

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC)**

June 25, 2026
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Webex
&
Foster Care Review Office Conference Room
1225 L Street
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 1:40 p.m., and asked Adam Anderson to call roll and attendees to introduce themselves.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members present (6):

Theresa Goley
Liz Lovejoy-Brown
Jackie Meyer

Felicia Nelsen
Rachel Oakley
Brian Rader

Committee Members absent (2):

Sue Hamilton
Bobby Loud

Ex-Officio Members present (4):

Nichole Hersh
Brenda Brooks
Proxy for Kari Rumbaugh, Erin Curran
Proxy for Kathleen Stolz, Lana Verbrigghe

Ex-Officio Members absent (1):

Cydney Volker

A quorum was present.

Guests In Attendance (3):

Adam Anderson
Dwand Hall

Julie Pham

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 Brian Rader and seconded by Liz Lovejoy Brown to approve the agenda as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (6):

Theresa Goley
Liz Lovejoy-Brown
Jackie Meyer

Felicia Nelsen
Rachel Oakley
Brian Rader

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (2):

Sue Hamilton
Bobby Loud

MOTION CARRIED

IV. Approval of September 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Brian Rader and seconded by Theresa Goley to approve the September 17, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. There was no further discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (6):

Theresa Goley
Liz Lovejoy-Brown
Jackie Meyer

Felicia Nelsen
Rachel Oakley
Brian Rader

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (2):

Sue Hamilton
Bobby Loud

MOTION CARRIED

V. LB 346 Next Steps: Subcommittee Transition

Adam Anderson provided an update on the structural transition mandated by last year's Children's Commission vote. Effective July 1, the FCRRRC will officially become a subcommittee under the Nebraska Children's Commission.

Key Discussion Points:

- **Open Meetings Act:** As an internal subcommittee of the Children's Commission, the group will no longer be strictly bound by the Open Meetings Act, eliminating the restrictive mandate that 50% of meetings must be attended in person.

- **Operational Rules:** Following the framework established by the Bridge to Independence (B2I) Advisory Committee, the group discussed maintaining its traditional statutory membership rules, public notifications (minimum 2 weeks notice), formal agendas/minutes, and quorum-based voting to preserve credibility.
- **Flexibility & Accessibility:** Liz Lovejoy-Brown emphasized that virtual flexibility is immensely beneficial for tribal representatives and individuals living far from Lincoln, ensuring consistent representation. The shift also allows meetings to operate less formally, fostering collaborative round-table discussions with the public.

It was moved by Brian Rader and seconded by Felicia Nelsen that the committee maintain its current notification, meeting structure, membership requirements, quorum, and voting procedures under the new subcommittee status while utilizing virtual flexibility. There was no further discussion.

Roll Call vote as follows:

FOR (6):

Theresa Goley
Liz Lovejoy-Brown
Jackie Meyer

Felicia Nelsen
Rachel Oakley
Brian Rader

AGAINST (0):

ABSTAINED (0):

ABSENT (2):

Sue Hamilton
Bobby Loud

MOTION CARRIED

VI. NCR Discussion

Co-Chair Teresa Goley presented a comprehensive synopsis of the draft NCR tool pilot testing. The tool was redesigned from the ground up to utilize a streamlined checkbox format that scores both the specific needs of the youth and the corresponding caregiver response across 10 functional domains.

Pilot Testing Methodology & Data Analysis:

- **Sample:** A random baseline sample of 50 youth across all care levels was selected. Private agencies (KVC, Apex, and Boys Town) scored the youth via foster care specialists, while DHHS case managers scored the same youth independently.
- **Validity Outcomes:**
 - 74% of youth remained at their exact current placement level under the new tool.
 - 12% scored one level lower.
 - 2% scored two levels lower.
 - 12% scored one level higher.
- **Key Observations:** In 52% of cases, DHHS case managers scored the youth higher than the private providers. The pilot highlighted that direct communication with the foster parent is absolutely mandatory for accurate scoring.
- **Field Feedback:** Practitioners reported the tool is clear, objective, and provides distinct validation for the daily work foster parents perform.

Current Status & Next Steps: The proposal was submitted to DHHS (Lana Verbrigghe) at the end of April and is currently under leadership review. If greenlit, the NCR workgroup will reconvene to clean up the "Other" category, change the "Zero" score terminology to "Age Typical," expand the tool to cover CFS care levels 6, 7, and 8, and compile a formal training manual.

VII. New Business

The committee noted that statutory foster care rate recommendations are due every four years, with the next deadline landing on **July 1, 2028**. Because rate studies, provider surveys, and legislative submittals require more than a year of lead time, work must begin immediately.

Workgroup Structure: The committee agreed to re-establish two distinct, dedicated workgroups to assess current economic impacts and operational changes:

1. **Foster Parent Maintenance Rate Workgroup:** Focused on the baseline cost of raising/supporting a youth.
2. **Agency/Provider Rate Workgroup:** Focused on the shifting costs of doing business for private agencies.

Action Steps:

- Adam Anderson will compile past rosters and reach out to historical members to gauge ongoing interest.
- Teresa Goley will present the request at the upcoming Provider Council meeting to leverage state associations (FFTA, PAN, CAFCON) for volunteer recruitment.
- DHHS (Lana) and Probation (Erin) will evaluate internal personnel to assign to each group.
- **Timeline:** Workgroups are projected to launch their initial sessions by **late August or September 2026**. Brian Rader and Teresa Goley formally volunteered to participate.

VIII. Public Comment

Co-Chair Nelsen opened the floor to public comment, there was none.

IX. Upcoming Meetings

- **Full Committee:** To be determined based on DHHS feedback regarding the NCR tool and workgroup progression. The committee intends to meet before the conclusion of the calendar year.
- **Note:** The next full Children's Commission meeting is scheduled for August 2026.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Anderson