

**Interagency Rates Committee**  
**Residential Child Care Rate Setting Process**  
 Department of Human Resources  
 311 W. Saratoga Street, Rm. 508  
 Baltimore, MD 21201

August 11, 2014  
 Minutes

**Attendees:**

| First Name | Last Name                           | Agency               | Committee Member / Guest | Present Yes   | Present No |
|------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Patricia   | Arriaza                             | GOC                  | Member                   | X             |            |
| Carmen     | Brown                               | MSDE                 | Guest                    | X             |            |
| David      | Brown                               | Good Shepherd        | Guest                    | X             |            |
| Angela     | Cabellon                            | DHR/OS               | Member                   |               | X          |
| Linda      | Carter                              | DHR                  | Guest                    | X             |            |
| Christine  | Church                              | GOC                  | Guest                    | X             |            |
| Shanda     | Crowder                             | DHR/SSA              | Member                   | X             |            |
| Dan        | Feller                              | GOC                  | Member                   | X             |            |
| Laura      | Goodman                             | DHMH                 | Guest                    | X             |            |
| Darlene    | Ham ( <i>R. Berger for D. Ham</i> ) | DHR/OLM              | Member                   | X             |            |
| Steve      | Howes                               | The Children's Guild | Member                   | X             |            |
| John       | Irvin                               | DJS                  | Member                   | via telephone |            |
| Caroline   | Jones                               | DHMH/MHA             | Member                   | X             |            |
| Kevin      | Keegan                              | Catholic Charities   | Member                   | X             |            |
| Netsanet   | Kibret                              | DHR/OGA              | Member                   |               | X          |
| Jeannette  | Kinnion                             | DJS                  | Member                   | X             |            |
| Mark       | Lardner                             | DHR                  | Guest                    | X             |            |
| Joe        | Leshko                              | Arrow                | Member                   |               | X          |
| Melissa    | Liszewski                           | DJS                  | Member                   |               | X          |
| Molly      | Marra                               | DHMH                 | Guest                    | X             |            |
| Nina       | McHugh                              | DHMH                 | Guest                    | X             |            |
| Audrey     | McLendon                            | DHR/SSA              | Staff                    | X             |            |
| Shane      | Spencer                             | DBM                  | Member                   | X             |            |
| Ertha      | Sterling-Garrett                    | DJS                  | Member                   |               | X          |
| Tennille   | Thomas                              | DHR                  | Guest                    | X             |            |
| Susan      | Tucker                              | DHMH                 | Member                   |               | X          |

|          |         |          |        |                  |   |
|----------|---------|----------|--------|------------------|---|
| Carnitra | White   | DHR/SSA  | Member | X                |   |
| Lynn     | Wisner  | DHR/OLM  | Member |                  | X |
| Anita    | Wilkins | DHR/SSA  | Member | X                |   |
| Albert   | Zachik  | DHMH/MHA | Member | via<br>telephone |   |

Carnitra White welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their continued support and work. The minutes from the last meeting were approved and will be posted on the Governor’s Office for Children’s (GOC) website.

Shanda Crowder recapped the July 16<sup>th</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup> Stakeholder Public Forums held to provide an overview of the previous year’s work and to engage the stakeholders in a discussion regarding the recommendations by the committee to revise the rate setting process.

The feedback from the forums was positive and included feedback for future committee work. One response noted is that although CANS is used to be in compliance, CANS is not being fully utilized as an assessment for children’s needs. A separate set of questions was given to Chief Financial Officers for feedback. Several providers have returned the completed forms; the questions will be posted to the website to provide access by all providers. The full report will be sent out to members shortly. The Public Forum / roundtable process will be utilized again at key points in the process.

## **Element Group Reports**

### **Element 1 – Model**

The Element 1 committee recommended that the rates be unbundled and repackaged. The recommendation is to tie rates to performance based outcomes. The Committee also noted that a review of the data, the demographics of the children in care, services needed and services unavailable would be helpful information before proceeding. It was suggested that the committee also consider a type of contract similar to MSDE contracts; “per-pay for desks” or offer financial incentives to empty beds (using the assumption that a correct assessment and program assignment was made for the child).

### **Other points to consider:**

1. Administrative costs – these types of costs will be incurred whether 1 bed or 10 beds are filled. How should these costs be integrated?
2. Cost Analysis – How much would the State pay now and how much would the state pay in the future?
3. Benefit Analysis – current benefits vs. future benefits

### **Element II – Programs**

Programs and services are under review. There has been discussion around the domains and how Levels of Intensity will impact the model. Different approaches to care are under consideration:

System of Care  
Trauma Informed Care  
Child Well-being

Other areas to consider and how to incorporate into a system:

- Levels of Intensity
- Point System
- Review other states and their successes and failures

Mark Lardner offered to pull the Levels of Intensity Evaluation report that the Institute completed last year. The Institute developed an algorithm to predict placements at different levels. Rather than develop a point range, look at the services needed. The committee agreed that assessments are important and finding the right tool to assist is important.

**Other considerations:**

Is a Level of Intensity assessment a predictor of success with children?

Family assessments that will need to be completed, particularly with Alternative Response, IV-E Waiver; what role does the provider play in family assessments?

**Element III – Rate Structure**

The committee is reviewing the pros and cons of using the consumer price index. The Committee plans to develop logic models in the next couple of weeks.

**Future Considerations:**

Develop standardized assessments for children and families

Look at policy and practice and how it can drive assessments

How to change local department behavior as a new process unfolds and is linked to assessment with services and placement

How to change providers to integrate checks and balances in the system to ensure that children are assigned the right provider

How to develop a good placement decision for children

Local DSS staff should be invited to join the groups

Also review the services the child receives in care and the services at 60 days and at 90 days that is not punitive; it will give the provider a chance to re-evaluate services.

The Element Committees will meet after the next large Committee meeting September 8, 2014. Data will be presented at the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting that will help inform the committees as they move forward with decisions and recommendations.

**Data needed:**

- NCANDS/ CNAS
- Medicaid
- Develop profiles for children currently in care

- Review placement changes in the first 30-60 days of placement
- Exit data
- Medicaid – inpatient
- Service utilization data
- Aged out vs. leaving care
- If there are a high level of children coming back into care, determine from where they exited; guardianship, reunification, etc.
- Review the children moving around a lot within care vs. “lifers” in the system
- Review children in care 10 + years vs. children moved more in the short term.
- Consider how we meet the needs of long term children
- Review what services youth are receiving and the family is receiving in aftercare (DJS)

**Next Meeting:** September 8, 2014, 2- 4 pm., Maryland Department of Transportation, 7201 Corporate Center Drive, Harry Hughes Conference Room, Hanover, MD 21076