

Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC)

February 22, 2022

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Zoom

And

Foster Care Review Office, Conference Room

1225 L Street, Suite 401

Lincoln, NE 68508

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Co-Chair, Felicia Nelsen, called the meeting of the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) to order at 1:04 p.m., and asked Adam Anderson to call roll and attendees to introduce themselves.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members present (5):

Phillip Burrell

Jackie Meyer (1:20 p.m.)

Lisa Story

Bobby Loud

Felicia Nelsen

Committee Members absent (4):

Liz Lovejoy-Brown

Cindy Rudolph

Jennifer Potterf

Lana Temple-Plotz

Ex-Officio Members present (2):

Brenda Brooks

Kathleen Stolz

Ex-Officio Members absent (2):

Kari Rumbaugh

Jennifer Runge

A quorum was established at 1:20 p.m.

Guests In Attendance (14):

Adam Anderson

Remonte Green

Laura Opfer

Ivy Bloom

Tawnyah Hansen

Brian Rader

Monica DeMent

Michaela Hirschman

Nannette Simmons

Manuel Escamilla

Darcy Kramer

Julie Smith

Rachel Folds

Alicia Mendez

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 Meeting 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 and on the Nebraska Children's Commission website.

III. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Lisa Story and seconded by Phillip Burrell to approve the agenda as presented.

There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (4):

Phillip Burrell	Felicia Nelsen
Jackie Meyer	Lisa Story

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1):

Bobby Loud

ABSENT (4):

Liz Lovejoy-Brown	Cindy Rudolph
Jennifer Potterf	Lana Temple Plotz

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Lisa Story to approve the July 19, 2021 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Phillip Burrell. There was no further discussion. Roll call vote as follows:

FOR (4):

Phillip Burrell	Felicia Nelsen
Jackie Meyer	Lisa Story

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (1):

Bobby Loud

ABSENT (4):

Liz Lovejoy-Brown	Cindy Rudolph
Jennifer Potterf	Lana Temple Plotz

MOTION CARRIED

V. Co-Chair Report

Co-Chair Nelsen noted the reason for bringing the workgroups together today, to receive an update from DHHS regarding the tiered rate recommendations for the NCR and the corresponding rates.

VI. Legislative Update

Laura Opfer shared a brief legislative history. She noted that LB 541 has been amended to add additional tiers and allows more flexibility for additions. Opfer shared that LB 541 was amended into LB 1173 and the

amendment on LB 1173 contains the wording from the original LB 541. She shared that feedback has been received from stakeholders and noted that some items are feasible for implementation by October and some that are good ideas for the future. LB 1173 has been added to General File and will be debated on the floor at some time in the near future

VII. DHHS Update

Michaela Hirschman shared a handout regarding the Foster Care Tiers Proposal Feedback. Hirschman discussed that requirements will be sent out to providers when they are ready to go. She is hoping to have it in May.

Laura Opfer asked about providers that do not apply for 4th and 5th tier responsibilities or kids that increase from 3rd tier. Hirschman noted that a decision about how to handle that situation hasn't been made yet. She noted that those circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis. She noted that once a provider has been approved it will renew automatically.

Hirschman discussed the training requirements and noted that she will share the updated definitions and the feedback handout soon. She continued that some of the discussion items will require regulation changes and will take longer to implement.

Ivy Bloom shared that feedback was included in the crosswalk. Bloom discussed the crosswalk with the changes contained. She shared that feedback has been incorporated into the agency definitions draft when feasible. Hirschman noted that she will provide a document with feedback broken down by short-term and long-term ability to incorporate.

Opfer provided feedback regarding incorporating wording about independent living assessments to connect the foster parents to transitional living services.

Foster parents shared their thoughts regarding one-on-one requirements and training for caseworkers. Members discussed additional requirements.

Hirschman and Nanette Simmons shared updates regarding the CANS assessment and how it has been incorporated into the discussion. Simmons noted that DHHS will begin by using the basic CANS assessment and then incorporated changes specific to Nebraska. She shared that further information will be coming, but the plan is to roll it out at the same time as the updated NCR. Simmons also shared that the Treatment Family Care (TFC) portion of LB 541 will constitute a 6th level of care, which will be implemented by October of 2023. When TFC is rolled out Medicaid will cover the Medicaid portion and DHHS will cover the out of home maintenance portion. She shared that the collaboration with Medicaid is ongoing.

Simmons and Hirschman noted that any feedback will be needed very soon for consideration. The definitions will move to the NFOCUS team on February 28, 2022 for implementation into NFOCUS. Hirschman noted that feedback is welcome at any time, not only prior to implementation.

Hirschman shared DHHS's next steps and noted that the timeline shared at previous workgroup meetings is still on track.

VIII. New Business

Adam Anderson asked attendees with contact information for Jennifer Potterf or Liz Lovejoy-Brown to reach out to him.

IX. Public Comment

Co-Chair Nelsen opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment.

X. Upcoming Meetings:

Felicia Nelsen noted that future meetings will be discussed as needed.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.