

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

July 1, 2019

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Southeast Community College, Rooms U-104 & 106  
8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68520

**1. Call to Order**

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The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee (FCRRC) Co-Chairs, Peg Harriott and Bill Williams, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

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***Committee Members present (13):***

Phillip Burrell	Bobby Loud (1:33)	Joan Schwan
Robin Chadwell	Jackie Meyer	Lana Temple-Plotz (1:10)
Peg Harriott	Felicia Nelsen	Bill Williams
Jessica Kroeker	Cindy Rudolph	

***Committee Members absent (1):***

Misty Frazier

***Ex Officio Members present (4):***

Olivia Biggs	Kari Rumbaugh
Jennifer Potterf	Kathleen Stolz

***Ex Officio Members absent (2):***

Rochelle Dotson	Mike Puls
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**A quorum was established.**

***Guests in Attendance (5):***

Chris Jones.....	Nebraska Children’s Commission
Darcy Kramer.....	Boys Town
Lana Verbrigghe.....	Child Saving Institute

*a. Notice of Publication*

Recorder for the meeting, Amanda Felton, 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**

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**A motion was made by Bill Williams to approve the [agenda](#) as presented. The motion was seconded by Felicia Nelsen.** No further discussion ensued. Roll Call vote as follows:

**FOR (8):**

Phillip Burrell	Jessica Kroeker	Cindy Rudolph
Robin Chadwell	Jackie Meyer	Bill Williams
Peg Harriott	Felicia Nelsen	

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (0):**

**ABSENT (4):**

Misty Frazier  
Bobby Loud  
Lana Temple Plotz

Joan Schwan

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes**

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Felicia Nelsen moved to approve the [May 6, 2019 meeting minutes](#) as presented. Jackie Meyer seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Roll Call vote as follows:

**FOR (8):**

Phillip Burrell	Jessica Kroeker	Cindy Rudolph
Robin Chadwell	Jackie Meyer	Bill Williams
Peg Harriott	Felicia Nelsen	

**AGAINST (0):**

**ABSTAINED (0):**

**ABSENT (4):**

Misty Frazier  
Bobby Loud

Lana Temple Plotz  
Joan Schwan

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5. Co-Chair Report**

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*a. Commission Status Update*

It is possible to hold teleconference satellite locations sites for no more than half of the scheduled Committee meetings. This is an option available to members who travel to attend.

The NPRRT was approved by the Commission. The TFC Service Definition will remain on the Commission agenda. The Commission has been renewed without sunset. Member applications are available to fill all vacancies. Applications must be sent to the Governor's website and we're asking

Resignations: Susan Henrie Child Serving Organization from the western service area. DHHS representative from the Western region. Anne Hobbes, a foster parent. Seeking a foster parent who contracts directly with DHHS. Encourage known individuals to apply for the FCRR.

Because of the turnover of the Commission members. We're going to need to strategize how we educate the Commission members. We'll need them up to speed by January when we start sending the report. We also need to think about legislative strategy since we'd need legislative action to push forward our rate recommendations.

*b. Membership Vacancies*

The Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee has vacancies for a DHHS representative from the Western Service Area, a Western Service Area Child Serving Organization, and a foster parent who contracts directly with DHHS.

**6. Public Comment**

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The Co-Chairs invited any members of the public forward for comment. No public comment was given.

**7. Department of Health and Human Services Update**

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Olivia Biggs provided an update to the Foster Care Reimbursement Rate Committee on behalf of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services.

*a. Provider Rate Increases*

Due to a legislative appropriation, all contracted Child Placing Agencies for Agency Supported Foster Care will receive a 2% increase in rates, as well as all foster parents providing foster care. This rate increase went into effect July 1, 2019. The 2% increase will also be applied to all contracted child welfare services.

*b. Proposed Foster Care Licensing Regulations*

Many chapters of the Nebraska Administrative Code, including foster care licensing, have been revised and proposed by DHHS. They have been submitted for approval by the Attorney General's Office and the next step, following approval, is a public hearing. Once a hearing date has been set, it will be communicated to Committee members. DHHS has reviewed the Model Foster Home Licensing standards put forth by the Family First Prevention & Services Act and has proposed changes in regulations consistent with this model except the requirement to have all household members immunized and fire extinguisher requirements.

*c. Follow up on Relative & Kinship Licensing Recommendations*

DHHS was invited to provide an update on the progress and status of recommendations made in 2018 by the Nebraska Children's Commission regarding relative and kinship licensure and sexual abuse training for staff and foster parents. DHHS has created an online foster parent training that can be taken by relative and kinship homes to increase licensure. It has been presented to Foster Family Treatment Association (FFTA) and the DHHS is waiting on feedback from that group. Project Harmony has been contracted to provide an online training for foster parents and the child welfare workforce regarding sexual abuse. Both trainings are anticipated to be finalized and ready for use this month (July 2019).

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## **8. Workgroup Discussion and Breakout Sessions**

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*a. Agency Administration & Support Rate Workgroup*

Co-chairs Cindy Rudolph and Darcy Kramer shared that a [survey](#) had been put together for provider agencies to assist in gather data on the costs to sustain their organization. Members reviewed the information and made minor suggestions. The group discussed the agency calculations that were used in 2014. Survey will need to address the ratio of supervision, caseload of Foster Care Specialists, and training/certification of the supervisors. The survey will be sent out/administered by July 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be closed on July 31, 2019.

*b. Base Rate & Foster Parent Survey Workgroup*

An update on the group's progress was given by workgroup co-chair, Felicia Nelsen. This group will not be meeting today due to planned absences and will meeting individually July 24, 2019. The foster parent survey regarding the NCR will be administered later this month. The NCR in use is needed to complete the survey edits. The essential rate calculations have been completed. The group has begun discussion of the Adoption Subsidy Pilot and proposed rate structure by DHHS. Discussion will continue at the next workgroup meeting.

*c. Level of Responsibility Workgroup*

Lana Temple-Plotz summarized the work of the Level of Responsibility (LOR) Workgroup. The group would be examining the service definition for Professional Foster Care to minimize any areas of

overlap that could cause complications. A crosswalk has been created to compare professional foster care used by Probation and PromiseShip. There was also discussion on the difficulties in navigating permanency for developmentally disabled youth and extended family homes. The next meeting was scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Lincoln Nebraska Children's Home Society office.

*d. Level of Responsibility & Treatment Family Care Rate Structure Workgroup*

Robin Chadwell, co-chair of this workgroup, provided an overview of the group's next steps. This group is responsible for making the recommendations for rates for the 4<sup>th</sup> Tier of the NCR, as well as Treatment Family Care rates. The group has made progress and is close to being finished with what the group would recommend to Medicaid for the Treatment Family Care, but work remains to determine what this would look like for the 4<sup>th</sup> Tier Administrative rates. The group is considered adding respite as a separate billable service up to four days per month. The group intends to meet again in August.

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## **9. Review of Assignments and Action Planning**

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All assignments and plans were outlined in previous agenda items.

## **10. New Business**

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There was no new business.

## **11. Upcoming Meeting Planning**

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The Co-Chairs reminded members of the future Committee meeting dates which were:

- September 3, 2019
- November 4, 2019

## **12. Adjourn**

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The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chris Jones

Membership of FCRRRC Workgroups

Agency Administrative and Support Rate Workgroup	
Phillip Burrell	Cindy Rudolph (Co-Chair)
Darcy Kramer (Co-Chair)	Kari Rumbaugh
Jessica Kroeker	Bill Williams
Jackie Meyer	

Base Rate & Foster Parent Survey Workgroup	
Doug Kreifels	Chrissy Tonkinson
Bobby Loud	Amadi Watts
Felicia Nelsen (Co-Chair)	Bill Williams
Juliet Summers	

Level of Responsibility & Treatment Family Care Rates Workgroup	
Robin Chadwell (Co-Chair)	Kathleen Stolz
Bobby Loud	Lisa Story (Co-Chair)
Felicia Nelsen	Juliet Summers
Cindy Rudolph	Lana Verbrigghe
Kari Rumbaugh	

Level of Responsibility Workgroup	
Olivia Biggs	Jennifer Potterf
Manuel Escamillia	Mike Puls
<del>Susan Henrie (resigned)</del>	Kari Rumbaugh
<del>Anne Hobbes (resigned)</del>	Nanette Simmons
Jackie Meyer	Lana Temple-Plotz (Chairperson)
Felicia Nelsen	