

Lengthy discussion occurred about how the performance of the NCR can be measured. The question was raised as to how it can be verified that the percentage for caregivers' level of responsibility is corresponding to the percentage of youth in each level of care. A way must be established to determine if discrepancies in level of responsibility and level of care are being compensated for.

Stacey indicated that education given to those completing the NCR needs to emphasize that the tool is more than a checklist. It must be used in conjunction with the FSNA to determine how much responsibility the caregiver is willing to take on in ensuring that the youth's needs are met.

Ms. Nunemaker spoke on her experience with the FSNA. She explained that the level of need of a youth is measured on a scale of A-D. Youth in levels A-B would be considered low need while those in level D would have intensive needs. All of this information is fed into NFOCUS, Nebraska Family Online Client User System. Theoretically, this would allow for the selected information to be pulled from the database.

Lana asked if the representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services could look into if the data from the FSNA can be pulled to determine the level of care required by the involved youth.

B. Transportation

Karen Knapp reviewed with the members the alterations that were made to the NCR document. In each section an asterisk was added when transportation was mentioned. As a reminder, a key for the asterisk was to be added in the footer of each page. Ms. Nunemaker inquired as to if there was any consideration for how multiple copies of the completed NCR tool could be distributed at the time of completion. Multiple copies must be created, and she asked for the workgroup to keep that in mind when updating the form as well. Doug Kreifels mentioned that there may be the ability to use electronic signatures in NFOCUS in one of the upcoming updates. The Workgroup agreed to watch for more information on this.

C. Level Of Care (LOC) 8

Karen moved on to the alterations to LOC 8. The document included changes in red font. The group went through the section and made any necessary corrections. Changes included language specifying types of permanency objectives, ensuring that verbiage specified "child/youth" in all necessary sections, altering the age for the Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment from 8 to 14, and altering wording to reflect that caregivers "cooperate and work with" the various individuals involved in attaining permanency for youth. Other alterations involved specifying topics to be covered in a youth's Independent Living Plan.

Lana indicated that she would update the NCR tool to reflect the suggested changes and would email it out to the Workgroup members no later than Friday, September 18th. She would give the members until Monday, September 21st to offer any changes or suggestions. A final version of the updated NCR would be sent to the Nebraska Children's Commission to be included for review at their September 25th meeting.

Ms. Nunemaker suggested that the NCR tool be given to the field staff to pilot and review before being released for general use. It was discussed that once a version of the tool is

approved by the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee, then the Workgroup would recommend that the final version is reviewed by a pilot group of field staff.

Final Recommendations

- Lana will approach the Foster Family-Based Treatment association about the discrepancies between youth needs and foster parent responsibilities and their experience with the issue.
- A meeting will be planned to discuss with Dan Little how the CANS relates to the NCR in determining the needs of the youth when compared to the FSNA tool.
- Doug, Stacy, and Michelle will look into if NFOCUS is able to pull data regarding youths' level of care needed.
- A final draft of the NCR tool will be sent to members for edits, after which it will be submitted to the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee for approval.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

09/28/2015

AF