotz. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (7):

Peg Harriott
Felicia Nelsen
Proxy for Jennifer Potterf, Nikki Novak
Cindy Rudolph

Lisa Story
Lana Temple-Plotz
Bill Williams

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (5):

Phillip Burrell
Jessica Kroeker
Bobby Loud

Liz Lovejoy-Brown
Jackie Meyer

MOTION CARRIED

5. Co-Chair Report

Co-Chair Peg Harriot updated the Committee that all the items presented to the Commission have been approved. She noted that during the meeting there was good discussion regarding Probation, and that when the Committee looks toward sponsorship by a Senator, the Committee shall work to make sure that Probation is included in the rates recommendation. She added that during discussion, it was stated by Probation that the Nebraska Caregiver's Responsibility (NCR) is not a good fit for that agency, and that at this time Probation is not anticipating using that tool.

Lana Temple-Plotz noted that it was a good idea to divide the forwarded recommendations to the Commission, as it is easier to digest for the new Commission membership.

Harriot added that there was a lively discussion outside the purview and responsibility of this Committee regarding improvements that Commission members would like to see with foster care.

Doug Kreifels questioned if Probation doesn't use the NCR will they use the same foster care rates. Kari Rumbaugh answered by stating that Probation uses the Intensive Rate, but they utilize a different tool that looks at community safety rather than permanency. She added that Probation also utilizes a professional foster care at a rate currently at \$160 per day that was aligned with previous DHHS rate for professional foster care rate many years ago, and the amount that Promise Ship had been utilizing. Rumbaugh also noted that there is also an emergency foster care that is higher because there is an additional \$20 per day bed hold. Probation has always looked at Children and Family Services or DHHS to get the correct rates to make sure there is alignment.

6. Public Comment

Co-Chair Bill Williams opened the floor to public comment. Nannette Simmons offered comment that DHHS would like to have consistency across the agencies to avoid confusion to the foster parents if they are working with different state agencies. There have been previous discussions across the agencies and providers.

7. Remaining Recommendations to NCC

a. *Specialized Rate*

Peg Harriot shared that there was a subcommittee that met to discuss the 4th Tier rate. Laura Opfer shared that the Committee needs to look at amending the recommendation that Probation utilize the NCR. Rumbaugh added that care needs to be taken when looking at recommending utilization of the NCR. She added that Probation tried to take items from the NCR that were applicable to juvenile justice and apply them to their service definitions. Lana Temple-Plotz shared that the recommendation should look at the reasoning why the NCR is the same or different, what Probation has utilized from the NCR, and to incorporate the crosswalk of the NCR with Probation's tool for Foster Care. Temple-Plotz added that a description will help show that Probation has all the same pieces, just in terms of Probation's duties, for future reference. Members discussed the specific language changes from page 6 of the [workgroup recommendations](#). Temple-Plotz and Opfer will work together to edit specific language from the recommendation.

Peg Harriot discussed the two options for Specialized Rates from the [workgroup recommendations](#), pages 8 and 9. A small subcommittee met and recommended a rate of \$80, which is noted in the PowerPoint as Option A. Laura Opfer researched a Specialized Rate based on median Nebraska salary, and provided methodology in [handout 3.1](#). Opfer described a foster parent that is a caregiver for high needs youth works a part time job in order to meet the additional time commitment for the youth. Members discussed the two options at length. Members liked the idea of Option B being repeatable in the future and that it captures additional time commitment, however, members noted that additional language is needed to show how the additional time commitment is related to a child's need.

Liz Lovejoy-Brown noted that it is important to have a higher rate available to the tribes, as it is not currently available. She added that she believes that there is additional time spent by tribal parents in the form of transportation.

Members discussed that importance of including Tribes in the recommendations.

b. *4th Tier Agency Administrative Rate*

Darcy Kramer noted that after the changes from the last meeting, the Specialized Agency Rate will be north of \$74.80, regardless of the age range, based on changes in the foster care training ratios. Members discussed at length the reduction of the agency rate from current market rate may pose problems. Discussion continued regarding the training rate paid to the agency, and a ratio adjustment would be warranted in the licensing, training and recruiting rate to bring it closer in line with the agency's cost to support the 4th Tier foster parents.

c. *Treatment Family Care*

Peg Harriott shared that the recommendation in the report to the Legislature is that Medicaid develops this level of care, and adopts a Treatment Family Care Rate based on the previously approved [Service Definition and TFC Rate Recommendations](#).

Harriott noted that a Senator needs to pick up these recommendations to introduce legislation to enact the rates. Members discussed the process for identifying and working with the Legislature to draft a bill.

Jackie Meyer moved to approve the recommendations from the [PowerPoint](#) as discussed including: 1) Language changes to LOR Workgroup Annual Report to remove the Office of Probation, to include a fourth level of specialized level of responsibility, to include a recommendation that Probation incorporates these existing interpretations and definition into Probation guidelines, to include a recommendation incorporating tribes, to include a recommendation to institute the use of an NCR by DHHS and Saint Francis, and to include a recommendation for training regarding NCR. 2) Accept proposed Fourth Tier daily rate scale with changes to language that focuses on the child's needs. 3) Accept Fourth Tier Agency Rate with spreadsheet corrections that would put the rate closer to \$80 per day. 4) Approve Treatment Family Care Rate recommendations to the Commission with corrections in mathematical errors. Motion was seconded by Cindy Rudolph. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (9):

Peg Harriott
Felicia Nelsen
Liz Lovejoy-Brown
Jackie Meyer

Proxy for Jennifer Potterf, Nikki Novak

Cindy Rudolph
Lisa Story
Lana Temple-Plotz
Bill Williams

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (3):

Phillip Burrell
Jessica Kroeker
Bobby Loud

MOTION CARRIED

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Upcoming Meeting Planning

Co-Chair Williams noted that the April meeting will be cancelled, as the Committee has finalized all recommendations to for the Legislative Report.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m. Respectfully Submitted, Adam Anderson