



Health & Human Services Agenda Request

3A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: September 24, 2024

Title of Item: Foster Care Licensing & Adoption Presentation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested:	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested
	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*

Submitted by: Paula Arimborgo	Department: H&HS Administration
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Presenter (Name and Title): Jessi Schultz & Brenda Butterfield, H&HS Child Protection	Estimated Time Needed: 20 min
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Summary of Issue:

A presentation on H&HS Foster Care Licensing & Adoption.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:

Financial Impact:

Is there a cost associated with this request? Yes No

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$

Is this budgeted? Yes No *Please Explain:*

FOSTER CARE LICENSING AND ADOPTION


AITKIN COUNTY BOARD PRESENTATION

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

FOSTER CARE IS....

- A chance for kids to live in a supportive and stable family home while parents address their issues.
- Sometimes the time in foster care isn't enough and children then need adoptive/permanency homes
- Safety is the #1 priority for children

GOALS:

- Reunite families, thus the importance for the child to have regular contact with their biological family.
 - If the child cannot be returned home, to achieve permanency in a timely manner.
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TYPES OF CARE:

- **Relative/Kinship Care**
- **Non- relative foster Care**
- **Concurrent Foster Care**
- **Respite Foster Care**
- **Adoption**

2023 FOSTER CARE STATISTICS FOR MINNESOTA

Children enter foster care for many reasons:

- Caretaker drug abuse (27%)
- Allegations of neglect (14%)
- Allegations of physical abuse (11%)
- Child mental health (9%); largely voluntary placements for children 12 and up

AITKIN COUNTY HHS OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT DATA FROM 9/4/23-9/4/24:

18 children placed due to caretaker drug /alcohol abuse

13 children placed due to neglect, abandonment, domestic violence

7 children placed due to physical abuse

2 children placed due to sexual abuse


4 Children's mental health, severe emotional disturbance

AITKIN COUNTY HOMES

- Aitkin County currently has 7 non-relative licensed child foster homes within the county
- There are currently 9 relative only licensed child foster homes in Aitkin County.

FOSTER CARE PROVIDERS NEED TO :

Foster care licensing agencies follow the process in MN rule 9543.0040 subpart 2 to determine if someone meets requirements for licensure:

- Be at least 21 years old and a resident of Aitkin County
 - Complete the application and licensing process
 - Have stable mental and physical health
 - Be willing to abide by licensing rules
 - Have adequate living and sleeping space for individual children
 - Keep all information provided to you about the child and families be kept confidential
 - Obtain consent from the child's legal custodian
 - Have a smoke free home
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FOSTER CARE LICENSING PROCESS

- Licensing studies of applicant MN Rule 9543.0040 (2):
 - Application
 - Possible fire marshal referral and inspection, if there is a trigger
 - Individual fact sheets
 - Adam Walsh background study and fingerprinting
 - Floor and escape plan
 - Discipline, grievance, and chemical health policies
 - Home study assessment
 - Home safety check
 - Home visits
 - Initial trainings required completed

DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSING

- Past removal of child/ children from the family through a substantiated abuse/neglect charge
- Substantiated harm to a child
- Weapons charge
- Convictions of harm/ violence against others
- Drug dealing/ convictions
- Any background study permanent bar

BASIC MONTHLY FOSTER CARE RATES

- The monthly basic rates for foster care as of July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 are:
 - Children birth to 5: \$765 (\$25.15 a day)
 - Children 6 to 12: \$906 (\$29.79 a day)
 - Adolescent 13 to 20: \$1071 (\$35.21 a day)
 - Minnesota Assessment of Parenting for Children and Youth (MAPCY) done within the first 30 days of placement to determine any additional needs.
 - Foster children are eligible for medical assistance
 - Foster care payments are funded by both state and federal dollars through Title IV-E.

ADOPTION

- November is National Adoption Month each year
- Foster Adopt MN <https://www.fosteradoptmn.org> – Offers an Adoption 101 course
- **Post adoption navigator program-** Providing outreach, resources, and supportive connections to families who have finalized adoptions of MN children from foster care
- **HELP program-**Connecting families with adoption/trauma/attachment-competent therapists, community resources, as well as educational offerings
- Mn Waiting Kids <https://www.fosteradoptmn.org/waiting-kids>
- State Adoption Exchange website has upwards of 300 plus waiting children looking for permanent homes.

COUNTY SERVICES AROUND ADOPTION

- ACHHS provides background checks, a search of the Fathers Adoption Registry through Minnesota Department of Health for private step parent adoptions if ordered by the court
- ACHHS assists in completion of Northstar Adoption Process and Kinship Process for children that have been in out of home placement and are being adopted or a transfer of permanent and legal custody by a relative or foster parent.